



## Marry in Haste

*Jane Aiken Hodge*

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## **Marry in Haste** Jane Aiken Hodge

Camilla Forest has fallen upon hard times since fleeing France and the tyrannical rule of Napoleon Bonaparte. When her job as a governess ends in disaster, Camilla finds herself penniless and alone, stranded on a muddy roadside.

A chance encounter with the notoriously aloof Lord Leominster presents Camilla with an unexpected solution to her dire situation: an offer of marriage.

Destitute and without prospects, Camilla is ready to dismiss romantic ideals in order to secure her future. But why does Leominster, openly dismissive of women generally and Camilla in particular, want to marry her?

Camilla grudgingly accepts, and a loveless deal is struck. But what exactly has she agreed to? As the conflict in Europe escalates and Napoleon's reach spreads, Leominster is sent to Portugal, forcing Camilla to follow.

As everything Camilla once knew is turned upside down again, she tries to navigate this new world of violence and fear. But soon Camilla finds herself falling in love with the man she thought she never could. With war edging ever closer, will Camilla be able to find happiness before it's too late?

## **Marry in Haste Details**

Date : Published 2002 by House of Stratus Ltd . (first published 1969)

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Author : Jane Aiken Hodge

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## From Reader Review Marry in Haste for online ebook

### Virginia Campbell says

I first read MARRY IN HASTE when I was in high school over thirty years ago, and it was one of the first really great romance novels of my reading life. I recently purchased a copy, and I was once again an eager young reader devouring the very well crafted story by Jane Aiken Hodge. Intrigue, espionage and rich historical detail combine with a remote but dashing hero who is brought to life by a warm, kind and forgiving heroine. At age 50-Plus, I enjoy this book even more now than I did when I was 15!

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### CLM says

By mutual agreement, theirs was to be a marriage in name only, but Camilla Forest could not help falling in love with her husband, the handsome and enigmatic Lord Leominster.

I don't remember where I found my first edition hardcover but it had been autographed by the author, so is doubly precious.

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### Dora Okeyo says

I got to read this book off NetGalley and I reckon, it makes for an interesting adventure in terms of the countries explored by the characters. On romance, well, is it safe to say that I wanted to get inside the book and knock the daylight off Lavenham every few minutes? Is it also safe to say that I was bogged down by so many descriptions that I had to cast it aside, not once but thrice in order to think straight? If you're into historical romance, damsels in distress and knights or lords in coaches....by all means, give this a read.

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### Jeannie Zelos says

Marry in Haste, Jane Aiken Hodge

Review from Jeannie Zelos book reviews

Genre: Women's Fiction, Historical Romance

Quick moan as usual about Woman's fiction – why? Just why do we exclude a whole segment of readers? Men can and do enjoy writing and reading romances....

Republished from a 1969 story, but doesn't feel dated, the advantages of a historical novel I guess.

Its a fun read, I don't review many historical works, but like to take a dip back in time for a change from whatever else I've been reading, especially if its been a heavy suspense or intense fantasy work. Kind of recharges/refreshes my brain.

Camilla was a lovely girl, lucky too, but a book where she ended up on the streets and died wouldn't be much

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fun would it ;-) Or long...I liked her willingness to try and make her way, her determination to make the best of every situation, and of course her loyalty.

Lord Leominster seems quite a cold guy when we first meet him, but he has his reasons, and he's kind to Camilla, and to his wayward younger sister.

Much of the story takes place in Europe at the height of the French/English/Spanish wars and Leominster is heavily involved uncover in some dangerous work. Camilla once again needs to pull together all her resources and do her best to keep them all safe.

There's some drama here, quite intense at times, and of course some romance, but which is very muted, more a slow kindling of love coming from mutual respect. Its how things often were back then though, with so many arranged marriages, so where it would have irked me in a contemporary romance it felt perfect here. I did like the way things got bad before they became better, I do love that lost love potential dramatics in a romance and here it worked well for me.

Stars: Five, a fun and interesting read, felt very period appropriate and with some terrific characters.

ARC supplied for review purposes by Netgalley and Publishers

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### **Cphe says**

I have to admit that I'm a bit biased when it comes to this author's work. This is a very dated gothic romance. I read this book many years ago, but on this later reading I have to admit that it doesn't quite hold the charm of old. The story does start quite strongly but I was more invested in the secondary romance this time. A gentle romance set in the time of Napoleon.

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### **MB (What she read) says**

I always loved and devoured ALL the Joan Aiken's I could lay hands on (children's, gothics, regencies, short stories...I glommed them all). But Jane Aiken Hodge...although tried repeatedly back in the day...I don't remember ever finishing one.

