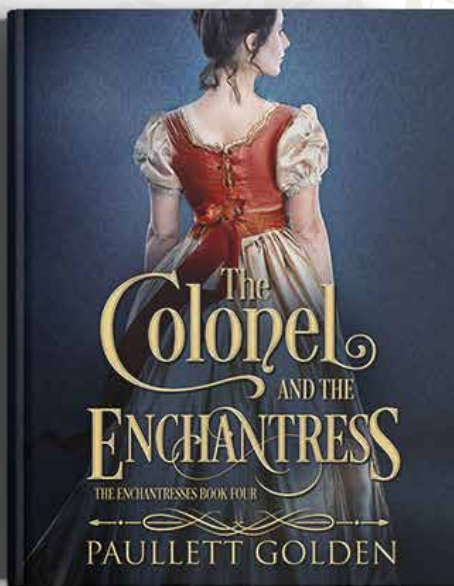


# The Colonel AND THE ENCHANTRESS

THE ENCHANTRESSES BOOK FOUR



Book Club Kit  
PAULLETT GOLDEN



## Dear Reader,

Thank you for choosing *The Colonel 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.

This novel was inspired by a real military veteran of my acquaintance who suffered the same debilitation as our hero in *Colonel*. His experience, as well as hearing the experiences of other real-life heroes, military or not, encouraged me to feature a main character who has us questioning just what "through sickness and in health" truly means and if the sickness aspect would affect the swoon-worthy quality we so desire from our storybook heroes. Duncan, our main character in the novel, is more bothered by his condition than our heroine is, for he feels unmanned by his situation. In the novel, all depends on his ability to rise above that mentality and the heroine's success in assuring him of her affections. In reality, though, how do we cope, and is our real hero still swoon worthy? Accidents happen every day, some consequences leaving permanent damage and others temporary. How do we pick ourselves up from that, boost the confidence of the person rehabilitating, see ourselves and see them with as much starry-eyed affection as before the incident, whatever it may be?

While historical romances are intended for escape from these realities, I think it's important we find the romance *in* our realities, inspired by the escape, especially during those times when reality seems stark. In the novel, Duncan must find that spark of light to guide himself forward. As you work through the club kit for this novel, consider harnessing the spark in your own life – what keeps you going? What keeps you loving those in your life, be they friends, pets, family, or otherwise? What keeps you loving yourself with flaws, imperfections, injuries, etc.?

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

Cheers!

*Paullett xx*



# Trivia

## Facts & Inspiration



Side saddles had a fixed head and leaping head for leg comfort, stability, and balance

Light Dragoon (heavy cavalry) uniforms were red until 1784 when the coat color changed to blue



Sidwell is based on Ormesby Hall in Durham, home of a Baronet and Colonel, and racehorse collector

Light Dragoons fought from horseback on Arabian stallions (as did Napoleon atop Marengo)



Duncan's advancement through the Flanders campaign was based on the Duke of Wellington's early military career

Mary's riding habit, modeled after Duncan's uniform, was a popular design for ladies' riding habits



**Light Dragoon Uniform pictures:** Officer of the 19<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons, 1792, source John Biddulph *The Nineteenth and Their Times*, 1899

**Ormesby Hall:** Ormesby Hall photography by Matthew Antrobus of National Trust

**Duke of Wellington:** The Duke of Wellington Allied Commander at the Battle of Quatre Bras by Sir Thomas Lawrence

**Painting of lady on horseback:** Unidentified Equestrian Portrait by Alfred de Dreux

# 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.

## Music

- ♥ 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.

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## 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.
- ♥ Duncan adopts Bernard without any formal paperwork. Look into how the adoption process worked in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and what security Bernard had after adoption.
- ♥ Conduct your own research on historical war heroes who have been offered accolades from the Crown, be those an invitation to the peerage, a knighting, or otherwise.
- ♥ Consider investigating military camp followers in more depth—who were these women, usually, and what role did they play?
- ♥ In honor of Mary’s love for embroidery, consider having a member of the group look up types of embroidery and teach a lesson on how to embroider, perhaps everyone trying their hand at embroidering their initials or a flower.



