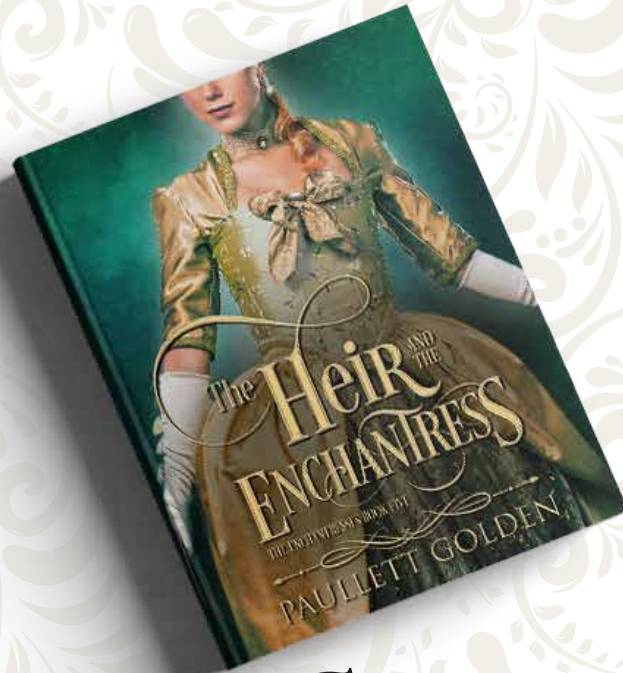


The Heir AND THE  
ENCHANTRESS

THE ENCHANTRESSES BOOK FIVE



Book Club Kit

PAULETT GOLDEN



## Dear Reader,

Thank you for choosing *The Heir and The Enchantress* for your book exploration needs, be it to enliven your book club experience, share a buddy read with friends, broaden your professional development, engage students in a classroom, or otherwise. This book club kit will guide your group 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.

When Aunt Hazel first graced the pages of *The Earl and The Enchantress*, my debut novel, I never imagined she would be one of the (if not *the*) most beloved characters of the series, enough to inspire her own tale in this prequel. I knew her backstory when I wrote *Earl*, just as I knew her brother's backstory, since it was the drama in those tales that enabled Walter to be the relation who would inherit Lizbeth and Charlotte's childhood home. While a cousin inheriting was nothing new, such as the situation with Mr. Collins in *Pride and Prejudice*, Walter was not the son of the homeowner's brother rather the son of the homeowner's sister. When primogeniture dictates inheritance, how was this possible? Thus, the backstory. Even with the drama that made this inheritance possible, I never intended to tell the tales of either Hazel or her brother Cuthbert. Hazel was, after all, a widow.

While she spent most of the series reminding everyone that her marriage was a love match, that sticky point of widowhood remained. How was I to craft a story where the heroine and hero are said to live happily ever after when we, the readers, know from earlier books that the hero dies young? (And I've probably spoiled this for you if you've not read any of the other books in the series. Sorry!) A few readers hoped she would have a second-chance romance, and I would write a story about a mature woman finding love again. As much as I wanted to give Hazel that, there was only one true love for her: Harold.

The inspiration came from a beloved lady of my acquaintance who was recently widowed, losing the love of her life and, I believe, the other half of her soul. I was encouraged to tell Hazel's story, regardless of their marriage being cut too short, because they *did* live happily ever after. Who is to say when ever after ends? Who is to say how long ever after lasts? Perhaps it is only one day, or maybe it's seventy years. Who are we to determine when it's considered *ever after*? And so, I knew Hazel and Harold deserved their story, even more so than the heroes and heroines we imagine growing old together.

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

Cheers!

Paulsett xx

# Fashion Highlight

## Sack Gown

The “sack” was the *robe à la française*, the most popular dress of the time for both evening and day wear. While other styles could be seen throughout the 1750s, this gown remained the most popular for several decades.

Colors were vibrant but often monochromatic, with each part of the gown and accessories to accentuate it matching in shade. Fabric ranged from taffetas to satins, damasks, and silks. The most popular design was floral brocade, but also in favor was striped silks and solid silks.