HOWEVER, this review makes this one sound kind of interesting. Maybe I need to try again?  
<http://dearauthor.com/book-reviews/re...>

Hmm, now that I've read the review, I'm thinking this sounds very vaguely familiar. Luckily, it's available from Kindle Unlimited, so I can try it with no qualms or guilt if it doesn't work for me. (Always nice).

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### **Carolyn says**

I first read this serialized in Ladies Home Journal. Years later, I finally found it in paperback and reread it often. I love the romance, suspense, action and especially the look into European history. As an American the only way I have learned about the conflicts on the continent is through historical novels. They peak my interest in actual history.

During Napoleon's time, Camilla Forest and Lord Leominster marry as a convenience so they both can

relieve their economic pressures. She accompanies him with his young impulsive sister to Portugal. At first she believes that he is a diplomat to the Portuguese court. Finally she realizes that he is a spy, but for whom is he spying?

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### **Rae says**

I remember reading most of this author's books over 40 years ago. Loved them all then. This one just showed up as a bargain on Books Bub so decided to reread. Now seems dated and characters flat but it was good for an afternoon read. Enjoyed the historical bits.

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### **Ariel McCollums says**

I told myself I wasn't going to do any re-reading of old favorites until I hit my reading goal of the year, but Marry in Haste popped into my head while I was on vacation and I really needed to get it out of my system before moving on. I never reviewed it here before, so you're welcome ;) Marry in Haste is about a Lady turned Governess named Camilla Forest, who finds herself turned out from her last post as governess and alone on a road in the middle of the night. Now granted, the series of events in this novel are farfetched at best (that or Camilla just has incredible luck) but as fate would have it, the carriage of Lord Leominster comes across her late at night and he rescues her from the dark. As it just so happens, Leominster is in a bit of a pickle. His grandmother wants heirs and Leominster wants his inheritance. Because he can't get what he wants until his grandmother gets what she wants, Leominster proposes a deal to Camilla: marry him, live the life of the Lady as she was born into it, and in doing so he gets his money and estates. Romantic, right? As fate would also have it, Camilla's new husband is involved with some shady business, and they both struggle to trust one another...and keep from falling in love.

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### **Susan in Perthshire says**

I like Jane Aiken Hodge but this was not one of her best. Unbelievable characters and plot. I got half way through and abandoned it. Came back several weeks later and finished it but still not impressed. Not a patch on Georgette Heyer.

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### **Tamra says**

Predictable, silly, contrived yet an enjoyable, fun and romantic historical fiction. 4 stars rounded up to five for a fantastic ending!

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### **Miriam says**

Imagine the most contrived Georgette Heyer plot you've ever read, with her most unsympathetic and too-stupid-to-live characters. Take away Heyer's wit and sparkling writing. In Portugal.

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Camilla is the Gothic romance cliché heroine: a lovely and virtuous upper class girl, forced by lack of money and family to work as a governess. Penniless and on the road with night falling, she coincidentally meets a wealthy and handsome nobleman who needs to get married right away to keep his inheritance, but hates women. They agree on a marriage on convenience. he pays off the debts of her asshole French gambler father and she will be a supportive hostess of his diplomatic post in Lisbon and also be responsible for his flighty teen sister who keeps trying to elope and has run away from school.

Okay, we're a little sympathetic to Camilla because she is desperate. Every other character is a complete selfish idiot jerkface. Chloe, the sister, is like the worst of the stereotypical "romantic" young girl who keeps fancying herself desperately in love with assholes who are using her. But she's actually had some experience with men using her so it's not like she's too sheltered to know better, she's just stupid and doesn't care if she ruins her reputation, her brother's career, her friend's marriage, etc. I think Hodge meant for the reader to like her anyway, as she asserts Camilla does, but I didn't. At all. I felt sorry for (view spoiler).

I did not see anything to make me believe Camilla and Lavenham loved each other. I mean, I guess they might as well since they're married already, but there was no chemistry, or emotion, or anything. But it was slightly interesting to me that despite the ready-to-hand background of espionage and invasion Hodge did not use the common plot device of having the hero have to save the heroine from danger and then realizing he loves her. In fact, she makes Lavenham prioritize his diplomatic duty over his wife and sister and abandon them to deal with the French invasion on their own. So that was different, if not something that made me like him any better. Nor did the fact that he (view spoiler). Lucky for him Camilla is so forgiving. Not to mention helplessly dependent on him. That's always romantic.

Oh, and the Portuguese are all dirty and ignorant and eat gross sausages. So if you're Portuguese this book will probably offend you.

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## Hirondelle says

Oh dear, I really should not have reread this. I remember reading it when I was a teen, barely able to read english and enjoying it, but well, you can't go back.

