



The Captain's Wallflower

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Captain Worthington is injured in the battle of Trafalgar. Blinded by shrapnel, his life goes from being at the forefront of society to being almost cast off. He finds himself sitting with the wallflowers at a ball - something he doesn't take too kindly to.

Miss Amelia Basingstoke has no dowry and enough dreadful relations to ensure that even on her third season, she is unmarried and a confirmed wallflower. Her only friend is a large boisterous dog of dubious character who considers himself too good to chase dead birds.

A chance meeting between the pair frees the Captain in ways that he had never thought possible since his injury.

A stubborn Captain - an opinionated young woman - an unruly dog and Christmas is approaching - what could possibly go wrong?

The Captain's Wallflower Details

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From Reader Review The Captain's Wallflower for online ebook

Leona says

One of the better regency romances I have read in a long time. This had more depth and touched on serious issues of that time. The ending was also sweet and powerful. I had to reach,for the tissue box.

Kristi says

I liked the beginning but then middle got tedious and then the end more so. Amelia's character was charming and funny initially but ended bland. Alexander was set up to be an interesting character but then also fell flat. I would have liked to have seen a more interesting ending where Alexander is the one to prove and show to her father how he had changed.

Millie says

Sweet, entertaining Regency Romance

The Captain's Wallflower was very entertaining. I enjoyed the premise of the story. Captain Alexander Worthington is a decorated naval officer living a charmed life. Rich, handsome, and a privileged member of the ton, he is relegated to obscurity as he returns from battle blind and is shunned by all in his social circle. Amelia Basingstoke is fast approaching spinsterhood as her third London Season does not yield the marriage proposal her family of modest means desires. Alexander and Amelia meet by chance as they are relegated to the sidelines during a ball. I really enjoyed how the author uses Alexander's blindness as a vehicle to drive the plot along; Amelia is caring for her uncle's rejected hunting dog who shows potential to become Alexander's guide dog. I just thought it was sweet how Alexander and Amelia get to know and love each other during time spent training Samson the dog to help guide Alex. Audrey Harrison infuses the story with humor, I found myself laughing with certain exchanges between the characters. Alexander's character shows growth, as we see him evolve from conceited elitist, to embittered war hero, to a young man who understands the things in life that really matter. I liked Amelia; she was a very level headed, strong young woman. She was content in life and understood the blessings of having a loving family in spite of seemingly not being able to attain an eligible match.

The reason I did not give it 5 stars is because the language did not fit the Regency period and it did detract somewhat from the story. It's basically a clean read; there are a few passionate kisses, but nothing too racy. Overall, it was a lovely, entertaining book! I recommend the novel to anyone who enjoys a clean, sweet Regency Romance.

Nanalee Beers says

A Captivating Story

This book had my complete interest from page one. Miss Harrison's characters were all believable. The story

was unfolded in such a way, that you felt you were there. The forming of the friendship between the Captain and Amelia was not rushed. The side story of Samson was most enjoyable as well. the workings of families and friendships and their contributions to success in our pursuits helped the story along. This was a very enjoyable read and I have already chosen several more books by this author Audrey Harrison.. I could not stop reading til I finished it.

Barbara says

This is a Regency romance, but it will also appeal to dog lovers, especially anyone with an interest in guide dogs. It's a beautiful, sweet story that gets intense at times, but is extremely touching and romantic. Good story!

Captain Worthington was a brilliant, handsome, young Navy captain until he was injured in the Battle of Trafalgar, where his wounds resulted in him losing his sight. Whereas before he was a darling of the ton, with an older brother who is an earl, and expected to dance with all the heiresses and diamonds of the first water, he's now relegated to spending a lot of time alone. His old "friends" have mostly abandoned him. He finally agrees to attend a ball with his most loyal friend, Richard Critchley, but finds himself overwhelmed by the noise and activity, and demands to leave. Richard has promised a couple of dances, so he takes his friend to a quiet, out of the way seat and promises they will leave very soon. What Worthington realizes after a few minutes is that he's been placed on one of the wallflower benches. A young woman speaks to him, and her sense of humor and refusal to treat him like an invalid lifts him out of his self-pity momentarily, until she's driven off by her frightful aunt and her predatory cousin, whose older sister is already known to have trapped an heir into marriage by putting him in a compromising position. He avoids falling into the same trap, and is grateful to leave the ball with his reputation intact and not leg-shackled to a fortune hunter.