The total outfit would have included:

- ♥ Linen shift or cotton chemise
- ♥ Corset with whaleboning, conical shape, and laces for cinching
- ♥ Bodice fitted snug to the torso
- ♥ Triangular stomacher pinned to the opening of the gown, decorated with embroidery or a ladder of bows called *échelle*
- ♥ Panniers or hopped petticoat for the accentuated hip physique
- ♥ Petticoat matching to the gown and visible between the slits of the robe
- ♥ *Mances à la raquette*—wide, pleated sleeve cuffs with ruffles
- ♥ Clocked stockings of silk secured with garters
- ♥ High-heeled shoes with rounded toes and matching embroidery
- ♥ A silk ribbon necklace, similar to the modern “choker” – optional accessory but exceedingly popular





## Frockcoats with Three-Piece Suit

Men wore a three-piece suit with breeches, waistcoat, and frockcoat. The frockcoat changed in the 1750s from the full-skirted coat to a lower center front intended to be tighter about the chest but open at the waist to reveal the stylish waistcoat. While the suit was intended to match, the waistcoat gained prominence, often of contrasting color and design to stand out.

This decade saw subdued fashion for gentlemen, the outdoor, practical attire favored above the formal and vibrant silks and satins of the previous generation. In the 1750s, the colors were more natural in keeping with nature, wool a favored fabric choice. A return to distinguished elegance and flamboyant fashions was to come, but not in the 1750s.



## Hairstyles



The hairstyle of the 1750s was the *tête de mouton*, or sheep's head. The style was of tight curls worn close to the head. Powdering one's hair was optional, mostly for formal occasions, but not yet popular among women. Women did not wear wigs in the 1750s.

Indoors, the hairstyle was typically adorned by a lace cap, but for outdoors, women chose a wide-brimmed straw hat.

Similarly, men did not wear wigs at this time unless they had to—opting for a bagwig, no longer the periwig—although they did powder their hair for formal occasions. Wearing one's hair naturally without powder was not uncommon for informal occasions. The style was curled on the sides but long at the back, either bagged or tied with a bow. Some gentlemen preferred one to three rows of curls while others mimicked a similar style to that of the women's hairstyle, showcasing a series of tight curls.



# Character Interview with Hazel

This interview is between Alana of Dream Come Review and heroine Hazel Hobbs. To visit the original interview, as long as the link is viable, check here: <https://www.dreamcomereview.com/conversations-with-hazel-hobbs-a-character-interview/>

## Townfolk and Tourists,

I have been waiting for Hazel's happily ever after since reviewing *The Earl and the Enchantress*! Without question, she has remained my steadfast favorite throughout the series due to her enchanting – see what I did there? – combination of warmth, wit, and occasional scandalous remarks.

*The Heir and the Enchantress* takes readers back to Hazel as a starry-eyed, joyful 17 year old. Hazel hails from Teghyiy Hall in Cornwall where she lived with her father, a gentleman, and brother Cuthbert. Being the nosey reader I am, I wanted to know a little bit more about Hazel as the young Mrs. Hobbs and I am so lucky that Paullett, and Hazel, indulged me.

Without further ado, I am pleased to present an interview with Mrs. Hazel Hobbs, the leading lady of *The Heir and the Enchantress*.



Period Images

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**Alana:** Now, Mrs. Hobbs, I hear you enjoy a good party. Do you prefer a smaller dinner affair or a grand ball? Something in between?

**Hazel:** But of course, a smaller dinner affair. With an intimate group, one can converse with each guest. Wouldn't you say that is a far more personal experience than attending or hosting a grand squeeze wherein one can hardly hear oneself over the din?

Nana, that is the Dowager Baroness Collingwood, my grandmother-in-law, taught me this: "It is not enough to be seen or heard. What matters is the *guests* being seen and heard. Do all in your power to *see* them and *hear* them." Do you understand her meaning? If the guest feels personally acknowledged,

the lady or gentleman will sing high praises indeed of you and the affair.

Allow me to divulge another secret. Smaller affairs lend themselves to exclusive, and thus sought after, invitation. Five of your supper parties might equal the same number of guests as the grand ball, but each of those five supper parties will feel more exclusive than the ball. I don't know about you, Alana, but I'm flushed at the mere thought of people vying to attend one of my parties. How delightful!

