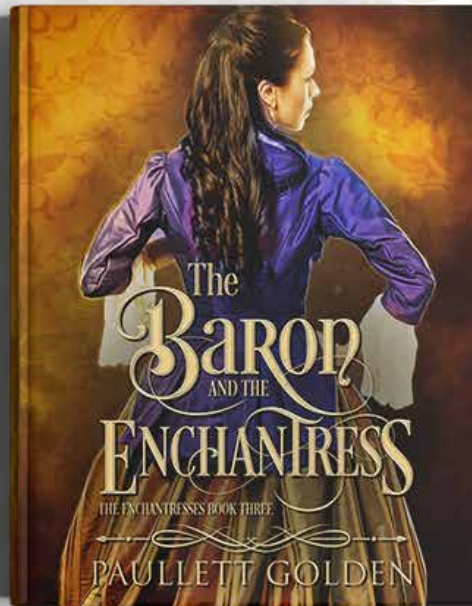


The
Baron
AND THE
ENCHANTRESS

THE ENCHANTRESSES BOOK THREE



Book Club Kit

PAULETT GOLDEN



Dear Reader,

Thank you for choosing *The Baron and The Enchantress* for your discussions with club members and colleagues, activity inspiration, professional development, and beyond. This book club kit will guide your experience. Use what serves you, skip what doesn't, and be inspired to delve into other explorations that might be sparked by the kit's content.

While I had planned to write Walter's story, Lilith's appearance as heroine took me quite by surprise. It began with beta readers of *The Earl and The Enchantress* wanting to know what happened after Lilith was found – did she move to Dunstanburgh Castle? Did she open a relationship with her brother and family? Who was this mysterious woman? I decided she, too, would have her own story so we could get to know her better and see where life took her after discovery. What I didn't know until writing the first couple of chapters was that her story and Walter's story would connect. It was all Walter's doing, of course. How could I deny love at first sight?

Lilith and Walter are in many ways opposites, not fully grumpy and sunshine, but close. Lilith holds her cards close to her chest, a challenge to get to know, while Walter is an open book. Lilith's hesitancy to accept Walter's suit is initially from her prejudices but once those are set aside it is from the fear of not having a place in his world, be that embarrassing him by not knowing how to act or what to say, not enjoying the company of his friends and peers, and fearing rejection by his acquaintances. There are more rules of etiquette than there are aristocrats, and these rules are taught from birth, something Lilith might have learned in her early years but has since forgotten. Jumping from an orphanage to the red carpet is intimidating and frightening with so much hanging in the balance, especially when memories are long and mistakes are often unforgivable.

I think it's curious that Lilith chooses to train herself away from Walter rather than to go with him and have his mother train her. While the latter seems the most obvious choice to have made, Lilith chose to distance herself while training and coming to terms with her new identity. Do you think she made the right choice or should have gone with Walter? Which choice would you have made?

I hope this kit will offer the opportunity to open conversation and stir creativity.

Cheers!

Paullett xx

Character Interview with Lilith

This interview is between Alana of Dream Come Review and heroine Lilith Chambers. To visit the original interview, as long as the link is viable, check here: <https://www.dreamcomereview.com/blog-tour-the-baron-and-the-enchantress-character-interview/>

Alana: Drum roll, please!

Gentle Readers, I am pleased to introduce you to Miss Lilith Chambers.

Miss Lilith Chambers is the illegitimate daughter of Tobias Lancaster, the 15th Earl of Roddam, and a coachman's daughter, Lily Chambers. After being left on the doorstep of Roddam Hall, she was raised as the legitimate daughter of Lord Roddam and his wife Jane until Jane died. From that point forward, Lilith grew up in the Allshire Parish orphanage. She has devoted her adult years to teaching at the orphanage and serving as the parish midwife.



Period Images

a guilty pleasure. There is something quite glorious about the feel of the ground underfoot, especially if walking across a textured surface such as sand or grass. The feel of the feet sinking into the soft bed of nature is divine. I've yet to convince Walter to try it, but I suspect he simply needs more persuasion.

Alana: Let's start simple! What season do you enjoy most?

Lilith: Spring. Spring is when the flowers bloom, a time of hope and promise. Both Walter's birthday and mine are in spring.

Alana: What makes you stand out from a crowd?

