

Melanie RACHEL

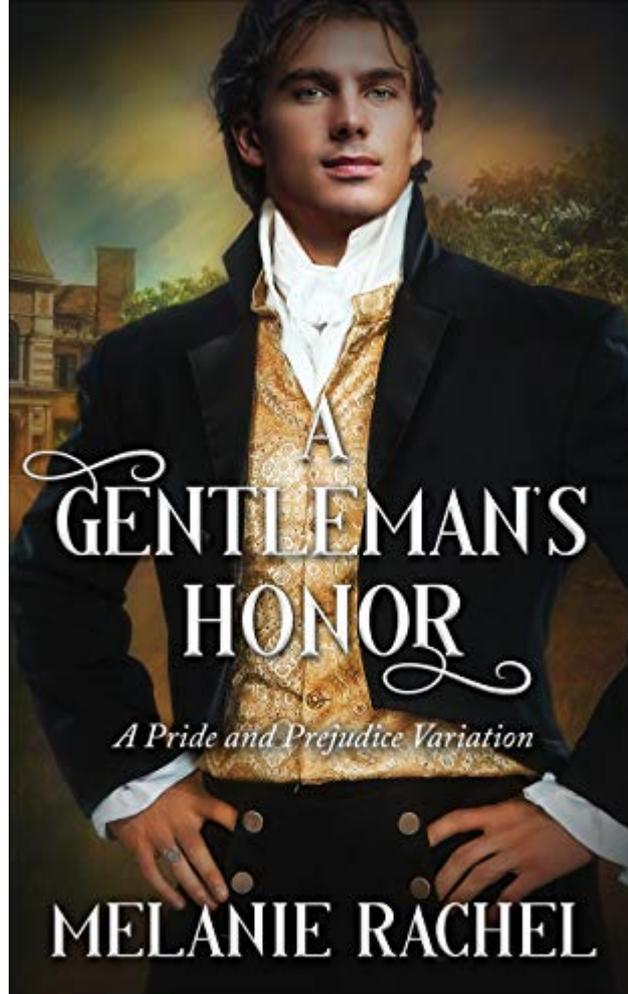
Melanie Rachel Books

Welcome to my first ever newsletter! I am hoping to make it something you look forward to reading, so feel free to tell me what kind of content you'd enjoy.

For now, I'll be sending the newsletter out quarterly--I am trying to preserve as much time as possible for writing--but I will do my best to make the wait worth it.

A Gentleman's Honor releases April 13, but you can [pre-order](#) it now! And when you subscribe to this newsletter, you will receive a free copy of "A Gentleman's Justice: Henry's Story," a short story that serves as a companion to *A Gentleman's Honor*.

This is the first time I've used a "Darcy" on the cover of a book--let me know how you like it! I'd love to hear from you!



Someone wants Elizabeth Bennet dead. It's all Fitzwilliam Darcy's fault.

Elizabeth Bennet wants the truth from Mr. Darcy. When she follows him from the ballroom to insist upon it, she becomes an unwilling witness to a scandalous scene. And for once, she cannot blame Mr. Darcy for disdain his company. Not even when he departs Netherfield in the middle of the ball.

When Darcy returns to London, he leaves both Miss Elizabeth Bennet and his growing infatuation for her behind. Or so he believes. For soon, their paths cross again under the most painful of circumstances.

Elizabeth suddenly finds herself dependent upon Mr. Darcy. With the gradual unveiling of his character, she is surprised by a burgeoning affection for him. Will her heart survive their inevitable parting?

Thrust together out of necessity, Elizabeth and Darcy must discover the culprit responsible for their predicament. But whoever has harmed Elizabeth is still looking for her, and Darcy cannot hide her forever.

[Pre-order A Gentleman's Honor Now!](#)

Down the Rabbit Hole

"I'm down the rabbit hole" is what writers say when we get so caught up in researching something that we become completely distracted from the matter at hand--like writing our next book. In *Drawing Mr. Darcy*, there were dozens of inventions to research, and in *I Never Knew Myself*, I found some really fun articles on boy's clothing on my way to deciding that Elizabeth would wear her brother's "costume" livery. I've also used The Child-Stealing act of 1814 (I dare you to dig out when Parliament actually heard arguments) and even did a wee bit of research on the Catholic Reform Act (Acts, really) for *A Gentleman's Justice* (you should have received an ebook copy of AGJ when you signed up for this newsletter).