The setup of the novel is quite good, but the rest is a problem. This was a serial published in a woman's magazine apparently and the structure of the novel shows it : a lot of description of historical events (quite dull sometimes), sometimes very slow, sometimes very fast action. The main problem was the psychology of the characters, it's frustrating how emotionally and sexually restrained ( far more than Austen actually. Lydia was after all found in bed. Here Chloe "being compromised" raises no practical concerns, but nevermind that) and sometimes plain stupid the characters are! The plot is melodramatic, and I have no patience for big misunderstandings and characters being in misery just because they would not tell their loved one \*stuff\* they should know but might cause somebody else to look bad ( the horror. much better to have a marriage fail irrevocably!).

Onto another point, I remember originally picking this up, actually this was probably available to be picked up because it was set in Portugal. I am afraid this reread involved a lot of teeth gnashing, it does go into not particular nice racial stereotyping of a very old fashioned kind which can be offensive. Some I can not disprove ( did peasants during the french invasions do this or that?), but some I found horrific ( no, servants in aristocratics households and nobody respectable would keep pigs roaming free in their living quarters!) but others were just wrong ( bullfights in Portugal in that period would not involve death of a bull or most likely any matador figure. It is all about the horses or the forcados), as was some of the geography.

Sometimes, it is much better to not reread things you remember loving!

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## Lady Alexandrine says

I love gothic fiction. It could be full of clichés and the strangest and the most unbelievable twists, but still I enjoy reading it. There is something alluring about foreboding, malicious atmosphere of these kind of books and about dark, brooding heroes with hidden depths and horrible secrets that the lonely heroine has to discover. Unfortunately, "Marry in Haste" was a bit of a disappointment for me. There were some things that I really liked about it. I liked the beginning, the novel started very promising. I enjoyed dry humour and practical approach to marriage shown by Miss Camilla Forest:

"Romance, I begin to see, is something of an expensive commodity and I am not sure that I can afford it."

Camilla in her dire circumstances decided to accept an offer of marriage made by Lord Leominster (called Lavenham by his family). He had to marry in haste for his grandmother's money. Also, he declared that he hated women. Of course he had some clandestine reasons for that.

The character I liked the most in this book was Lord Leominster's grandmother. She was funny, practical and could bear no romantic nonsense:

"You'll do far better for Lavenham than one of those milk and water society misses who think marriage is just another kind of nursery game."

Unfortunately the promising start led to convulsed plot. This novel was published for the first time in 1969 and it felt badly dated. Even for me, an enthusiast of gothic-fiction, the intrigue in this book was too far-fetched. Honestly, when I read it, I was like: WHAT?! But, the most annoying thing about this novel was the way the characters treated foreigners and how they viewed Portugal. Only the English way was the right way for them. The English breakfast was the best breakfast in the whole wide world. The Portuguese houses were dirty, the foreigners were annoying and their customs pointless. I was hoping to discover the beauty of Portugal and its atmosphere with the characters and was badly disappointed in this regard. But I am not giving up on this author and I've decided to read a different novel written by her. Maybe I will enjoy it more than this one.

I received "Marry in Haste" from the publisher via NetGalley. I would like to thank the publisher for providing me with the advance reader copy of the book.

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## Sophie says

I used to love Jane Aiken Hodge way back when, but this book makes me wonder why. The storyline was silly, the romance lacked depth, the characters were nondescript, and there really didn't seem to be much reason for the romance other than gratitude and propinquity. The heroine, Camilla, begins falling in love with the hero almost instantly--apparently for no reasons other than physical attraction and because he rescues her from governess hell. The hero, Lavenham, takes a little longer because *he doesn't trust women*. Emphasis mine, because we're told over and over that *he doesn't trust women*. In fact, the story occasionally dips into his point of view just so he can mutter to himself about how much *he doesn't trust women*. The episode from his childhood is certainly traumatic, which makes his attitude at least somewhat understandable, but after a while I just wanted to say, for god's sake grow up and get over it. The plot revolves around Lavenham's mission to Portugal which is comically vague. (The author includes a lot of

history about Portugal's role in the Napoleonic Wars but skates over minor details like the hero's reason for being there.) His one brush with danger seems included only to provide a romantic interlude. He spends the rest of his time dancing attendance on the Portuguese royals to absolutely no effect. It is this life-or-death non-mission that also leads to his abandoning the heroine for close on 50% of the novel, leaving her and his own sister to fend for themselves as war erupts in Portugal. This is hardly heroic behavior but is not even the worst of what he does to the heroine. Happily for the romance, she's more willing to forgive him than I was on her behalf. All in all, a forgettable romance.

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