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**Alana:** On the subject of parties: what is your favorite food served at a soiree?

**Hazel:** The simple splendor of syllabub. As dish or drink, fluffy or flat, it is divine!



**Alana:** That sounds decadent! What about your favorite comfort food?

**Hazel:** Quiddany and quince marmalade. Truly, any fruity confectionary will bring comfort to the dreariest of days. Don't tell Nana I didn't say elderberry biscuit!

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**Alana:** Your secret is safe with me! Now, you enjoy matchmaking. What is the first thing you consider outside of preferred partner and title/rank?

**Hazel:** It's all to do with understanding someone. Everyone has passions, values, and perspectives they want not only recognized but understood. The perfect partner is someone who will see those characteristics and understand them. I don't claim to be a good matchmaker, but I believe I can tell when two people are likely to see each other given the right setting and circumstances. A nudge never hurts to encourage the right setting.


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**Alana:** Do you have a hobby outside of matchmaking?

**Hazel:** I'm frightfully fond of party planning. Nothing compared to my mother-in-law who has an eye for perfection, but I've learned a great deal from her and relish the satisfaction of a perfectly planned party.

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**Alana:** I hope you remember Nana's advice to avoid excessive candles and greenery! We don't need an indoor bonfire! On a more somber note: what would be a deal breaker for you in a relationship?



**Hazel:** A lady shouldn't say, but if you lean closer, I'll whisper the word. *Adultery*.

I realize the wife's place is one of respect. The *deed* is to beget heirs rather than...*pleasure*...and so it's expected a man would employ a mistress for pleasure so as not to disrespect his wife with distasteful needs. However, if you'll not find me indelicate in saying, I believe with the right match, with total understanding and trust between partners, the *deed* can be both pleasurable and respectful. As such, there's no need for a mistress. To my mind, a mistress signifies a lack of understanding and trust rather than respect. Shocking, I know. Now you'll think me of a radical mind.

Before you reach for the smelling salts, answer me this: We're not supposed to enjoy the marriage bed, but I ask, *why not?* I invite you to challenge this status quo. For the marriage to be successful, truly successful, spouses should trust each other, and by doing so, ultimately remain faithful.


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**Alana:** A thoughtful point of view! I'm sure there are many ladies that could find challenging that status quo useful in their relationships. How about something lighter! Describe your ideal romantic gesture.

**Hazel:** The best gesture is time spent together, the two of us, regardless if it's a walk, a talk, a boat ride, or a swim at the lake. I value the moments that are ours. Uninterrupted and attentive time together is the way to my heart. A set of paintbrushes never hurts.


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**Alana:** As an aspiring socialite, I'm sure you have your finger on the pulse of fashion. What is your favorite fashion/style?



**Hazel:** For ladies, I'm fond of the robe à la française. The exposed stomacher and underskirt allow for so many complementary or even contrasting designs and color possibilities, an endless tease of fabrics and patterns. I do love an échelle along the stomacher. When it comes to a simple morning dress, a floral motif is tasteful, but for the evening, especially a small dinner affair or soiree, as we talked about, I'm fond of brocaded lampas liséré. Moiré and damask are lovely in certain settings, as well. My favorite shoes have a low heel—yes, I realize that does me no favors at my height—and are silk with silver lacing and braiding. Oh, and don't forget a decorative buckle, something jeweled to catch the candlelight.

For gentlemen, I favor a shorter frockcoat to—I hope this doesn't shock you—reveal more of the upper leg. Yes, I can see you blushing. Don't deny that the shortening of the coat has changed the silhouette in delightful—and might I add, *sinful*—ways, especially when the legs are hugged by silk breeches. Oh, I can't forget clocked silk stockings to showcase the calves—calves can tell you a great deal about a man, you know. While I'm shocking you, I'll also add my love of bowed hair on a gentleman. Tied back at the nape is quite the tease, don't you think? Elegant and proper,



yet the imagination does question... how well would it fan about the face if released from the bow? A tease to delight the eye!

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**Alana:** How scandalous! I'll admit to being partial to forearms but I do appreciate snug trousers. What about your least favorite fashion?