When he meets up with the first young lady again, she is walking a large and unmanageable dog in the park. But the dog takes to the captain instantly and seems to sense his blindness and his need for support.

What follows is first a friendship and later a romance that would warm anyone's heart. I recommend reading it with tissues handy.

The author points out that although dogs trained especially to help people who are seeing impaired is a 20th century development, there have been instances of such dogs for centuries, mostly trained by the same people they supported.

Highly recommended!

Carole (in Canada) says

I must be wanting a dog! This is the second book I have read that revolves around one. I enjoyed this story about Captain Alexander Worthington and the impertinent Miss Amelia Basingstoke and the boisterous St. John's hunting dog, Samson, that brings them together.

"He might be blind, but he was single, had a fortune, and was in a very vulnerable position." (quote from the

book)

It is a sweet Regency story that warms the heart.

Mandi Ellsworth says

This was a clean romance, but not especially accurate to the time period.

Kristin Davison says

This is a sweet moving story.

I don't usually read regency novels with the exception of miss Austen and continuations/variations of her work (jaff). I did at one point pick up Heyer book, but didn't manage to finish it.

However this novel was more than I expected, it celebrated the era without falling into the traps, you could tell parts of the story where influenced by miss Austen, but not enough to make the novel boring.

It touches on some interesting subjects and deals with them well. I like that it had the connection to the guide dogs for the blind charity, my farther worked for them and I have seen first hand what a difference a guide dog can make.

Kathleen J says

A handsome and wealthy navy captain reenters social life after being blinded in battle. He meets a warm, smart and funny woman after being seated next to her in the wallflower section at a ball. Angry, depressed and fed up he nonetheless is captured by her. He later runs into her at Green Park with her dog. The dog is soon helping him navigate his way without a human guiding him and the H and h develop a relationship though she believes it is her dog not her that appeals to him. Later when it appears he is attracted to her she believes it is because none of the beautiful women are interested in him any longer.

Funny and sweet, I liked this one even if I thought the dog thing was a little far fetched. For once it was obvious to the reader why the H was captured by the h—it was really show not tell.

Harrison is a new author for me—always excited uto find a new author I like.

Anneliese Dalaba says

I loved this story. Amelia is a wallflower that the old Alexander had overlooked. But now that he has lost his ability to see, he begins to see his world in a new light. Amelia is a delightful heroine. She has the unique ability to see both sides of a situation and to be fair. I love her personality that is sassy as well as kind. She is sensitive to the feelings of others, but she also knows how to stand up for herself if she needs to. I also liked the hero, Alexander. He is obviously very vulnerable while adjusting to his handicap, but you see his strength and determination as he tries to gain his independence back. He is able to admit when he is wrong

and to change his former way of thinking. I loved how the two interacted with each other. Loving dogs the way I do, I especially enjoyed Samson and the rolled he played in both Amelia's life and Alexander's too. This was definitely an entertaining book.

Jean says

**** Spoilers ****

I usually don't read Regency Romance but I'm glad that I did.

I had an issue with people shunning Captain Worthington for his injuries, it was absurd how people treated him.

Um, he was injured in a battle, not injured due to some foolish mistake around the house. "He was a Hero but tarnished goods". Really?

I liked how despite Captain Worthington's injury or rather because of his injury, he was able to find someone who cared about who he was and not his status.

This was an enjoyable read, short, cute, sweet, and to the point.

There were no stupid lead characters nor man-whores.

