



Blackhearts

Nicole Castroman

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Blackbeard the pirate was known for striking fear in the hearts of the bravest of sailors. But once he was just a young man who dreamed of leaving his rigid life behind to chase adventure in faraway lands. Nothing could stop him—until he met the one girl who would change everything.

Edward "Teach" Drummond, son of one of Bristol's richest merchants, has just returned from a year-long journey on the high seas to find his life in shambles. Betrothed to a girl he doesn't love and sick of the high society he was born into, Teach dreams only of returning to the vast ocean he'd begun to call home. There's just one problem: convincing his father to let him leave and never come back.

Following her parents' deaths, Anne Barrett is left penniless and soon to be homeless. Though she's barely worked a day in her life, Anne is forced to take a job as a maid in the home of Master Drummond. Lonely days stretch into weeks, and Anne longs for escape. How will she ever realize her dream of sailing to Curaçao—where her mother was born—when she's stuck in England?

From the moment Teach and Anne meet, they set the world ablaze. Drawn to each other, they're trapped by society and their own circumstances. Faced with an impossible choice, they must decide to chase their dreams and go, or follow their hearts and stay.

Blackhearts Details

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From Reader Review Blackhearts for online ebook

Mikee Andrea (ReadWithMikee) says

When I added this book to my TBR, I was expecting adventures and pirates. Unfortunately we got neither.

Instead, all we got in Blackhearts was romance, romance, and more romance. If there weren't going to be any ships, pirates, or adventures, I at least wanted a Blackbeard origin story but I don't think I could even consider this book even that. This book shouldn't even really be associated with Blackbeard because if we weren't told that this would be a Blackbeard origin story, you wouldn't even have known that this would be about the infamous pirate because this whole book was pretty much, I kid you not, just a romance between Anne and Teach, being tired of being told what to do, wanting to escape, blah blah blah.

I don't mind romance in books, in fact, I welcome it because I want at least a little bit of romance in every book I read to keep things interesting. But I did not expect that the relationship between Anne and Teach would be the backbone of this whole story. Blackbeard is supposed to be one of the most notorious pirates in the history of PIRATES, but this book made his whole life out to be this typical, sappy love story that you read about it every other book with characters of different names. Just... No.

I wouldn't be so disappointed in the romance if I actually bought into their relationship but I just couldn't get into it. I loved Teach but Anne was just annoying. Normally, I'd appreciate outspoken heroines who wouldn't let people walk all over them but with Anne, it really just came off as obnoxious.

On top of that, I was able to predict everything that happened. From William, to Patience... Everything. It really is a shame. Blackhearts had so much potential. You could've had PIRATES. You could've had ADVENTURE. You could've had a WILL TURNER and ELIZABETH SWANN type of relationship, which I might add, would've been 100 times more interesting than Teach and Anne's relationship. But... Nothing. It all just fell flat for me. If anything, the story I was actually waiting for occurs in the end but for another reason than to chase after a woman.

Blackhearts was one of my most anticipated releases of 2016 and it drives me crazy that I ended up being really disappointed. :/

Sophie says

I received an Advance Reader Copy via Edelweiss. This in no way impacted on my view.

I have been dying for this book ever since I first heard about it. Never before that I known that an origin story about the notorious pirate Blackbeard, but here we are. I preordered this book, along with quite a few others, and decided to wait as patiently as I could for my copy to arrive. I've never had any luck with Edelweiss, though I still request books from time to time. When I checked the site just before Christmas, I was so surprised that there was actually a tick next to Blackhearts, rather than a cross like normal. Thank you so much, Simon Pulse, for approving me!!

Blackhearts, like I've said, is an origin story about the man behind the Blackbeard myth, Edward Teach. In the book, he is a member of a privileged merchant class family, Edward Drummond, nicknamed 'Teach'.

Returning from a year abroad aboard a merchant vessel, he is due to be married, and knows in his heart that he doesn't want the marriage, and would rather live in the ship for the rest of his days. He meets a maid in his house, Anne, and slowly starts to fall for her. Anne, due to her mixed heritage, knows her presence in the house is the subject of ridicule. She wants nothing more than to flee England, and travel to Curaçao, the birthplace of her mother. With the launching of Drummond's new ship, the Deliverance, coming up, she's planning to stow away, whatever the cost.