**Hazel:** Hmm. I dislike periwigs and am forever grateful they have gone out of fashion. The long frock coat is elegant but disappointing for reasons I've mentioned—let us keep that between the two of us. Ah, you might mean for ladies. Well, I dislike excessively wide panniers. With the right width, you can accentuate all the best features of the figure, but too wide, and you must assume the poor dear is hiding narrow hips. Tut tut. Floral patterns on silk—don't get me started!

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**Alana:** I don't want to take up too much of your time! For our last question: do you have any life or romantic advice for someone looking for their true love?

**Hazel:** "This above all: to thine own self be true." I'll leave you to unpack that gem. \*wink\*



# 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 craft something alongside a brief tutorial.

## 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.

## Design

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

## 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.

♥ Having the baron committed arises in conversation. Would it have been possible for a peer of the realm to be committed? What would have been involved, and why might Harold have decided against that course of action?

♥ How might Harold’s upbringing and education differed from today’s youth to enable him to command his father’s

business dealings in India at so young of an age? Was this a reflection of the era, of his being an aristocrat’s heir, both, or neither? Consider looking into the upbringing and education at the time, especially of aristocratic heirs.

♥ What might have been the fate of a young lady after being caught in a compromising situation? The fate of her family? What consequences might the rogue have faced for compromising her, if any?

## Music

♥ Setup a playlist for key scenes. The playlist can be of any musical styling you would like, be it historically accurate, modern music to match the moods, 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



Syllabub was a popular 18<sup>th</sup> century treat consisting of sweetened wine or juice topped with heavy whipping cream. There are references to syllabub starting from the 16<sup>th</sup> century forward in letters, journals, plays, poetry, literature, and even paintings.

Syllabub changed throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century, starting as an alcoholic, frothy beverage to cleanse the palate, then by the end of the century, served as a dessert with a solid consistency. There are many ways to adjust the recipes for uniqueness, look, and flavor. There were several cookbooks during the 18<sup>th</sup> century that featured syllabub—given this was one of the most popular desserts of the era, a cookbook would be remiss not to mention it. Two examples include Eliza Smith's *The Complete Housewife* of 1727 (18 additional editions being published over the course of 50 years) and Hannah Glasse's *The Art of Cookery Made Plain and Easy* of 1796.

The important base of any syllabub is an acidic liquid. To make any syllabub alcoholic, use a wine, such as a white or red wine. To make any syllabub non-alcoholic, use a juice, such as grape or apple juice. Cider is a great choice, as well, and can be alcoholic or non-alcoholic as desired.

Peruse these three types of syllabub to see which you'd like to try, and then consider giving the recipe a whirl in the kitchen. Depending on which recipe you try, the time it takes could be as short as 5 minutes to as long as two hours. Syllabub can be served at room temperature immediately upon making, or it can be stored in the refrigerator for later.

## Fine Syllabub

### Ingredients

- ♥ 3 cups of heavy whipping cream
- ♥ 1 cup white wine (Rhine Wine or a Chablis)
- ♥ ½ cup Golden Sherry
- ♥ 1 ½ lemons (juice and peel)
- ♥ 1/4-1/2 cup sugar

### Instructions

1. In a mixing bowl, grate the lemon peel and juice the lemons.
2. Add wine and sherry to the lemons, then add sugar, and whisk until sugar is dissolved.
3. Add the cream all at once and whisk until it is light and frothy or to a peaking consistency.
4. Gently fill the glasses.
5. Enjoy right away for a combined delight or allow the mixture 2-3 hours at room temperature to separate for the whipped topped treat.

## Whipped Syllabub

### Ingredients

- ♥ 2 cups of heavy whipping cream
- ♥ 1 cup of Golden Sherry
- ♥ 1 lemon (juice and peel)
- ♥ ½ cup sugar
- ♥ Red wine, sweetened if necessary

### Instructions

1. In a mixing bowl, grate the peel and juice the lemon. Add sherry, sugar, and cream.
2. Whip this mixture with a whisk until soft to firm peaks form.
3. Dollop the whipped mixture into a sieve, screen, or strainer over a bowl. Proceed right away to step 4 for a quick treat or allow 2 hours for it to set before proceeding.
4. Fill your glasses three fourths full with the drained wine/juice mixture or the sweetened red wine.
5. Gently spoon the mounds of strained cream on the glasses to top them off.