Lilith: I would like to think it's my skills in arithmetic and my knowledge of science, but I suppose some might say it's my ten thumbs when I play a musical instrument.

Alana: What is your little sinful habit?


Lilith: Walking barefoot. This might not sound so sinful, but you know how proper society is. Bare feet? Sinful indeed! They are missing out on

Alana: How do you display affection towards others?

Lilith: I value physical affection. My mother, Jane, that is, was physically affectionate. She loved to brush my hair, hug me, hold me to read stories. Since her death, I had not been touched by another person until I met my brother, sister-in-law, and now Walter. I cannot tell you how good it feels to be held and to hold in return. Babies instinctively want to be held. I may not be a baby anymore, but like them, I long for the warmth of arms, the safety of an embrace. I show my affection through touch, even if it's something insignificant like a touch to the arm. It establishes a connection between people that cannot be substituted with words.

Alana: Do you have a surprising ally/friend?

Lilith: Hazel is a surprising ally and friend. Do you know what she said to me on my wedding day? She took me into her arms and whispered that she always wanted a daughter. Although she has offered several times to move to the dower



house so that Walter and I may have the house to ourselves, I won't hear of it. She's to live with us for all time. It's good to have a mother again, as well as a friend.

Alana: If you could spend the day with someone you admire (living or dead) who would you pick?

Lilith: Without hesitation, I say Dr. John Sharp. I had the opportunity to visit his little hospital in Bamburgh Castle, but I did not have much time to speak with him. The tour tired him, and so I decided to press upon him an interview at some later date. I am grieved to say that when I returned to the castle for just such a purpose, he had already passed. He was such a brilliant mind and such a devoted philanthropist. It is rare to meet trusted physicians in the medical field, and especially those who value the work I've done as a midwife. He was just such a rare gem. I should think we would have much to discuss over tea.

Alana: If you had a free day without responsibilities, your sole mission is to enjoy yourself, what would you do?

Lilith: A long walk with Jasper. At one point, I might have said harvesting the herbs in my garden, but life changes. There is nothing more relaxing and fulfilling than a long walk with my pup. I typically do the walk twice, once to hide treasures for him to find, and then a second time with him so he can hunt the treasures. It's grand fun! While I prefer a walk along the coast, he prefers a walk in nature. I think the sand irritates his puppy pads and gets on his nose. And so, a walk in nature it is!

Alana: Now, this is a sweeping tale of romance so I have to ask: Describe your ideal male/partner?

Lilith: My ideal mate is respectful in that he recognizes my talents and intelligence, never underestimating, condescending, or patronizing me. He attempts to share in my joys and interests by doing things I enjoy. This works both ways by him sharing with me what he enjoys so that I might do those things, as well. Physical affection is important and not something everyone shares. I expect my mate to understand and reciprocate my physical affection.

Alana: Speaking of partners, what do you like most about Walter? Least?

Lilith: What I like least is also what I like most. He thinks BIG but struggles to follow through. He's a starry-eyed dreamer and eternal optimist; whereas, I'm a realist, always grounded, pragmatic. This is what frustrates me but also what I love most about him — he helps me see beyond the now and beyond the negative. I could have never achieved what I have without his helping me see beyond. I love that he loves me as I am and doesn't try to change me.

Alana: Finally, how do you define happiness?

Lilith: Happiness is something within yourself. No one can bring you happiness. It is something you must decide to be, a choice really. My brother showered me with happiness, and yet I struggled to accept I deserved it. Walter lavished me with happiness, and yet I didn't think it could be permanent. I had to make the choice to be happy. It comes in that moment when you value what you have, accept who you are, and prepare yourself to face all future worries with optimism.



We see Lilith wear at least three different styles in the novel, namely her midwife attire, the gowns from her sister-in-law, and her shopping-spree find of the newest fashion.

Lilith would have made most of her clothes herself, although she could have received used clothes from her patients, which she could then alter as needed.

Two factors influence Lilith's clothing during the story:

- ♥ She comes to us as a working woman wearing common laboring clothing but then begins the transition to lady.
- ♥ She is living during the fashion changing decade of the 1790s where the French fashions of old are on the way out and the agrarian-meets-Ancient-Greco-Roman fashions are on the way in.