I loved how the story was told in dual PoV. Both Anne and Teach were so interesting, and so unique, that it was definitely necessary for both. Anne was definitely my favourite, but I had a soft spot for Teach. Anyone who has studied any time in history should understand how the attitudes towards the slaves, children of slaves, etc., were at this time. For Anne, who had quite a privileged upbringing, to be thrust into servitude was such a shock. After dealing with the shock of losing her father, and then her mother, she can't cope with impending future. I loved how feisty she was, and how set she was with her plan. She understood what it was to be a female servant at that time, and wasn't about to take anyone's shit.

Teach, though not as interesting as Anne, definitely had his qualities about himself. He knew his life was all set out for him, and fought as hard as he could against that life. His father allowed him to go on his year long journey in order to 'get it out of his system', but rather, it made him yearn for it more. So far, it was the only time nothing had been planned for him, and he could have some kind of freedom. As he spends time with his fiancée again, he realises how uninteresting she was, and that they had absolutely nothing in common. I hated Patience, and I reckon I won't be alone in that thought.

The romance was such a slow burn, that it hurt. I swooned whenever they spent time together, and I feel like it felt right, how it was carried out. For that time period, such a relationship would have been utterly frowned upon, and they both understood this. Still, they knew they were right for each other, and had very similar tastes. Their whole relationship was beautiful, and I can't have asked for more!

The only problem I had with the book, once which I know a lot of other people have had, was the abruptness of the ending. At the current moment, the book is slated to be a standalone book, and that ending was rather like a cliffhanger between books in a series. There are ways to leave a book open ended, somewhat ambiguous, but this was nothing like that. It was just finished, with so much left unanswered, and with a ton of new issues and questions thrust at us in the final pages. I'm praying beyond all hope that a sequel will be announced, and written, but that's not in the cards right now. Nonetheless, I hope it doesn't put you off reading, as everything else was utter perfection. I'm so happy I've read this book, and can't wait for my hard copy to arrive to look at the beautifulness of it! I'd definitely recommend you read it!

Cait • A Page with a View says

I was SO excited about the ships, harbor town, and pirates at the beginning. This seemed like it had everything I wanted in a story (because I also really like historical kitchens? random but whatever).

BUT then the plot kind of shoved all of that to the side and focused on a reallllllly obnoxious romance. It honestly read like a bad, cliché romance novel. I couldn't stand the guy's actions and didn't get a strong sense of either character. Everything fell flat. I connected with nothing and am just all sorts of disappointed.

And I didn't even get that this was supposed to have anything to do with Blackbeard until reading the description.

Ben Alderson says

If I could give this more than 5 stars, I would.

I really loved this story, It was really character driven which I what I wanted. I was rooting for Anne and Teach from the very first chapter, so I am BUZZING with how the story panned out.

I HATED characters (in a good way, in a way that the author wrote them to be hated) and i LOVED characters and the setting.

SERIOUSLY, I NEED BOOK TWO...

Emily May says

“Trapped between the door and his body, she froze. He knew he was using his size to intimidate her, but nothing else seemed to work where she was concerned.”

It's funny how everything remotely marketable as "YA" is these days given a pretty cover, a solid blurb writer, and voila! Truth is, some years ago, I think Blackhearts would have looked like this on the shelves:

It's all romance, no actual historical fiction beyond the racism, sexism and classism floating around. But, more than that, it's just a **crappy romance**. Teach (later to be known as Blackbeard) enjoys intimidating and stalking Anne Barrett, even after she runs away from his initial sexual advances, until she finally gives in and reciprocates his attentions.

There is **absolutely no badassery, pirating and action** in this book. The filler parts of the story feature Anne's servitude to Teach's father - lots of descriptions of her making beds, cooking dinner and cleaning rooms, whilst stealing valuable objects to save up for an escape. Everything else is about the romance between the two of them.

As these kind of novels tend to go, Teach is also already engaged to a rich, mean, overtly-sexual woman called Patience. There's real emphasis put on the comparisons between the sweet and innocent Anne, and the evil Patience who repulses Teach with her promises of sexual favours. Teach would much rather have the girl who runs from his advances (ugh).