## Solid Syllabub

### Ingredients

- ♥ 2 cups of heavy whipping cream
- ♥ 2 cups of apple juice
- ♥ The rind and juice of one lemon
- ♥ 2 tablespoons of sugar

### Instructions

1. Grate the lemon peel and juice the lemon. Measure the cream and apple juice.
2. Place all in a large container with a secure top that will not leak or spill. Shake container until the sloshing is muffled.
3. Taste test for sweetness. Depending on the taste and varieties of apple juice, little or no sugar may be added.
4. Fill the glasses and let them sit until separated.



## Recipe: Elderberry Biscuits

### Ingredients:

- ♥ ½ cup unsalted butter, softened
- ♥ ¾ cup sugar
- ♥ 2 tablespoons light brown sugar, packed
- ♥ 1 large egg
- ♥ 1 tablespoon lemon extract
- ♥ 2 tablespoons lemon zest
- ♥ 1 tablespoon honey
- ♥ 2 cups flour
- ♥ 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- ♥ Pinch of salt (optional)
- ♥ 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ♥ 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- ♥ Powdered sugar
- ♥ Elderberry jam

### Instructions

1. Combine all wet ingredients in a mixing bowl with a hand-mixer.
2. Combine all dry ingredients with the wet and mix until combined.
3. Roll dough into 8-14 balls, number dependent on ball/cookie size.
4. Line baking sheets with parchment paper, then place dough balls on cookie sheet.
5. Refrigerate for 3-4 hours.
6. Preheat oven to 350, then bake for 11 minutes.
7. As soon as they're removed from oven, thumbprint each (where the dollop of jam will go) and let cool.
8. Add roundabout 1 tablespoon of elderberry jam per thumbprint (as desired).
9. Top with a dusting of powdered sugar (as desired).

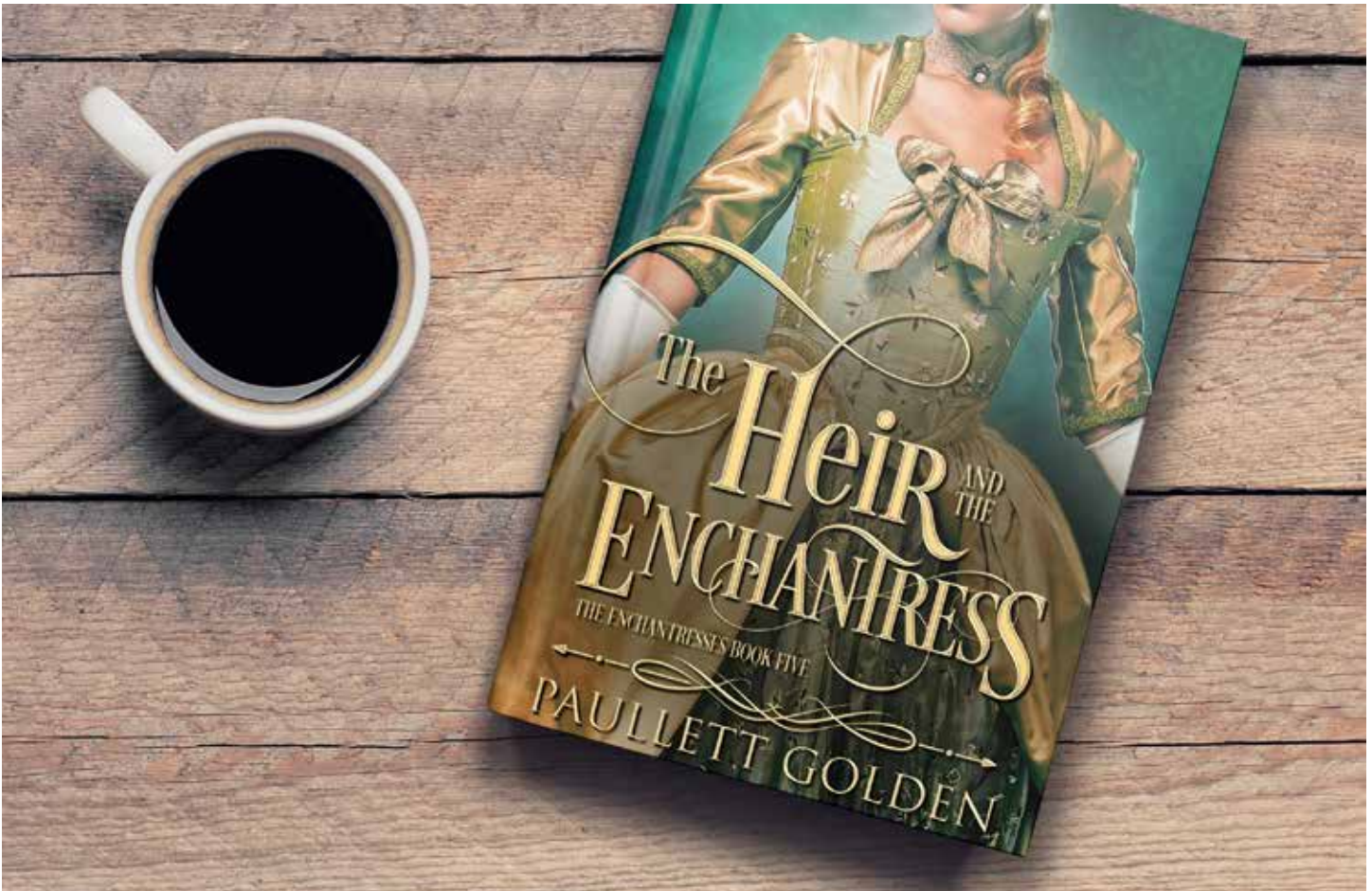
While Nana may not have had Lemon Elderberry Thumbprint Biscuits on her plate, we'll be using that recipe for added fun – who can resist a thumbprint biscuit?



