


Patricia M. Muhammad  
presents

# Love Captured

## Places

A place is one of the most crucial elements in writing a story in historical fiction. It is one of two literary devices which define the setting, the other is the era. Places, however, are not only a country or geographical region in which the narrative occurs. The location of a specific incident, one that may catapult a character in performing an act unexpected, or one that may be fatal may be as small as the sitting room or as grand as the ocean. What defines their importance is not necessarily their great size, but rather how the characters responds to a situation or that place, how they interact or ignore the significance of where they are in any given moment in time. One place may define the initial stage of development of a character, while another represents their transformation. Nonetheless, places have an important role in helping the reader navigate the trek a given character have been set upon. Yet, in historical fiction, especially in historical romance, setting provides an aesthetic purpose. One may argue that setting becomes an inanimate character, one that does not breathe as humans do, but breathe itself through the walls of a royal palace, may permeate the very paved ground of the roads which lead to estates of the wealthy aristocrats or may shed a tear unseen into the vast ocean whose tides brush against the docks that whisper their acknowledgment of the character's plight. Setting is a constant while characters readers have become acquainted with may perish. Setting is silent, yet some characters are verbose. Places have witnessed the ongoings of many who connive, believing their plot is a secret only theirs to behold. Some characters have yet to know what secrets surround them, what mysterious conspiracy to harm them that has been set afoot—what secret may reveal their true origins and where they truly belong.

Love Captured has several settings, both broad and narrow. Emmeline's story begins generally in the North Carolina colony and leads her to Liverpool, England. Yet the start of her journey is within a microcosm of the colonial protectorate. The maiden was reared and lives in a great mansion. Yet the reader is not fully acquainted with how she interacted with the household on a daily basis. The reader does not know fully how she was treated amongst those who were supposed members of her family. The reader only sees Emmeline's interaction with the mansion from the outside—the same place she was at the beginning of Love Captured, daring to escape the silent social strictures which sought to ensnare her from knowing her true self. The mansion is a place, yes, but it is also an object in which she bids a final farewell. The plantation watches her as she steals away. The cool air haphazardly leaps, funnels and burrows in every crevice. Her hands are against a damp wall. The lights are out. If she took one misstep, the creaking floor of the storage place may alert the others of her whereabouts. This place could verily prevent Emmeline from her initial triumph, yet it did not. It, however, was not the only place she encountered, for this is only the beginning.




Emmeline locates an unguarded schooner at the docks. She steals away on the cargo ship. The brig may very well be her salvation or her demise. This place is filled with sailors, all of whom are men. She is discovered by two seaman while she hid. It appears all may be lost. The ship, this seafaring place, has no means of escape except overboard. Yet, benevolence intervened. A kind seaman by the name of William appears and escorts her to the captain. This place is her new home until she arrives at Liverpool. It is unlike the first place, the mansion. She sleeps on burlap. Emmeline is not catered to, but rather she cooks and feeds the seamen who work to keep the ship on course. When they reached the docks of Liverpool, England, Emmeline has entered a new country, a new place.

William grants her his tenement while schooner. Emmeline now lives in a Liverpool. She considers it an unbefriended by a mother of a few boys. region within this new country, temporal place. From the comfort country unfamiliar, it becomes

A nobleman by the name of Duke John has rejected his mother and father's wishes that he marry whom they chosen for him. The House of Harrison is one place wherein he feels constricted. He departs from its extravagance and seeming comforts and ventures to the very shantytown that Emmeline unwittingly finds herself a resident of. He sees her. Duke John Harrison is mesmerized by her beauty. Emmeline believes this wretched place could only bring forth misery if she stays beyond necessary. Yet within the horrid circumstances of poverty that she now finds herself, Emmeline is introduced to another form of kindness. She decides that she must take care. The maiden still considers herself a wayfarer and this handsome stranger who obviously is out of place who now appears before her may have malintent. For the duke, this place becomes a source of relief, an avenue by which he has a clearer perspective, that he must be his own man. In this respect, this also means that he must select the wife that he wants. The shantytown has now become a place of mercy for both Emmeline and John, presenting them both with what they need—each other. Emmeline soon realizes this as she and John begin their courtship. The maiden intends to stay focus on her initial research as she believes her voyage to England may have been for naught. Yet this place has much to grant its newly welcomed guest. As John and Emmeline's courtship continues, he invites her to the House of Harrison. This grand estate hosts many courtiers. It is different than the mansion she was reared in the North Carolina colony. She is surrounded by strangers, including Duke John's father and mother. This place appears to only be the point of a social gathering for Emmeline, until John announces their engagement. It has now become yet another stepping stone for Emmeline and John's future. It is also where the connivance of one familiar to the duke will begin with the sole purpose of destroying their relationship. However, they do not succeed. Yet, John and Emmeline will be tested, their lives will be physically threatened. All the while they continue to reach for one another again. It is they who triumph.

is to work aboard yet another tenement in the shantytown of welcoming place until she is Yet, this dilapidated apartment, this Emmeline can only consider a of the manor to the slums of a the bridge between her and another.

After John and Emmeline survive poisoning and kidnapping, they are in each other's constant company as they continue to convalesce. This grand estate now became the place of recovery for the duke and his fiancé. However, Emmeline never retreated from understanding the clue her mother left her with that prompted her initial trek. She continued to meet with the benevolent society, providing what little information she was able for their research to uncover what was necessary for her identity to be resolved. It was on an earlier occasion when Emmeline walked on the pavement for one of her updates that she had encountered Lady Edna. This was an aristocrat who quickly became aware of who Emmeline was and thought her unfit for Duke John, primarily because she desired him for herself. The duke did not return similar affection which



only angered her. This angered her. The pavement, this linear, still place became the bugle by which Lady Edna dared passively announced her disapproval. It was for Emmeline the path for her freedom, though she and John would temporarily be falsely imprisoned and tormented before they could embrace fresh air, freedom of movement and one another again. There are a few other places that Emmeline and John are about to encounter. One of which was the King's Bench. This was an intimidating place for Emmeline to present herself. She consulted with the solicitor who worked with the benevolent society on her behalf. The place of the King's Bench was a grand court. Trained and learned men spoke highly of the law, both natural and common law and the expectation of the civilized to implement them for the benefit of man. Today was the subject of Emmeline Livingston. At her side is her devoted fiancé. This place demonstrated that she had the support of more than she expected. However, it was not until she heard the jurist's declaration that this place no longer intimidated her. She had her name, but now she understood the meaning by which she inherited. She had a form of freedom once before, but it was not true. Now she had both, and all of it she was able to celebrate with Duke John.

There was yet another place for Lady Emmeline to present herself. This was at the king's court. It and the King's Bench were often one as its hand stemmed from the king of the British Crown itself. This would be the first time Lady Emmeline would present herself in this unfamiliar place, though she would have Duke John Harrison at her side. It is here that Emmeline is announced as having title in her own right. This place becomes one of justice. While Lady Emmeline Phillipa Livingston rightfully gains what is her inherited right, another, one who conspired with Lady Edna is stripped of her title and any benefit thereof. England continued to evolve into the one place that Lady Emmeline would have her rightful place, free from the hindrance of others.

Still, there is one last place that has utmost significance for Emmeline and John. It is their marital home. It has become their refuge. Their bedchambers is the one place where an intimate celebration will take place. It is where John and Emmeline discussed their rings, both heirlooms, both a secret connection, revealing that they were always meant to be together.