Anne is a simple beauty, Patience tries too hard. Anne is nice and polite, Patience is fiery and speaks her mind. Anne fights off unwanted attentions, Patience tries to seduce Teach (her promised husband - what a hussy!). This alone was enough for me to dislike Anne, but she then tells Teach that one of her fellow maids likes to kiss the stable boy, knowing it would lead to said maid being called a "harlot".

On top of that, **Teach himself is neither likable nor deliciously unlikable**. He lacks any of the interesting characteristics we would expect from Blackbeard, instead being portrayed as a romantic hero, but ultimately fails to impress at either when he enjoys intimidating and stalking a maid until she finally gives in. If this had been an adult novel, I'm sure he would have assaulted her until she liked it too.

Give this a miss, unless you enjoy the old Harlequin romances.

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C.G. Drews says

I had nooo idea if I'd enjoy this because I heard it's more of a historical romance than a pirate story. (And I'm like *all here* for pirate things.) But you know what?! **I ACTUALLY QUITE ADORED IT**. It *does* read like a HF romance, but it's witty and the characters are winning and I looooooved the writing. And plus the ending (!!) promises (!!) more pirates (!!!) in the future (!!)

No I don't have an unhealthy obsession with pirates. WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT.

The story is dual narrated by Teach and Anne. Teach is a rich merchant's son and he's being forced into an arranged marriage when he just wants to go to sea and do seaman stuff. Anne is half black but also daughter of a merchant so she doesn't feel like she belongs anywhere and people are horrible to her because of her colour. SHE IS ALSO EPIC and if people boss her around: she whacks 'em. Literally.

Actual Meeting of Anne And Teach:

Anne meets Teach.

Anne mistakes Teach for a heinous felon.

Anne whacks Teach between the legs with a bucket.

Me: "OH LOOK I SPY MY OTP."

They seriously are the BEST otp. Okay, well, um, Teach sometime annoyed me with his supremacy attitude. Like it got better at first??? And then the more he fell for Anne the more he tried t control her, kind of. LIKE IT'S COMPLICATED. I'm so *so* glad she didn't stand for it!! But I liked Teach better in the first 60%. But this two OMG. **The argue so much and they've both got strong personalities**. So, so much win. I ship it. I SHIP IT LIKE A PIRATE SHIP, ARRR ME HEARTIES.

So it also is like the "origin" story of Blackbeard. Which is awesome. Like completely freaking aaaaawesome. I did wish Teach had more of an interest in piracy or, like, something in this book. He honestly was a bit too much of an upstanding citizen. (I'M SORRY I EVEN JUST SAID THAT.) So I hope his merging, in future books, into pirate is smooth??? Because, like...#need???? BUT HELLO, JUST MOMENT OF APPRECIATION THAT THIS IS A BLACKBEARD ORIGIN STORY.

I also quite enjoyed the writing! Like it's historical fiction, so do imagine lots of people shouting primly "I SHALL NOT, GOOD SIR" but otherwise, there was some banter and I devoured half the book in one sitting because *so so good*. Plus I laughed out loud. BECAUSE IT WAS GOOD, YES.

ALL IN ALL: I like this book. I like it a lot. I shall kidnap it at dawn and sail away with it across the

seas. Sure it had it's cliché moments, and any trials in the plot *did* kind of get resolved too easily, and I think Teach needed to sit down before I strangled him with a pirate flag several times. BUT OVERALL I LOVED TEACH AND ANNE WAS EPIC AND THE STORY WAS ENTIRELY WINNING. I want the sequel *noooooow*.

Jen (The Starry-Eyed Revue) says

An advance copy of this title was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review. My thoughts are my own. This review can also be found at The Starry-Eyed Revue.

I knew next to nothing about Blackbeard when I picked up this novel -- or any other pirates, for that matter -- only what I've picked up in passing and that's pretty much that pirates are bad. :P I did a quick Wikipedia search on Blackbeard, though, and I liked what I found. Neither family issues nor a romance was mentioned in my reading, but it does seem feasible that either or both of these could have been the instigating factor for his life on the high seas. It also seems that the author's depiction of the character is spot-on.