For *A Gentleman's Honor*, it wasn't a historically significant law that sent me down the rabbit hole, but the boot. No, I wasn't researching clothing again, but rather, the boot of a carriage.

In America, we call the storage area at the back of most cars a trunk. In England, it's a boot. I wanted to know if it was called a boot as long ago as the early 19th century and discovered that it was.

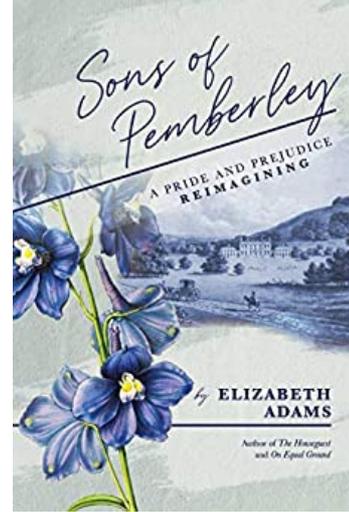
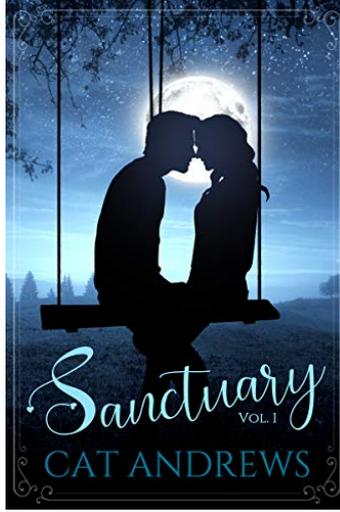
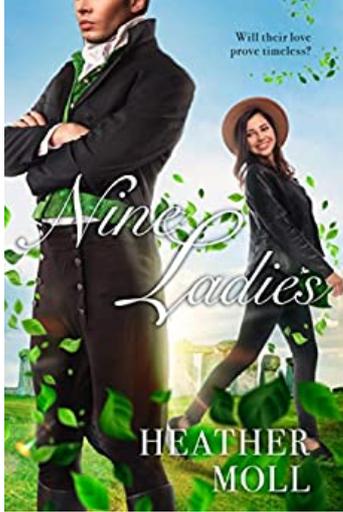
So I had the name. Then, I had to determine if the typical book was large enough for a grown person to fit in it. (My Internet search history was beginning to look very suspicious).

I read William Felton's 1794 *Treatise on Carriages* and discovered that carriages were custom-made for wealthy clients. Therefore, a boot could be used in the front and/or the back. I also discovered that boots could be quite large, spanning the entire width of the coach.

If you've read *A Gentleman's Honor*, you will know why getting all of this right was so important. I needed to know that the boot would be large enough for . . . someone to fit in it and that it could be located behind the carriage where no one would see what was happening. If you haven't read the book yet, you'll understand when you do.

I'm working on a magic story next--it's anyone's guess what kind of research I'll need to do while I'm writing!

Books Worthy of a Mention



These three books are relatively new JAFF releases and I love them all though for different reasons. Each of them takes our beloved characters and gives them a fresh story.

Heather Moll's time-travel novel *Nine Ladies* has a regency Darcy and a modern (2011) Elizabeth Bennet who are transported through an ancient stone circle.

Cat Andrews's *Sanctuary* is the first novel of a modern JAFF trilogy--both Darcy and Elizabeth have suffered traumatic losses, and they've come to the same island town to find, you guessed it, sanctuary. Darcy has a little boy and it's a wonderful, sweet story about learning to trust and to fall in love again.

Elizabeth Adams's *Sons of Pemberley* is on a more epic scale than most JAFF, including a well-drawn relationship between Old Mr. Darcy and Old Mr. Wickham. One of the best things about Adams's stories is how she makes you care for characters other than Elizabeth and Darcy while still giving us time with our favorite couple.

If you haven't picked up these novels yet, I highly recommend them!

Free and Discounted Books



April Showers
of
Clean Book Options

April 9 - 30

I hope you found some amazing new reads, I know I did! Stay healthy until next time.

Warmest Wishes
Melanie

Melanie Rachel Books



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