# Learn & Apply Activity

While Duncan may not be a poet, he humored Mary by writing sonnets in the style popular at the time. They were more apt to make Mary laugh than enter him in the annals of 18th century poets, but if he can write poetry, then surely we can too.

We'll cover the basics, and then you'll want to try your hand at writing a "Shakespearean Sonnet." There are different types of sonnets, of course, but it's the English or Elizabethan Sonnet we'll try during this Learn and Apply Activity. Don't worry about the terms. Aim to focus on the rules, but don't feel boxed in by them – the best poets break rules, after all! Just remember to have fun.

## Learn

### The Structure & Rhyme:

- ♥ 14 lines
- ♥ The rhyme scheme refers to the last word of each line with the following pairing:
  - ♥ ABAB CDCD EFEF GG
  - ♥ As in, the first and third lines (A & A) rhyme with each other, then the second and fourth lines (B & B) rhyme, etc.
- ♥ There are three sections of four lines each, then two final rhyming lines.

### The Story:

- ♥ The poem as a whole conveys a message or tells a story, typically about love, and almost always with a problem to be solved.
- ♥ The story is broken into parts that are easy to follow:
  - ♥ Each set of four lines is called a "quatrain" (which is a type of stanza).
    - The first two quatrains (first eight lines) praise the reader.
    - The third quatrain is called the "volta" and changes topic or tone to present a problem, mention something negative, point out something not so nice, meditate on what could happen, etc.
  - ♥ The finale is only two lines that rhyme with each other, called a "heroic couplet."
    - These two lines solve the problem, rekindle the romance, return us to the original topic and tone, and bring a satisfying ending to the poem's story.

## The Syllables:

- ♥ There are 10 syllables in each line, meaning the individual pronunciations of the words.
  - ♥ Flower, for example, has 2 syllables: *flow* is 1, then *er* is the 2<sup>nd</sup> syllable.
- ♥ Each line uses what's called "Iambic Pentameter" for the syllables, meaning each line has 5 pairs of unstressed and stressed syllables, the weak stress and strong stress alternating
- ♥ The best way to write a line using iambic pentameter is to pronounce the words with the following rhythm, stressing the capital words when you say them:
  - ♥ **da DUM | da DUM | da DUM | da DUM | da DUM**
  - ♥ **i CAN'T | beLIEVE | i FAILED | that STU | pid TEST**
  - ♥ **shall I | compARE | thee TO | a SUM | mers DAY?**

## Try

Using a few examples, see if you can identify the structure, rhyme, story, and syllables.

- ♥ Which words and lines rhyme? Can you spot the ABAB CDCD EFEF GG rhyme scheme?
- ♥ What's the big idea or feeling being conveyed?
- ♥ What problem or negativity is mentioned during the 3rd quatrain?
- ♥ How do the final two lines solve the problem and rekindle the romance?
- ♥ Are you able to read it with the da DUM da DUM rhythm of the syllables?

## *Shakespeare's "Sonnet 18"*

*Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely and more temperate.  
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
And summer's lease hath all too short a date.  
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,  
And often is his gold complexion dimmed;  
And every fair from fair sometime declines,  
By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimmed;  
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,  
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st,  
Nor shall death brag thou wandrest in his shade,  
When in eternal lines to Time thou grow'st.  
So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,  
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.*



## Louis MacNeice's "Sunday Morning"

"Down the road someone is practicing scales,  
The notes like little fishes vanish with a wink of tails,  
Man's heart expands to tinker with his car  
For this is Sunday morning, Fate's great bazaar;  
Regard these means as ends, concentrate on this Now,  
And you may grow to music or drive beyond Hindhead anyhow,  
Take corners on two wheels until you go so fast  
That you can clutch a fringe or two of the windy past,  
That you can abstract this day and make it to the week of time  
A small eternity, a sonnet self-contained in rhyme.  
But listen, up the road, something gulps, the church spire  
Opens its eight bells out, skulls' mouths which will not tire  
To tell how there is no music or movement which secures  
Escape from the weekday time. Which deadens and endures."