I can't believe I don't remember studying the infamous Blackbeard in school. I mean, we had to have, right, considering he's probably the most notorious pirate in all of history? And the fact that little is known of his story prior to *becoming* a pirate is all the more intriguing. I love how Castroman has romanticized Blackbeard's origin story in this novel, giving him a father with extremely high expectations and a doomed love story.

Teach, seemingly unlike most of his peers, is honorable and commendable. He is not a lazy layabout who only wishes to experience the finer offerings of high society. His most fervent wish is to live a life on the high seas, away from the responsibilities of a merchant's son and an arranged marriage. That is, until he meets the sharp-tongued and impulsive Anne Barrett.

Anne is the product of an English merchant and a West Indies slave, and although she was raised as the illegitimate daughter of the pair, she was still given most every opportunity her merchant father could afford her. However, with her father's passing, the mother and daughter were cast off and left to fend for themselves, and neither has fared very well. In fact, Anne turns up as a servant in Teach's father's household.

Despite an inauspicious first meeting, there is an obvious connection between Teach and Anne. Anne is unlike the frivolous high society girls Teach is used to, and there is much more to Teach than just being a member of the gentry. But there is much more than just their social stations keeping them apart. Their slow-burn romance appears to be doomed from the start, but it was so lovely to watch as it unfolded.

That ending was...most unwelcome. Things were just getting really good! And there's no hint of a sequel in the works. Trust me, I checked. But with a story this captivating, it's only a matter of time...I hope. o_O I'll be honest, though...I thought this book was going to take place on a ship. *Maybe in the next book?*

GIF it to me straight:

Stacee says

4.5 stars

I didn't know much about Blackbeard except that he was a pirate, so when I saw the synopsis of Blackhearts, I was eager to read it.

Loved Anne and Teach. They're both passionate and have such plans for the future. Even though they seem to be different in the beginning, there are a lot of similarities, and I thoroughly enjoyed reading things evolve.

It was a bit of a slow burn, but it is ridiculously satisfying. The ending isn't exactly what I wanted, but I was satisfied. All in all, it was an interesting story and I was captivated from the beginning.

****Huge thanks to Simon & Schuster and Edelweiss for providing the arc in exchange for an honest review****

Samantha says

2.5 stars

Lucia says

How to start my review? Blackhearts is YA historical novel set in 17th century England and while writing wasn't outstanding, story itself kept me hooked. I have a lot to say about Blackhearts - a good and a bad. Let's get to the bottom of it.

NO EMOTIONAL CONNECTION

Both main protagonists are unhappy with their current life situation. Anne is illegal child of dead merchant, was forced to work as maid in unpleasant environment and dreams of finding her extended family in West Indies. Edward "Teach" is heir to huge merchant business but he dreams of sea adventures on a ship instead of forced marriage and boring businesses that are his reality. Sadly, I didn't feel connected to neither of these characters and even though I was interested enough to finish Anne's and Edward's story, I didn't particularly care about them. They were both super judgmental, single-minded and there wasn't much depth to their characterization. Blackhearts is an example of a book in which author tells us instead of showing us how characters feel and I wasn't impressed by it.

MISLEADING BLURB?

I have to admit that I was disappointed that there was no action or adventure in this novel at all. Blackhearts is ordinary romance story set in 17th century England. I feel like I was misled by the synopsis which gives me adventurous vibe. I am probably the only one feeling this way and whoever wrote the synopsis maybe didn't even mean it to sound as adventurous book. But that was an impression I got from the blurb and I

couldn't help but be disappointed by the lack of action.

Moreover, I went into this book as a standalone so I was very surprised by the non-ending. Blackhearts either has the lamest open-ending ever or author and publishers forgot to mention that it is going to be a series... Again, I was disappointed, felt misled and it affected my opinion about this book. Generally, I have nothing against whatever kind of cliffhangers. But I hate going into book thinking it's a standalone only to find out at the end that it is not.

NO INSTA-LOVE

Romance in Blackhearts wasn't a slow burn per se since it happened within couple of weeks. But what started as animosity between Anne and Edward, gradually turned into something different. Emphasis on gradually. I liked that very much about this book.