There are no surprises in the story and it has a Happy Ending..

Note:

"This audiobook was provided by the author, narrator, or publisher at no cost in exchange for an unbiased review courtesy of Audiobook Blast."

Kaye says

Premise: 4 stars

Writing Level: 2 stars

Editing Level: 2 stars

Proofreading Level: 2 stars

Overall execution: 2.5 stars

This read like a decent first draft written by someone who's never taken a writing class or attended a writers' conference. Now, I'm not saying that those things are necessary to being able to write a great story.

However, for people who bypass pursuing traditional publishing for self-publishing, that kind of training becomes vitally important. Otherwise, you end up with what this turned out to be---something that reads like a draft by an unpolished, newbie writer.

The Pros:

The premise of this story was good. I enjoyed the idea of the hero being blind, and she did a pretty good job of getting across his frustration of going from someone who was a Royal Navy captain---active, a leader, independent---to someone who was completely dependent on others just to be able to leave the house.

There were some great interactions in dialogue between the hero and heroine, and while it could have been stronger, she did a decent job of showing a believable relationship building between them.

While at first I questioned the bit about the dog automatically/naturally becoming a guide dog, I did appreciate that she showed them working with/training the dog to help out. And she actually used the fact that this isn't a professionally trained dog later in the book to somewhat good effect. Then, in her (very long) afterword, it was nice to learn a little more about the history of people training dogs to work with/guide the seeing impaired.

The Cons:

As I already said, this read like a first draft by someone who hasn't studied the craft---and who obviously didn't work with a developmental editor, content editor, copy editor, or proofreader who knows what they were doing (and probably not critique partners, either). The biggest issues I had with this, craft-wise, were:

- The head-hopping. The character development in this book could have been so much better---if only the author had written it in limited POV, giving us only the viewpoints of the hero and heroine, not every single minor character around them. POV switched from paragraph to paragraph, usually, and could be very jarring because I could never be quite sure whose viewpoint the narrative in any given passage was in, which kept me from being able to lose myself in the characters/story.
- The poor research. Ugh. Really? A simple Google search would have netted her the information that in the early 19th century, the London Season ran from approximately January/February through June, the most active part of the Season being from Easter through the end of June. It hadn't started in November since the mid- to late-1700s. Also---Christmas trees and big family Christmas celebrations were a Victorian introduction, not something that was done in 1806. And there were several details surrounding the Royal Navy that I found errors in---though anyone who hasn't done extensive research on this would never notice/be bothered by it. I can't speak to the medical research. It seemed like something that could have been done, given the historical accounts I've read of other surgical procedures done (many on ships in the heat of battle) during this era.
- The anachronistic language. Yes, those of us who write historicals find it necessary to modernize the language so that it's accessible to a modern audience. However, that doesn't mean that we throw all historical accuracy out the window. Two of the most glaring examples of this that completely pulled me out of the story: at one point, she "screeched to a halt," something that wouldn't have happened before the advent of rubber tires or shoe soles, neither of which existed in this era; then there was the use of the word "heck" as a substitute for hell---a quick Google search for the etymology of this word shows its first recorded usage dates to 1865, or 59 years after this book is set. (That would be like having Lady Mary walking around Downton Abbey using terms like "groovy" and "far out" and "totally tubular" or even "cool.")
- The lack of editing/proofreading. If I were the proofreader who had an "about the proofreader" blurb in the back of this book, I'd be embarrassed. There were so many grammatical errors, so many misused words, so many missing/misused punctuation marks . . . I'd have been fired if I'd let a manuscript go to print in this condition if it had been one I'd worked on at the publishing house. And that's just the proofreading issues. As mentioned before, it was quite obvious that the author did not work with---nor likely has ever worked with---content and/or developmental editors. Because no editor worth her salt would have let the brain-

twister sentence structures, the odd/misused word choices, the anachronistic language, the head-hopping, the over-descriptions, the info-dumps, and the general lack of polish get out into the public sphere.