## Austin MacRae's "Library Lovers"

"She devours Steel, and he L' Amour.  
She leads him to the fiction, where they part  
for different shelves. He's eager to explore  
the tough ol' west, and she the tough ol' heart.  
They meet me at the desk with separate piles.  
Unthinkingly, I mix the books together.  
I sense his wave of nervousness. She smiles  
and quickly sorts the titles out. 'Nice weather  
today,' she says. He slides his pile away,  
averts his eyes, and waits for her to pull  
out bags. 'Let's eat at Lou's,' I hear her say.  
She grabs his arm and leads him, tote bag full  
of cowboy stories swinging at his heel,  
his sidearm holstered by her whim of steel."



## Apply

Theme: \_\_\_\_\_

*A big idea, feeling, or issue, usually love or heartbreak, and with a problem needing resolution.*

A \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

F \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

F \_\_\_\_\_

*1<sup>st</sup> Two Quatrains:  
Praise the Reader.*

G \_\_\_\_\_

G \_\_\_\_\_

*3<sup>rd</sup> Quatrain or Volta:  
The shift. A Problem.  
Change of tone or focus.*

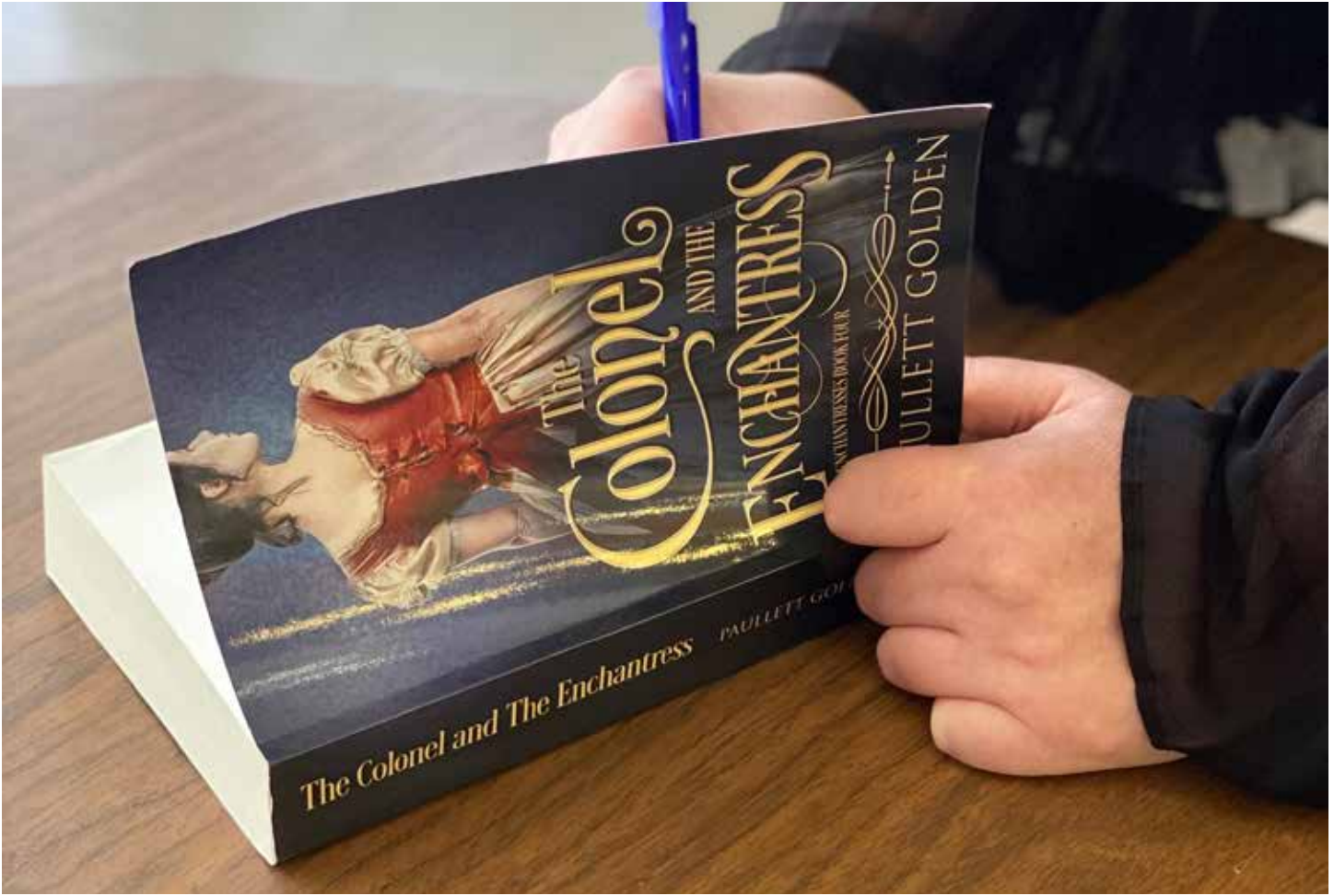
*Heroic Couplet: Save the  
Day. Solve the Problem.  
Satisfy the Reader.*