Fashion Inspiration: Lilith

Midwife Attire

1780s-1790s Styling

Typical 18th century laboring attire would have been multi-layered and included:

- ♥ Shift with narrow-band sleeves ending just below the elbows
- ♥ Linen cap to keep hair out of the way
- ♥ Wool stockings with woven tape garters tied below the knee
- ♥ Over petticoat – likely made of Marseille cloth
- ♥ Stays – most likely long stays of worsted wool, laced for extra support.
- ♥ A pocket tied at the waist to hold necessities
- ♥ Petticoat of linen
- ♥ Cotton kerchief around the neck – tucked into gown or tied
- ♥ Three options for the gown:
 - ♥ A bedgown was the most common choice since it was loose in fit and adjustable. These were short, open robes, almost like today's housecoat. They overlapped in front then were held in place by the tied apron.
 - ♥ A form-fitting jacket pinned down the front would have been a good option for calling on neighbors.
 - ♥ A round gown would have been the perfect choice for any occasion.
- ♥ A broad-rimmed hat tied with a ribbon would be the finishing touch. While a black silk bonnet was popular, Lilith would have opted for the straw hat.
- ♥ A red, wool cloak would have been worn outdoors



1790s-Regency Styling

As the fashions shifted, so did the styles for the working class. Lilith could have opted for the higher waist, although living in the countryside, she would have likely been wearing the older fashions. Typical 1790s-19th century laboring attire was similar to that of the 18th century:

- ♥ Shift made of linen, sleeves above the elbows
- ♥ Linen cap to keep hair out of the way
- ♥ Wool stockings with wool tape garters tied below the knees
- ♥ Low heeled leather shoes
- ♥ Long stays with laced gussets to provide support
- ♥ Petticoat – hung from the shoulders (like overalls) rather than at the waist to match the new silhouette
- ♥ A pocket tied about the high waist to hold necessities
- ♥ Outer petticoat made of wool – tied high waisted and to the side to allow access to the pocket
- ♥ Two options for the gown:
 - ♥ A “short gown” was the most common choice while working. This is a simple, one-piece blouse with drawstrings at the neckline and waist.
 - ♥ A one-piece gown open at the bodice and then tied with drawstrings – long-sleeved, ankle length, and perfect for calling on neighbors.
- ♥ Kerchief tied around the neck
- ♥ Linen apron tops everything off, tied at the high waist
- ♥ Black silk bonnets of the 18th century were still popular, but not the broad-rimmed hat
- ♥ A red, wool cloak would have still been the top choice for outdoors



Sister-in-law's Gifted Gowns



Lilith's sister-in-law offers a wardrobe of gowns for Lilith to wear. These gowns would have been the height of fashion in the 1780s, but following the French Revolution, they were going out of style, with the new agrarian-meets-Greco-Roman style coming into fashion. In the countryside, the older fashion would have still been common in the early 1790s, so the dresses would have been appropriate for Lilith to wear, even if not the most popular choice in the big cities like London. More than likely, the dresses would have been of the robe a l'anglaise style, featured here.



Lilith's New Dress(es)

When Hazel takes Lilith's shopping, Lilith treats herself with a new dress. This is her first dress in the new fashion of the high waist.

It would have undoubtedly been a round gown, with or without an open robe, and possibly topped with a sash about the waist or a shawl about the shoulders.



Images (in order of appearance): The Chocolate Girl by Jean-Etienne Liotard; Klædedragter i København, Eine Köchin by Gerhard Ludvig Lahde, Robe a l'Anglaise from Met Museum; Pianist by Therese Jansen Bartolozzi; Round Gown with Shawl from V&A Museum; Open Robe from Met Museum; Fashion Print from Journal des Dames et des Modes, Costume Parisien, March 20, 1799

Activities

The following activities are ways to engage your creativity. Some activities are better suited for book clubs, others for classrooms, and so forth. Enjoy the choices that best suit your group or be inspired to design your own activity.

Proceeding the list of activities is a “Learn & Apply” that offers the chance to apply your knowledge after a set of tips and trivia.

Writing

- ♥ Select a scene from the novel in which you wish to change the choices made by the hero and/or heroine. Either outline what the characters could have done differently and how that would have then altered the story or rewrite the scenes to have the characters make the alternative choices.