- (view spoiler) The best book I've read that realistically deals with having a hero blinded in the war is Mary Balogh's *The Arrangement*. (In fact, there were many similarities between that book and this one, including the heroine living with relatives who ill-treat her in order to put their own daughter forward in society.)

- It's a "sweet" (clean) romance. This is both a pro and a con. It's a pro because I enjoy reading romance novels that take the old-fashioned approach of not feeling the need for the characters to immediately fall in lust with each other or to have graphic sex scenes---without being religious fiction (not that I, obviously, have a problem with that genre, but it's nice to see sweet romance in the general market as well). However, I was quite taken aback when, toward the end, when they're kissing in the sedan chair that he put his hand under her cloak and touched her breast, something that came across as very inappropriate for the tone of this story. It ripped me out of the story when it happened and I started worrying that there would be a very uncomfortable-to-read wedding-night scene. (I assumed from the other issues I had with the writing that it would be *very* awkwardly written.) But I worried for naught. She kept it sweet.

Because this book is short, I was able to make it through in two sittings---but I think if I hadn't forced myself to push through the second half all at once, it might have been a DNF for me, due to the technical issues I had with it and my overwhelming desire to critique/edit it as I read.

Michelle says

This story takes two types of characters we usually see sitting on the sidelines and gives them a story of their own. The romance developed nicely and each character was engaging. I appreciated that it was a clean read. What really fell short for me was the way the medical situations at the end were handled. It may be that they were accurate for the time period, but it didn't feel that way to me. It all felt too modern to me and that knocked me out of the story.

Cheesecake says

Captain Alexander Worthington and Amelia.

Amelia came to London to look for a husband, but her horrid aunt and cousin have done their best to make sure that doesn't happen. She isn't precisely plain, but she isn't beautiful either. She certainly isn't of the caliber of beauty that Captain Worthington would deign to dance with, or even notice. That is, until he returns from battle blind. Now he is relegated to the side bench along with all the other wallflowers. But when he is at his self pitying lowest, and thinks that fate couldn't be more cruel, he happens to sit by Amelia. She is the first person to not treat him with kid gloves, but with a sense of humour and honesty. They happen upon each other again in a park as Amelia attempts to walk her uncle's very large dog. Somehow they find that the dog is keen to help Alex and Alex begins to see hope of having some independence again. You need to exercise some suspension of disbelief that the dog was so helpful and easy to train. It didn't bother my enjoyment of the story. The author did a lot of research into seeing eye dogs and lists it all at the back of the book. (pretty interesting stuff!).

It's a slow build romance. Amelia of course has had a crush on the handsome captain for 3 years even though

he never noticed her when he could see. The captain learns the hard way that the people he associated with before his blindness were not truly friends. You could say it was an 'eye opening' experience for him. I really enjoyed the story. Even though it was a bit slow to start, it was hard to put down. Nobody believed the Captain could truly care for Amelia and he had to go to great lengths to prove how genuine his affection was. I truly felt he redeemed himself for being oblivious of her in the past. So many chances for miscommunication and misunderstandings, but never taken to the point where story lost momentum. There is a change in the Captain's fortune that some might think convenient and 'roll yer eyes' worthy, but I loved, because it changed the dynamic of the story so well. (view spoiler)
It's a safe read.

Una Geiger says

Dangle either a bluestockinged wallflower or a PTSD'd Napoleonic War vet in a Regency setting in front of me and I am sold. So I was happy to find this book.
Where to start? First off, I do not expect Austenesque expressions and writing, however, I do expect a modicum of English Standard and not modern American expressions and spelling.
Secondly, research, research, research!!! When you write historical novels, even if it is 'romance' at least research your time setting and avoid assumptions.
Thirdly, the once blind but not anymore trope. That is almost as bad as the Korean dorama tropes of back hugs, hero carrying the heroine by piggy back and evil parents in law.