# Discussion Questions

- 1 Do you believe Mary's relationship with her mother will improve, or will it continued to be strained?
- 2 How would you describe Duncan? How does his character grow and develop throughout the story?
- 3 Towards the end of the novel, Duncan encounters a setback that brings back all his misgivings and fears of being unmanned and a burden. Do you think his reaction was understandable, or do you feel he was being overly dramatic?
- 4 What themes did you see in the story, either well developed or nuanced?
- 5 At which points during the love story's evolution were you surprised, be it by their choices in the relationship, reactions to each other, or otherwise? Could you predict the course of their relationship or the challenges they faced?
- 6 What did you think of Duncan's choice to raise Bernard?
- 7 What challenges do you foresee the couple facing in their future, specifically with their relationship and should Duncan encounter further setbacks?
- 8 If you've read the previous novels, did you enjoy the cameos or find them too brief? If you've not read the previous novels in the series, were there any characters you would like to read about in their own story?
- 9 Do you foresee any challenges with the class differences between Duncan being of landed gentry and Mary being the daughter of a duke? Which challenges do you think will be the most difficult for them to overcome, both socially and romantically?
- 10 What characteristics about Mary helped her accept everything about Duncan, from raising Bernard to his condition? Do you think her standing by him showed strength of character, or was she simply doggedly determined not to lose her first love, even if it was only youthful puppy love?
- 11 Do you think Mary should have accepted her mother's matchmaking plans, then enter a relationship with Duncan later in life as a widow?
- 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 Mary that helped you resonate with her? Were there any characteristics or actions that made Duncan 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?

15 Both characters faced internal conflicts that made them hesitant to explore a romance together. Would you say they resolved their internal conflicts on their own, or did each help the other? Would they have resolved their conflicts without having met each other? If not, then how did their relationship encourage the need for overcoming the conflicts?

16 Did Duncan's condition make him seem less appealing as a hero or more appealing?

For additional information about the Georgian era, fashion, etiquette, and more, consider exploring the author's research blog: <https://www.paulettgolden.com/bookresearch> Within this blog, you'll find posts about Duncan's condition (spinal hematoma), the therapy methods featured in his rehabilitation, information about the Light Dragoons, and more.



# 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.

