

come love a stranger kathleen e woodiwiss

Come Love a Stranger by Kathleen E. Woodiwiss is a captivating historical romance novel that transports readers to the lush landscapes of 18th-century England and the untamed territories of the American Colonies. Published in 1974, it is one of Woodiwiss's many literary contributions that solidified her status as a pioneer in the romance genre. This article delves into the plot, characters, themes, and impact of the novel, as well as its significance within Woodiwiss's body of work.

Plot Summary

The story revolves around the spirited and independent protagonist, Anne Waverly, who finds herself in a precarious situation after the death of her father. The loss compels Anne to leave her comfortable life in England and embark on a journey to America.

As the narrative unfolds, Anne encounters a handsome and enigmatic stranger named the Earl of Langston, who becomes pivotal to her adventure. The Earl, known for his brooding demeanor and hidden past, initially appears to be a man shrouded in mystery, but as the story progresses, his true character—and his connection to Anne—unfolds.

The plot is rich with tension, passion, and unexpected twists. Key elements of the narrative include:

- Anne's struggle for independence and self-discovery.
- The developing relationship between Anne and the Earl, marked by conflict and attraction.
- Themes of societal expectations and the challenges faced by women in the 18th century.
- A backdrop of historical events that influence the personal lives of the characters.

Main Characters

Anne Waverly

Anne is a strong-willed young woman with a fierce sense of independence. Her journey from England to America symbolizes her quest for freedom and self-identity. Throughout the novel, Anne's character evolves, showcasing her resilience and determination against societal constraints.

Earl of Langston

The Earl, whose real name is a mystery for much of the story, is initially

portrayed as a brooding, mysterious figure. His past is filled with secrets that are gradually revealed, adding depth to his character. The dynamic between him and Anne serves as the emotional core of the novel.

Supporting Characters

The novel features a range of supporting characters that enrich the narrative:

- Lord and Lady Waverly: Anne's parents, whose backgrounds influence her journey.
- Captain Richard: A charming yet unscrupulous figure who complicates Anne's life.
- Friends and foes: Various characters who either support or hinder Anne's quest for happiness.

Themes

Love and Desire

At its heart, "Come Love a Stranger" is a love story. The evolving relationship between Anne and the Earl explores themes of passion, desire, and the complexities of love. Their romance is not without challenges, as they must navigate their own pasts and societal expectations.

Independence and Identity

Anne's journey symbolizes the struggle for independence, particularly for women in the 18th century. Her determination to forge her own path speaks to the broader theme of self-discovery and the search for identity in a world that often seeks to confine women.

Societal Expectations

The novel highlights the constraints imposed by society, especially regarding gender roles and expectations. Anne's defiance against these norms illustrates the changing dynamics of the time and the growing desire for personal freedom.

Historical Context

Set against the backdrop of the American colonies, the novel touches on the socio-political climate of the era. Woodiwiss skillfully weaves historical elements into the narrative, grounding the characters' experiences in real-world events.

Writing Style

Kathleen E. Woodiwiss is known for her rich, evocative prose that immerses readers in the settings and emotions of her characters. In "Come Love a Stranger," her writing style is characterized by:

- Descriptive Imagery: Vivid descriptions of landscapes and settings

transport readers to 18th-century England and America.

- Character Development: Woodiwiss excels in creating multifaceted characters whose growth and transformation resonate with readers.

- Dialogue: The dialogue is authentic and engaging, reflecting the social norms and customs of the time.

Impact and Legacy

"Come Love a Stranger" holds a significant place in the romance genre, particularly as one of the early works of Kathleen E. Woodiwiss. Here are a few reasons why the novel is important:

1. Pioneering Feminism in Romance: Woodiwiss's portrayal of strong female characters paved the way for future romance novels to explore themes of empowerment and independence.

2. Cultural Influence: The book contributed to the popularity of historical romance as a genre, inspiring countless authors to follow in Woodiwiss's footsteps.

3. Enduring Popularity: The novel continues to be beloved by readers, showcasing the timeless appeal of its themes and characters.

Conclusion

"Come Love a Stranger" by Kathleen E. Woodiwiss is more than just a romance novel; it is a story of adventure, personal growth, and the search for love amidst the complexities of life. Through the journey of Anne Waverly and her relationship with the Earl of Langston, Woodiwiss explores themes that resonate with readers even today. The novel's rich character development, evocative writing style, and historical context make it a significant contribution to the romance genre and a classic that has stood the test of time.

As readers continue to discover or revisit this compelling tale, Kathleen E. Woodiwiss's legacy as a trailblazer in the world of romance literature remains firmly established, influencing generations of writers and readers alike. For those seeking a novel that combines passion, historical richness, and strong character arcs, "Come Love a Stranger" is an enduring choice that promises to captivate the imagination.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main plot of 'Come Love a Stranger' by Kathleen E. Woodiwiss?

The novel follows the story of a young woman named Deirdre who, after a tragic accident, finds herself entangled in a tumultuous romance with a mysterious stranger, exploring themes of love, identity, and the complexities of relationships.

Who are the main characters in 'Come Love a Stranger'?

The main characters include Deirdre, a spirited and independent woman, and the enigmatic stranger, who plays a crucial role in her journey of self-discovery and love.

What themes are explored in 'Come Love a Stranger'?

The novel explores themes such as love versus duty, the quest for personal freedom, the impact of societal expectations, and the struggle between passion and propriety.

How does 'Come Love a Stranger' compare to other works by Kathleen E. Woodiwiss?

Like her other novels, 'Come Love a Stranger' features Woodiwiss's signature blend of historical romance, strong character development, and lush descriptions, while also delving deeply into the emotional and psychological aspects of love.

What can readers expect in terms of writing style from 'Come Love a Stranger'?

Readers can expect Woodiwiss's characteristic rich and evocative prose, with detailed descriptions and a strong sense of setting, which brings both the characters and their emotions to life.

Is 'Come Love a Stranger' suitable for fans of historical romance?

Yes, 'Come Love a Stranger' is highly suitable for fans of historical romance, as it combines a compelling love story with a well-researched historical backdrop, typical of Kathleen E. Woodiwiss's novels.

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