SERIOUS TOPICS

Heroine of this novel is half English half Indian girl. Such occurrence was a taboo in that particular part of English history. Add the fact that Anne is illegitimate child of rich merchant and a slave and you have perfect premise for serious topics. Racism, interracial relationships, prejudices, physical punishments. Take your pick, author touched all of that in this novel. And the fact that she didn't shy away from these topics and presented them for what they truly were was what appealed to me the most about this book.

All in all, Blackhearts is solid YA romance/drama with interesting historical setting. And even though it isn't a phenomenal novel, it is a good debut and I plan to read sequel (if there is one).

ARC provided by publisher as an exchange for honest review

MORE REVIEWS ON MY BLOG **Reading Is My Breathing**

Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says

Jack Sparrow aside, I'm just not fond of pirates or story about pirates. This book is an imagined prequel to the legend of Blackbeard, and while there's not very much piracy (good), there's not much else in it but a terribly boring YA historical romance with an alpha asshole as the lead.

This book sends a message to readers that sexuality is bad, that women should be innocent and virtuous and just outspoken enough to not push any 1600s boundaries (which is to say, don't push any boundaries at all), and to that, I say "fuck that shit." Sexually loose girls are constantly portrayed as whorish, whereas if the main heroine does it, it's all just fucking dandy.

"What we've just done is no different from what Mary did to John."

"Do not compare my feelings for you to those of that strumpet. Mary never cared for John. He was a lover of convenience. I do not hold out much hope for Tom, either. Give her a week or two, and she'll have moved on to someone else."

I love HR, but they have to have several elements to be readable. Sure, the love story must be there, but since it's romance-centric, in order for a book to not be gag-worthy to a cold-hearted *bleep* like me, there has to be spectacular writing, humor, well-written emotional turmoil, and, gosh darn it, *passion*. I'm not talking

about the thrusting, naked fumble in the dark sort, I'm talking about the melding of two hearts, two souls. Yes, reader, I am a romantic at heart.

This book didn't have any of the above. It was a boring, terrible love story with a weak-ass female and a regrettable waste of air, without much swashbuckling at all. Edward "Teach" (how the fuck is that a nickname?) the future Blackbeard, falls for his biracial servant girl. That's it. That's IT.

One of the worst things about the past is the class difference and how the upper classes tend to abuse those who are "beneath" them. This is particularly true (and particularly abominable) when it comes to master-servant relationships. Countless serving girls, maids, governesses, helpless females (and given the era, they truly are helpless), were subject to **rape and sexual abuse by the men they serve**.

"I could have you punished for what you did," he said, watching her closely.

She nodded. "Yes, you could."

"After that, I could have you fired."

"Yes, you could. But I'd rather you didn't," she said.

"And why not?" he growled.

The male protagonist in this story is one of those assholes, and yes, he said those things above.

Usually a historical book involving a "different" heroine will portray how ahead of the time, how progressive, how brave and self-sufficient and strong the main character is. **Anne is not a progressive character, she is weak, she is innocent and pure, and all but has a halo around her head.** She is portrayed as the "good" girl compared to the book's "slut" character, who is free with her sexual favors.

Although she was a baron's daughter, when the two of them were alone together, she acted more like a scullery maid, allowing him to do things no lady of noble breeding should agree to.

Because truly noble characters are chaste, right?

Anne is the one who constantly receives - and steadfastly resists - sexual advances. Teach is engaged to a highly sexualized (and villainous) woman named Patience. **There is a tremendous effort to portray Patience's sexuality and forwardness as something bad, something wicked, something disgusting compared to the virginal Anne.** That is not cool with me. Patience is extremely one-dimensional, being shallow, stupid, completely selfish, without one redeeming quality. Of course, the term "one-dimensional" could similarly be used to describe the rest of the characters in the book.

Jaime (Two Chicks on Books) says

Omg I freaking LOVED this book! There has to be more. Simon Teen you BETTER pick up the sequel!!!!

I am quite obsessed with Pirates. Hell Black Sails on Starz is one of my favorite shows! But what Nicole Castroman has done here is completely brilliant! She took one of the most notorious bloodthirsty, violent pirates (and also one who very little is known about in real life) and turned him into someone with a past, a backstory, a heart and I fell hard for "Teach". He was compassionate and kind and loving but he did have quite the temper when his loved ones were hurting or an innocent was being harmed and I loved that about him. And he was sexy as hell lol

I also loved the other MC, Anne. She was a pistol with a quick wit and a pail (trust me you'll see when you read the book!) she had had a good upbringing but fell on hard times. But she didn't let that bring her down instead it made her stronger. And the chemistry between her and Teach was freaking intense! I loved how their story wasn't insta-love either but it grew with time and mutual respect for one another.