Researching

- ♥ Using either a traditional story arc or a romance story arc, plot the key moments of the story, such as the inciting incidences, the climax, etc.
- ♥ Conduct your own research on founding hospitals and women’s centers to compare to Walter and Lilith’s plans for Noach Cottage and Colling Orphanage.
- ♥ Consider investigating the training and education a young lady would receive if expected to marry an aristocrat. Pay special attention to what the wife of an aristocrat would be expected to do in fulfilling her role as a lady, especially as it relates to society and social interactions. Share with the group the findings and your thoughts on why an untrained woman raised in an orphanage may struggle with the role.

Design

- ♥ Create one or more memes and quote images by selecting quotes from the book that resonated with you.

Music

- ♥ Setup a playlist for key scenes. The playlist can be of any musical styling you would like, be it historically accurate selections you think would fit the scene, modern music to match the characters’ moods, your mood, the action or introspection of scenes, or otherwise. Comparing playlists and sharing playlists with the group could prompt further discussion.

Movies

- ♥ Create a mood board for the movie or series based on the novel. The mood board can include the casting choices (especially for the hero and heroine), the fashion choices, the setting locations, important scene inspiration, soundtrack ideas, etc.

Learn & Apply Activity

In *The Baron and The Enchantress*, Lilith must learn the acceptable etiquette of a lady, be it meeting new people, calling on neighbors, curtsying appropriately, hosting a party, or otherwise.

An important skill for a lady to know is how to host a tea party. Contrary to what we read in our novels, offering a tea tray to callers during the Georgian era would have been highly unusual. Refreshments during calls would have been expected, but not tea unless the caller was someone the hostess was eager to impress. Tea was so expensive that it was kept under lock and key, typically only served after dinner and to the best guests or among family only.

Afternoon tea as we know it did not yet exist. There were, however, tea gardens as far back as the 17th century, and the occasional reference in letters to taking tea in the afternoon, even if it was not the “afternoon tea” we are most familiar with now.

For the sake of our Learn and Apply Activity, we’ll focus on the modern afternoon tea. While Lilith may not be hosting afternoon tea parties, we certainly can in her honor.

Afternoon Tea: this is also called “low tea,” and is an informal, midday treat of tea, scones, cake, and sandwiches. This is served at a low table, such as a coffee table, as it occurs in the drawing room, living room, parlor, or similar location.

High Tea: this is also considered dinner, and is the full post-work meal one eats at the dining table.

Cream Tea: this is a light and simple treat consisting of tea with something sweet, such as a cup of tea and a scone.

For tea terms and historical contexts, consider exploring this post: <https://www.paullettgolden.com/post/teatime-etiquette>

For this Learn and Apply Activity, you’ll find tips on hosting a tea party, hostess etiquette, guest etiquette, and then a party planner worksheet. Take this opportunity to plan a tea party with your group, classroom, colleagues, etc. If this is your first time, it’ll be a memorable opportunity. If you host or attend tea parties often, this will be the perfect excuse to host/attend another one, for there can never be too many tea parties!

Planning a tea party should be fun, not stressful. If you're stumped on possible themes, games, conversation topics, sweets and savories, or party favors, rest assured there are ample suggestions online, such as tea party bingo cards ready-made, tea leaf reading tutorials, Regency trivia games, ready-made party favors, shopping lists or recipes for tea party food favorites. Explore what's out there if you're stuck for ideas.



In the end, you don't need all the things for a tea party. Keep it simple if that works best.

Tea Party Tips

- ♥ Prepare a game or two, such as tea leaf reading, charades, anagrams, Pictionary, tea party bingo, Regency trivia, etc.
- ♥ Choose a theme. The tablescape, party favors, games, and more can match the theme. Ex: Mad Hatter, Fairytale, Vintage, Under the Sea, Treasure Hunts, etc.
- ♥ The tiered treat tray should be arranged with breads and scones on top tier, sandwiches on second tier, and sweets on bottom.
- ♥ Common treats to provide: candied fruits, breads (gingerbread, banana bread, etc.), cakes (lemon, Victoria sponge, etc.), scones with clotted cream & jam, sandwiches, biscuits, madeleines, etc.
- ♥ Party favors can be fun but aren't required. All the better if they're handmade. Ex: bracelets of embroidery floss, origami figures, mini fairy gardens in a jar, posy bouquets, etc.
- ♥ Conversation amongst friends should flow, but have topics at the ready in case the convo needs to be redirected or if there's a lull.

