

Patricia M. Muhammad
presents

Love Captured

Interesting Facts

Love Captured is a historical fiction romance novel that spans 18th century North Carolina colony and Liverpool England. The story begins when Emmeline leaves the comforts of the mansion of the North Carolina colony. She voyages as a stowaway across the Atlantic armed with one clue from her now deceased mother concerning her identity and where her future lies. Upon her arrival in Liverpool, she encounters the impoverished of the shantytown and eventually a rebellious duke who is immediately enthralled by her. The protagonist seeks to fill the void of her form. Her truest identity that will enable her to live the life she was meant to—that includes with Duke John.

1. The author was inspired to use the name Emmeline as the story was set in the 18th century, she thought of the book 'Emma' written by Jane Austen.
2. Emmeline's maternal forebear's name is Permillia. The author named this character after her paternal grand-aunt. A female ancestor whom the author has never met.
3. The author took inspiration from her academic research in the Atlantic slave trade to create the scene and dialogue amongst the protagonist, the seaman (including William) and the captain.

In the 'Special Objects' guide, the author details Love Captured's use of pearl necklaces or pearl jewelry on at least three occasions.

4. Pearls is one of the author's favourite sorts of jewelry.

Love Captured is set primarily in Liverpool, England, an unlikely setting for the typical historical romance novel.

5. The author intentionally chose this setting to juxtapose the lavish lifestyle Emmeline was reared in the mansion of the North Carolina colony, yet her questioning where she belong, her true 'space' to that of her initial acquaintance with poverty in Liverpool, England. It is here where she begins her transformation into truly being a free woman, without all of the luxuries she had still as a 'captured' young maiden of her own family.

Duke John is of the British nobility, yet he first encounters Emmeline while impoverished., not knowing her previous socio-economic status across the pond.

6. The author chose to create a dashing and handsome courtier as Emmeline's love interest who could have easily taken advantage of her newly unfortunate circumstances. Yet this was not his intention. However, due to Emmeline's justifiable mistrust of her family, it easily leads her and possibly the reader to assuming that Duke John Harrison would. This was a literary ploy. Sir John would have never done so as he was reared a gentleman and was just as vulnerable as Emmeline in what they searched for in fulfilling the voids in their hearts. Destiny guided them to fill it with one another.

Lady Edna and at least one other female member of the gentry are Emmeline's primary enemies in her endeavours to establish herself in England based on her true identity and in her relationship with Duke John.

7. The author thought it interesting the latest social movements as they have been in the past that oppression, even on a personal level is often and erroneously depicted as women versus men. It has never been consistently so now as women are often the conspirators and oppressors of other women. One example is that it is known that mothers sell primarily their daughters and sometimes their sons into modern human trafficking. The author considered the ferocious nature of members of the king's court and those external of it whom they conspire with in the 18th century to unjustly destroy the life and future of another. This the author based on how likely it was for maidens to undertake a form of social terrorism primarily based in their envy to prevent an innocent from having what Providence had ordained with another innocent. The author consider this as just another form of history repeating itself—though she has presented it in fictional form.

Duke John and Lady Emmeline are both rebels in a sense. Yet their arsenal was not rhetoric and their purpose was not to disseminate false propaganda. Their strength lied in what was their intent with Providence urging them to seek beyond the comforts of their present lives.

8. The author thought it necessary for not only Emmeline to undergo hardship, but for John as well. In the beginning it appeared that it would only be she who had to experience miserable poverty, mockery and only a glimmer of hope that all she had endeavoured for would produce a satisfying result. However, because of John's intense love for Emmeline, he underwent hardship. He was criticized as well for following his heart and loving a woman who was not purely Anglo. A maiden who was not a Brit (though she retroactively became one by law), who appeared to be an not established in genteel society. They both were kidnapped and injured by those who had wealth and influence. They both suffered. Yet despite all of their machinations, Emmeline and John triumphed. They now wholeheartedly had one another, always

In one pivotal scene, Emmeline Livingston hears the judgment in her favour at the King's Bench. She receives her full birthright and declaration that she is a truly free person and citizen of England. Though she obtains what she searches for in one instance, it is only a portion to what she sought and found in Duke John Harrison.

8. The author used her knowledge of 17th and 18th century English (British) case law concerning natural law based to some extent on religious law, as the means to incorporate the above-described scene into the Captured's plot. Although Emmeline was born a free person on a slave plantation and is a mulatto, she was not fully free from her family's hold and attempt to still control her as she had now become of age. In a sense Emmeline was a slave. She broke free, much of her own endeavour. Near the beginning of the book, *Love Captured* explains how the maiden was sheltered from the ongoings in the fields of the plantation. Yet what she was able to accomplish it is an ode to those who were in physical bondage who never had a chance to obtain was the protagonist had.

It is a subtle hint to what is factually overlooked that people of colour oppress other people of colour, especially during the time of slavery. There were black overseers, black slavers who wrongfully and criminally sold family members into slavery. They were also sometimes the very ones who whipped black slaves. Though Emmeline was not a true slave on paper, though she was not 'black' in the traditional sense, she was a person of colour, oppressed by the same and attempted to be controlled by the same; including members of her 'family.'

