

AUSTENESQUE REVIEWS

REVIEWS OF JANE AUSTEN SEQUELS, FAN-
FICTION, AND PARA-LITERATURE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2010

Captain Wentworth's Persuasion - Regina Jeffers

A Romantic and Tender Retelling of Persuasion

Rating: 5 out of 5 stars

Originally published as *Wayward Love: Captain Frederick Wentworth's Story* in 2009, *Captain Wentworth's Persuasion* by Regina Jeffers is an in-depth and comprehensive account of *Persuasion* retold through the eyes of Captain Wentworth. This novel is uniquely and beautifully rendered through a series of flashbacks that portray what happened in Jane Austen's *Persuasion* as well as depict scenes we did not see happen, such as Anne and Wentworth's courtship and first meeting. Furthermore, Ms. Jeffers takes us beyond the time-line of *Persuasion* by closing her novel well after Anne and Wentworth's marriage, providing the reader with a glimpse of their happy and blissful life together.

In this romantic and tender retelling Ms. Jeffers aptly illustrates many themes from *Persuasion* such as social class, family, and persuasion; the theme she primarily focuses on is love and marrying for love. Reading this novel is an

engaging and emotional journey where the readers will witness all the sorrowful and joyful moments of Anne and Wentworth's relationship. I was able to feel just how ardently Captain Wentworth loved Anne and observe the shift of his emotions as he went from bitter and proud, to aware and determined, to tortured and jealous.

I found *Captain Wentworth's Persuasion* to be a delightful and endearing novel. I loved how all the characters were accurately and reverently portrayed; Mary Musgrove still had her imaginary complaints, Sir Walter was as self-involved and pompous as ever, etc. In addition, I took pleasure in Ms. Jeffers's fleshed-out depiction of Captain Wentworth's brother, Edward, and I loved seeing the close and companionable relationship between the two of them. One of my favorite aspects of this novel is how Ms. Jeffers cleverly and capably included Jane Austen's **cancel**ed chapter of *Persuasion* as well as her rewritten ending. Since the story was told through a series of flashbacks the canceled chapter was inserted as one of Captain Wentworth's dreams. In this sequence, Ms. Jeffers displays her skillfulness as a writer and her excellent knowledge of Jane Austen.

Another aspect I loved was how Ms. Jeffers included various poem excerpts as epigraphs for each chapter. I took pleasure in seeing these excerpts mirror and evoke the sentiments and emotions of the chapter that followed. All Ms. Jeffers's epigraphs were well-chosen, moving, and a lovely enhancement to the story. One of my favorite epigraphs was **"When We Two Parted"** by Lord Byron which I found very apropos for Anne and Wentworth.

While it is true that all our beloved and favorite characters were accurately rendered in this novel, there was one scene that made me raise my eyebrows a little. The scene is one where Anne boldly and defiantly asserts herself to her father and Lady Russell. Although I can see Anne growing in confidence and developing a backbone, it seemed like too sudden a change of character in this instance.

Having finally read one of Regina Jeffers's Austenesque novels, I can enthusiastically and emphatically say it will not be my last! I look forward to exploring the other novels this author has penned since I have greatly enjoyed her vivid and romantic story-telling and admirable renderings of Austen's characters. This novel is a fantastic choice for fans of *Persuasion* and Captain Wentworth and I highly recommend it to anyone looking for a very tender and romantic Austen retelling to enjoy!

Other novels by Regina Jeffers

- Darcy's Passions
- Darcy's Temptation
- Vampire Darcy's Desire
- The Phantom of Pemberley (Available September 1st!)

AT 9:35 PM

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LABELS: CAPTAIN WENTWORTH, MALE POINT-OF-VIEW, PERSUASION, REVIEW

7 COMMENTS:

Brooke from The Bluestocking Guide said...

I saw this one in the store. I was very tempted to get it. I'm more tempted.

APRIL 28, 2010 11:08 PM

The Book Mole said...

Thanks so much for the review, Meredith - this sounds like something I will like!

I love reading sequels with the hero's POV, and will definitely check this out sometime.

APRIL 28, 2010 11:19 PM

Kals said...

I just read Persuasion, loved it but always thought there was too little of Captain Wentworth! I'm sure I'll love reading this. Thanks for the great review :)

APRIL 29, 2010 12:16 AM

Nina said...

What a lovely review. The book sounds really good. I need to read more sequels..

APRIL 29, 2010 6:11 AM

Lori Hedgpeth said...

This sounds fantastic! Thanks for the review, Meredith. I am off to fatten up my TBR list . . .

APRIL 29, 2010 12:43 PM

EmileeHope said...

I loved Persuasion, (and all things Austen) so it sounds like I need to add this one to my "to read" list!

APRIL 29, 2010 3:47 PM

suzan said...

Persuasion is my favorite tied with Pride and Prejudice. So i think I need this book. I have read Darcy's Temptations and Passions and enjoyed both. I have no interest however in the vampire etc. set.

MAY 27, 2010 2:53 AM