Preparing tea is nuanced, every family having its own traditions. This guide is purely an example. Worth noting is that during the Georgian era, the hostess would add the tea leaves to the teapot and pour the hot water into the teapot in front of her guests rather than out of their view. The tea tray would have the hot water at the ready, and the hostess would do all steps in the drawing room.

It is your preference as the host(ess) if you wish to bring the kettle and teapot to the table or do these first steps in the kitchen. Personally, I recommend the kitchen to avoid any spillage or splashes of hot water on the guests or table, not to mention if you have an electric kettle, you can leave it to keep warm for the next round.



Host(ess) Tea Prep

1. Out of view of the guests:
 - a. Heat the kettle.
 - b. Add hot water to warm the teapot.
 - c. When tea kettle is at a roiling boil, empty teapot water.
 - d. Add tea leaves to teapot (1 tsp per person + 1 tsp extra "for the pot"), then pour hot water from kettle into teapot.
2. At table with guests:
 - a. Bring teapot to table and allow leaves to steep for 5-6 minutes for black tea (shorter time = weak tea; longer time = bitter tea).
 - b. Fill teacups, leaving room for milk.
 - c. If tea leaves settle into cups, all the better for tea leaf reading. Depending on guest preferences, add sugar, and/or milk.
 - i. More milk means weaker tea. Less milk means stronger tea.
 - ii. Milk added after tea, not before (unless doggedly following family tradition from the days of soft porcelain teacups).
 - d. Pass the cups to the guests. Never let a teapot go empty, ideally starting with a clean pot between servings.



A few points of interest:

- ♥ Depending on where you're from, your scone experience will be different:
 - ♥ Pronounced "scone" as in "cone" with a long "o" in the south but as "scon" as in "con" with a short "o" in the north.
 - ♥ Jam first, then cream for the Cornish way, or cream then jam for the Devon way.
- ♥ No dunking biscuits into the tea at a tea party – sorry!
- ♥ Utensils:
 - ♥ Right side of plate, never on table.
 - ♥ Set at 4:20, fork tines down, blade facing you, when finished.
 - ♥ Set at 8:20, fork tines up at 8, knife blade facing you at 20 if still in use.



Tea Party Guest Etiquette

- ♥ Dress code is "smart casual," no jeans or sneakers.
- ♥ Eating:
 - ♥ Teatime is three-courses: sandwiches first, scones second, sweets last.
 - ♥ Sandwiches should be eaten in 2-3 bites, no fewer.
 - ♥ All foods except cake are finger foods.
 - ♥ A knife is used for adding cream and jam to scones, a fork for cakes, but otherwise fingers only.
 - ♥ Scones are broken with fingers before clotted cream and jam is added.
 - ♥ Never make into a scone sandwich or split in half with a knife.
 - ♥ Napkin stays to left of plate, used only to dab lips.
- ♥ Tea:
 - ♥ Stir forward and back (12-6 on clock) 3 times, never clinking cup, tapping, or swirling.
 - ♥ Spoon goes in saucer when finished.
 - ♥ Always look into the teacup when drinking, never over the rim.
 - ♥ No slurping, gulping, or blowing, only small and quiet sips.
 - ♥ No "washing down" food with tea. Enjoy tea on its own.
 - ♥ Hold teacup by handle with thumb and index finger, middle finger supporting bottom. Pinky always down.
 - ♥ No cradling cup. Saucer remains on table. Raise cup to drink then set it down. If standing, hold saucer but keep cup in saucer unless drinking.



Lilith's Tea Party Planner

Theme:

Games:

Party Favor:

Sweets & Savories:

Sandwiches:

Scones:

Clotted cream

Jam Flavor: _____

Sweets & Cakes:

Tea:

Loose leaf tea of choice:

Sugar (cube or granule)

Milk

Tablescape:

Flowers

Tablecloth (lacy)

Napkins (linen)

Clotted cream

Table Setting:

Teapot

Teacups & saucers

Teaspoons

Sugar bowl & tongs/spoon

Serving dishes for cream and jam

Dessert plates

3-tiered stand

Lemon slice bowl plate

Cake server (if applicable)