I could go on forever about this book but I don't want to spoil it for you so make sure you buy this book when it comes out in February and read it right away. You will not be dissatisfied!

Jessica ✿ ➡ Silverbow ➡ ✿ Rabid Reads-no-more says

Reviewed by: Rabid Reads

DNF at 33%.

Two words: half-fantasy.

But this time, it was even worse than the usual disappointment that comes from a "fantasy" sans magic, b/c at 33%, it was also a story marketed as being about pirates, WITHOUT ANY PIRATES.

Oh, you could see where it was going, but it would've been more truthful to call this one a fictionalized account of the events that led to Blackbeard *becoming* Blackbeard.

Bad form.

Nastassja says

Actual rating: 1.5

This was one of the most anticipated books of this year for me. Imagine my surprise when it turned out to be **the most disappointing book of the year**. Let's look at the title of the book: *Blackhearts* - a gorgeous title. Now, look at the cover - a gorgeous cover. You know how I think this book should've been titled instead? ***The black bearded pirate who stalked me*** or ***My daddy didn't love me enough*** or ***A kleptomaniac Anne***. And you know why I think so? To find out let's look into the content of the story. We have a romanticized version of a young *Edward Teach aka Blackbeard* - the ruthless legendary pirate. In this book we are promised a story of his transformation. Young *Edward "Teach" Drummond* is suffocating under his father's pressure. He doesn't want the life that is planned for him, he doesn't want a fiancée that is promised to him. All he wants is sea, it's his passion, his freedom. I imagined Teach as someone like this:

What I got:

The second MC - *Anne*, a 16 years-old daughter of a wealthy merchant and a slave from the West Indies. She

is an orphan. Her life in England is hard due to her heritage, and she has no choice but to work as a maid in *Drummond's* household. There our star-crossed lovers meet and their epic love story begins.

I was expecting dashing pirates and masterly fights and action - any action really. I was even more than ok with the romance part. I guess I imagined something like *The princess bride*, but **the romance turned out to be worse than anything an average historical romance can offer**. What romance, what passion - there's more chemistry between a cat and a mouse than between Anne and Teach.

There was this kissing scene and logically it should've been passionate, but I felt nothing. Nada. Zero. My friend calls it **a novocaine effect** - it's like I am under the influence of painkillers and can't feel a thing. And it's not just the romance, which is absolutely unbelievable and appeared out of the thin air in the second half of the book. Characters knew each other only for a few days and Teach already salivates over beautiful snowflake Anne and how she makes him feel. He stalks her, tries to grab her, if she is not in the vicinity, **all he thinks about is stalking and grabbing her**.

“So, Anne, you thought you got the better of me,” he said softly, enjoying the look of fear on her face. She reminded him of a rabbit caught in a snare.

“I don’t care what Margery or my father thinks. I’ve been looking for you. Now stand still. I’m getting tired of this constant cat and mouse,” he said.

“Well, I’m tired of being chased,” she snapped, forced to tip her head back and look up at him.

“Whether you acknowledge it or not, Anne, we belong together. We could be on opposite sides of the world, but you would still be mine, as I am yours.”

Pff, dude, you know this chit for a little longer than a week and already you are deeply in lurve with her! Insta love-ish much?

And romance is not even my main complaint about the book. It's **the characters**. They are **vain, hypocritical asses**. Anne and Teach are both special snow-flakes, around them only terrible people keeping them apart, conspiring against their dreams and wishes *gasp* How could they do that to our sweethearts, they are so special, you can't treat them like a common folk! You still do not get the whole scope of Anne's and Teach's specialness? Okey-dokey then, let's see: Teach's father is a tyrant, he doesn't allow his son to choose his own path; Teach's best friend is a lying scum of a person who secretly fucked Teach's fiancée, impregnated her and accused Teach of piracy; his fiancée is a brainless harlot (god forbid you to compare her with Saint Anne); a butcher in the market is a dirty bastard who wants to grope Anne with his meaty hands; a cook in Drummond's household is a crone who hates poor orphan Anne for no reason at all; a maid who has a fiancé, also is a whore who wants to fuck Teach and tumbles in hay with a stable boy on a regular bases. Oh, and I forgot to mention Anne's half brother who is also a scumbag! No one is decent enough to be worthy of Teach and Anne. Please, someone build them a monument!

