

Patricia M. Muhammad
presents

Hidden Valor

Interesting Facts:

Hidden Valor is set in 18th century, London England. Although Hidden Valor is not a typical Regency historical romance novel, as this period was the early 19th century, Regency romance novels are usually set in London, England.

1. The author attempted to avoid using this setting as to not confuse the reader as to the English era her romance novel was set in. However, after completing her first historical romance novel set primarily in Liverpool England, the author decided to rotate settings. She intentionally revisited the country, choosing what she initially avoided, London, England.
2. Hidden Valor is one of two historical romance novels the author has written set in England, though this one is set in London, England.

Duchessa Arabella of the House of Wellington has recently become of age. She leaves her home without notice. She is now sequestered with other courtiers due to a murder on the royal grounds.

3. The author has a pattern of writing well-meaning but rebellious maidens as protagonists in her historical romance novels. This is unintentional, but the author notes that sometimes in order to restore order, to have one's freedom or to obtain justice, unconventional paths must be taken.
4. The author also revisits the concept of 'freedom' in Hidden Valor. Duchess Arabella thinks that she will be *free* as she departs from the House of Wellington. Then she finds herself confined within the royal palace for a time. However, the duchess finds freedom that she had not sought before. Arabella is free to express herself and naturally does so eventually with Duke Everett. Due to their unusual and unlikely circumstances, both are free and in a way forced to become better acquainted with one another. The author placed Arabella and Everett, two courtiers who had not known one another together as the first to be exonerated. The duke initially finds Arabella a bit unconventional until he allows for his patience to discover that it is a sort of

defense mechanism. In their private chambers she is able to speak unencumbered. He is able to sit with her as they exchange a natural warm with still a respectable showing. It is not until time has passed and that they have confessed their affection for one another and are about to leave the royal grounds that they realized Destiny made their circumstances so in order to facilitate a matter between them that they may have never discovered between one another otherwise.

During Duke Everett's and Duchess Arabella's sequestration within the royal palace, they incline to the secret/abandoned lower level they discover below their assigned bedchambers. It is mostly bare except for one blanket. Both of these patricians have been accustomed to decadence long before they were confined to the royal grounds with the remainder of those present.

5. The author thought it quite typical for historical romance novels to have those involved in courtship to enjoy the luxuries that their inherited wealth enabled for them. She considered that just as much as there are good people who are destitute, that there are good people who, despite their wealth, enjoy the most humane aspects of life—to share a true affection with whom Providence has declared.

Names:

6. The author actually researched popular names for both males and females born during the 18th century in England.

The king and queen (the Crown):

7. The author intentionally omitted naming which king and/or queen likely served on the throne during the time span where these fictional events took place. She desired for the story to focus on the protagonist and her suitor rather than the factual specifics of who reigned at what time.

One place which seemed not to be significant when discovered appeared to be only a resting place for Duke Everett and Duchess Arabella. When Duke Everett accepts his role as temporary advisor to the Crown to assist in solving the murders, he guides the king and queen to the lower level. It is in this place that they overhear the confession of the true culprits.

8. The author is not aware of the actual architecture of the royal palace. She used the concept of the dungeon of a castle as the basis for describing the unwelcoming darkness of the lower level. She also considered that the lower level would serve a two-fold purpose. First, it is where the duke and duchess affirm their sincere devotion and affection for one another. The other purpose is to be the transformative place, where he who descended from a previous

ruling family of this very palace would assist the current Crown in apprehending and executing those responsible for conspiring against the throne. The irony is that Duke Everett and Duke Gideon, his cousin, never sought the throne. Everett at least was not fully aware of his possible standing. This was intentional. Arabella became his sole focus once they were exonerated. The only ones who cared were treacherous servants whom he was not even familiar with. The author considered this another distinction between the wealthy Duke Everett and Duchess Arabella in comparison to the two servants who sought to use their plot to obtain power which was never for them to have.