Milk jug

Tea caddy for tea leaves



Discussion Questions

- 1 Lilith has a tendency to pull Walter close then push him away, which can lead to frustration from the hot-cold behavior. Was there a moment in the story when you sympathized with her or resonated with her choices and decisions?
- 2 How would you describe Walter? Does his character grow and develop throughout the story, or is he the mainstay in the tale while Lilith is the one who develops?
- 3 What did you make of Walter's tale of woe regarding his father? Do you think this is a deep wound that Walter chooses to ignore, something about which he feels responsible, or has he come to terms with what happened as best he can?
- 4 How would you describe Walter's relationship with his mother? Do you think Hazel influences his decisions with Lilith? Would he have made different choices throughout the story without Hazel's words of wisdom?
- 5 Do you believe Lilith made the right choice with the rector Mr. Sands?
- 6 Why do you think Lilith chose to go to Walter before parting during their visit to Roddam Hall? Walter might have considered it her way to say goodbye, a way to experience the forbidden, using him in the process, before rejecting him. She, however, might have considered it the ultimate vow of her love and promise to him that she would return once ready, her action speaking louder than words could. What do you think?
- 7 Mr. Sands is a rector first and a clergyman second, his Christian values skewed by greed, at least from what we can tell. Do you believe him a villain, though?
- 8 Did Jasper play an important role in Lilith's life and/or Lilith and Walter's relationship, or was his role purely for entertainment's sake?
- 9 This novel featured a few cameos from the first two books. Which were your favorites, and how did they add to your enjoyment of the novel?
- 10 What are some of the themes in the story, either those that are well developed or nuanced?



11 What characteristics or actions make Walter a swoon-worthy hero? Are there things he does that would repel you as being a hero? Likewise, were there characteristics about Lilith that helped you empathize with her or resonate with her?

12 If the novel were to become a movie or series, what themes and plot points would be the most important to capture on film, and which could hit the cutting room floor or would be too challenging to film?

13 Lilith would consider herself a devout Christian given she was raised by a church-governed orphanage. Did her behaviors reflect that, or did she deviate from her own path? Do you feel she repented of her sins, off page or otherwise? In keeping with the themes of this question, consider also comparing her values with those of Mr. Sands, who is supposed to be a man of the cloth.

14 Considering the times, do you think either Noach Cottage or the Colling Orphanage would have succeeded?

For additional information about the Georgian era, fashion, etiquette, and more, consider exploring the author's research blog:
<https://www.paullettgolden.com/bookresearch>



About the Author



Inviting Pullett Golden

If you would like to engage Pullett Golden as a keynote speaker, workshop facilitator, etc., interview her, or invite her for a booksigning or book reading, please visit the presenter section of her website: www.pullettgolden.com/presenter.

For recent interviews visit: www.pullettgolden.com/interviews

Book Boxes

For those engaging Pullett Golden as a guest speaker, virtually or in-person, a specialty book box may be sent to the group (be it a club, classroom, or otherwise) with book swag, such as bookmarks for the group readers, autographed bookplates, one autographed copy of the book, and other thematic goodies ranging from tea leaves to poetry pocketbooks, all inspired by the book of discussion.

About Pullett Golden

Celebrated for her complex characters, realistic conflicts, and sensual portrayal of love, Pullett Golden writes historical romance for intellectuals. Her novels, set primarily in Georgian England, challenge the genre's norm by starring characters loved for their imperfections and idiosyncrasies. The writing aims for historical immersion into the social mores and nuances of Georgian England. Her plots explore human

psyche, mental and physical trauma, and personal convictions. Her stories show love overcoming adversity. Whatever our self-doubts, *love will out*.

Paullett Golden completed her post-graduate work at King's College London, studying Classic British Literature. Her Ph.D. is in Composition and Rhetoric, her M.A. in British Literature from the Enlightenment through the Victorian era, and her B.A. in English. Her specializations include creative writing and professional writing. She has served as a University Professor for nearly three decades and is a seasoned keynote speaker, commencement speaker, conference presenter, workshop facilitator, and writing retreat facilitator.

As an ovarian cancer survivor, she makes each day count, enjoying an active lifestyle of Spartan racing, powerlifting, hiking, antique car restoration, drag racing, butterfly gardening, competitive shooting, and gaming. Her greatest writing inspirations, and the reasons she chose to write in the clean historical romance genre, are Jane Austen, Charlotte Brontë, and Elizabeth Gaskell.