Anne steals from Drummond, but she has a noble cause, and no one dares to call her a lying stealing bitch:

“The only reason I took anything was because I was treated unfairly here and I wanted to escape. I took nothing more than you owed me. Or my father.”

But when someone else is not as pristine as our self-righteous Anne, she points a finger at this person without a second thought:

“You’ve confessed to being a liar and a thief. Why should I believe you, sir?”

Oh, and Anne is above every maid and cook in the household, because she is an educated dove and can read:

Anne often wondered what they would say if they knew she was the daughter of another wealthy merchant. It was obvious Anne was educated, whereas the two maids were not, just one more thing that set Anne apart from them.

All Anne loves is Anne, all Anne wants is Anne. She doesn't need Teach or any friends, just let her go and she'll forget you ever existed.

Teach is no better. He has a fiancée. He enjoyed having fun with her, because she allowed some liberties. He was okay with marrying her. HE LIKED HER! Now, she is not worthy of his attention, she is too frivolous, she is too stupid, she is lesser than perfect Anne:

Patience was another matter. Teach noticed the frown on his betrothed's lips, a sure sign of her unease. He was quite certain it had more to do with Anne's beauty than with her suitability as a maid, or her race. Patience did not take well to competition, especially in the form of a house servant.

Of course, a lady would be jealous of a house maid!

Patience is a harlot and makes advances on Teach, and poor lad can't stand the chick. *checks the watch* though five minutes ago he was okay with her advances and welcomed them.

“If you’d like, we could stay out here and discuss *Paradise Lost*. William said it’s all about Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Since we were so rudely interrupted before, we could make this little spot our very own Eden.”

Anne did not imagine the shudder that ran through Teach. He took Miss Patience's wrist and removed it from his shoulder.

He is so disgusted that he even throws up on poor Patience's dress. He compares the girls constantly and guess who is the winner:

He had known Patience for several years now, and he was quite comfortable with her. She was like a well-worn shoe.

Teach cringed, imagining Patience's reaction to that description.

Anne was different. She intrigued him, for not only was she familiar with John Milton, but she claimed to know how to ride a horse. Patience had already proven she'd never heard of the poet, and the closest she ever got to a horse was when she stepped in and out of a carriage.

1:0 in Anne's favor!!!

But Nastassja, how can you judge the poor misunderstood lad, whose father doesn't love him?! Daddy issues are a serious case! Aye, but how can I respect a person when **all he does is whine about his daddy being an old unfeeling oak, who doesn't want to see Teach for a man he is** *laughs* Grow a pair, lad, and stand up for yourself already!

He's never cared about my thoughts or my dreams. It's always been about him and what he wants."

Blah, blah, blah *yawns*

The characters in this book lack any depths, they are made of cardboard. I can't even imagine how they look, though we have a description of their appearances, but it's just a sketch of a thousand similar faces: nothing distinguished about them, no soul to remember them by. I can also fault the language on it. **The writing is stiff, undescriptive, impersonal.** Supposedly we have a story, but the story lacks soul and no amount of events or romance could save the stiff writing. It's like being in a middle of a desert with no water for miles: just sand and suffocating heat.

The ending is as senseless as the whole book was. I don't understand why we have an open ending? As far as everyone aware this book is a stand-alone, but we don't get a satisfactory conclusion, we don't even have enough to call it an open ending, because the book just abruptly ends in the middle of an act. What the hell?! Am I suppose to tremble and gasp from the last lines of the story? **I am trembling and gasping with outrage.** I don't want any sequels and continuations of that dreadful story, but I fear there might be one or two *sigh* Don't read this book, don't waste your time, you won't find here dashing pirates or epic love - you'll be standing in the middle of the desert begging for water, but no one will give you any...

Maggie says

This isn't a historical retelling. It's a love story. And it's not a worth-the-read one.