# Discussion Questions



- 1 Do you believe Harold's relationship with his father will improve, or will it always be strained?
- 2 How would you describe Hazel? How does her character grow and develop throughout the story?
- 3 In Harold being granted full legal rights over his father's assets and the baron stripped of his rights to his own assets, do you feel Harold's father received punishment for his poor decisions, or is he still owed a comeuppance?
- 4 What themes did you see in the story, either well developed or nuanced?
- 5 Given their relationship was an arranged marriage rushed by circumstances, can they still call it a "love match," or are they only trying to convince themselves that it is a love match?
- 6 Since Hazel and Harold are so different in personality, almost to the point of being opposites, what do you think attracts them to each other? Based on this, do you think their relationship would have evolved organically had they not been forced to marry?
- 7 Do you think Agnes deserved her friend's continued support and forgiveness, or do you think her a poor friend who used Hazel without care?
- 8 If you've read the previous novels, was Hazel's story anything like you expected it, especially in terms of Hazel's thoughts, behaviors, and decisions as a young girl?
- 9 How would you describe Patrick and Agnes's relationship?
- 10 Harold relies on Patrick for advice, even if he does not always take that advice. Do you think Patrick helped move Harold and Hazel's relationship forward, or did he merely echo what the main characters were already thinking and planning?
- 11 Can you relate to Hazel's decisions to help Agnes, from covering Agnes's trysts to inviting her as a guest?
- 12 Who were your favorite and least favorite secondary characters, and why? How did those characters help drive the story and/or the romance of our lead characters?



**13** Were there characteristics about Hazel that helped you resonate with her? Were there any characteristics or actions that made Harold swoon-worthy?

**14** If the novel were to become a movie or series, what plot points and themes are the most important to keep, and what could hit the cutting room floor or would be too challenging to film?

**17** Based on what glimpses we're given, how would you describe Nana, her husband, and their relationship? Likewise, how might you describe Harold's parents and their relationship?

**15** While Hazel, in many ways, acts her age, Harold acts at least a decade older than his age. What could have contributed to this, and was it believable for a young man of that era and upbringing?

**16** To the end, it is difficult to discern if the baron is still scheming or is genuinely repentant. Why do you think the baron allowed his son to take legal action?

For additional information about the Georgian era, fashion, etiquette, and more, consider exploring the author's research blog:  
<https://www.paulettgolden.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](http://www.pullettgolden.com/presenter).

For recent interviews visit: [www.pullettgolden.com/interviews](http://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.

