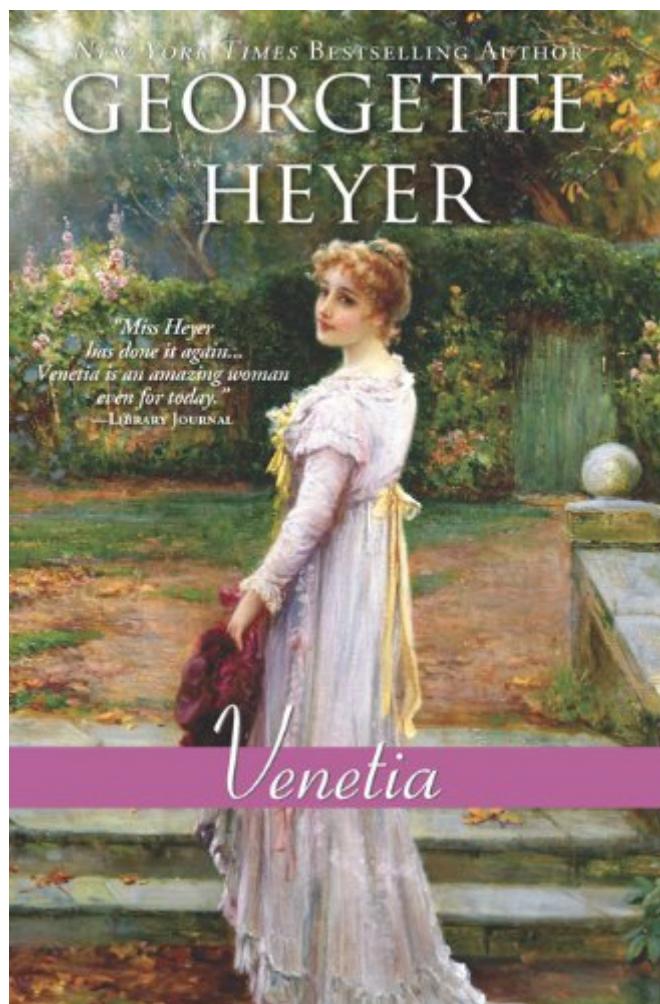


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Venetia (Regency Romances)



Synopsis

Reading Georgette Heyer is the next best thing to reading Jane Austen." Publishers Weekly Celebrate the 80th birthday of Regency Romance with great books from Sourcebooks Casablanca! Beautiful, capable, and intendent minded, Venetia Lanyon's life on her family's estate in the country side is somewhat restricted. But her neighbor, the infamous Lord Damerel, a charming rake shunned by polite society is about to shake things up. Lord Damerel has built his life on his dangerous reputation, and when he meets Venetia, he has nothing to offer and everything to regret. Though his scandalous past and deepest secrets give Venetia reason to mistrust him, a rogue always gets what he wants. As Venetia's well-meaning family steps in to protect her from potential ruin, Venetia must find the wherewithal to take charge of her own destiny, or lose her chance at happiness. Charming characters and flawless prose make Venetia a fan favorite from the Queen of Regency Romance. Fans of Mary Balogh, Elizabeth Hoyt and Jane Ashford will be delighted by this story about finding love, redemption, and the courage to follow your heart. Other Regency Romances from Georgette Heyer: *Frederica* a woman seeking security for her family finds love where, and when, she least expected it. *Sylvester* - She meets none of his requirements for a wife. He is the chief villain in her novel. *Cotillion* - A sham betrothal isn't the only thing that gets Kitty and Freddy into trouble, but it's definitely the beginning. What readers are saying about Venetia "There are no cardboard cutout characters, they are multi-layered, full of life whether you hate them, love them, laugh at them or barely tolerate them." "Not only do I think that Venetia is Georgette Heyer's best novel, I think Venetia is one of her best characters and certainly one of my favorite heroines in all romance fiction." What reviewers are saying about Venetia "A wonderful story whose characters, settings and, most importantly, dialogue combine to create such a well-crafted story." -Bags, Books, and Bon Jovi "Wonderful characters, elegant, witty writing, perfect period detail, and rapturously romantic" -Katie Fforde "Wonderful and lovely and perfect! Venetia is one of the most charming characters EVER." Once Upon a Bookshelf "An absolutely rollicking Regency romp. I loved it from the first page." Library Queue What everyone has to say about the Queen of Regency Romance Georgette Heyer "Georgette Heyer was one of the great protagonists of the historical novel in the post-war golden age of the form. Her regency romances are delightful light reading..." Philippa Gregory "[Heyer's] characters are witty and beyond charming, her prose is flawless and lighthearted, and her historical detail is immaculate." -Read All Over Reviews "Georgette Heyer is unbeatable." -Sunday Telegraph

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Customer Reviews

Not only do I think that "Venetia" is Georgette Heyer's best novel, I think Venetia is one of her best characters, and certainly one of my favorite heroines in all romance fiction. She is extremely intelligent and well read, possesses poise, a wonderful sense of humor, and lots of common sense. She is down-to-earth and earthy in a very ladylike way, and a charming, caring person. Venetia is also quite lovely, but her character is so good and strong, that were she only half as beautiful, she would still outshine her peers. Venetia Lanyon is twenty-five years old, orphaned, and responsible for her frail younger brother Aubrey, who is crippled by a disease of the hip-joint. She is also legally responsible for the family manse and lands in Yorkshire, while their older brother and heir, Conway, is away at war in France. Although Venetia has much going for her in the way of looks, charm and intelligence, and has two loyal suitors nearby, she is determined not to wed unless it is for love. Her father, when he was alive, was a recluse and showed little interest in his children except to forbid Venetia's coming out in London society, sponsored by her very willing aunt. Unaware of the unattached treasure in Yorkshire, London society and many probable excellent matches had to get by without Venetia. Then, quite by accident, Venetia meets her neighbor, Lord Damerel, who has rarely visited his land since he returned from exile. Damerel is charismatic but not handsome,

middle-aged and quite the worst rake, having flown the country with another man's wife years before. Since that liaison broke up, he has been leading a fast, devil-may-care existence and is not received in respectable society.

I am biased. I love this book, and have loved it since I first discovered it. Yes, it is a late Heyer, with all that entails (older hero and heroine, less swashbuckling with Heyer in fact poking fun at a young fire-eater, sometimes slow). But on the other hand, it has all of Heyer's best features: humor, wit and irony; an exquisite sense of time and place; wonderfully lyrical descriptions of the North; very realistic descriptions both of the lifestyle of a middle-aged rake and of the uncomfortable road journeys of the day (and the discomfort such journeys could inflict). And can I say - I love the literary references, the brother who is a bookworm (and who insists on reading even after he is in bed recovering from an accident), the wryly realistic attitude of the heroine towards all men and particularly her brothers, the realistic attitude that she also holds towards her lover. It is less poignant than *A CIVIL CONTRACT* (which is also a strongly realistic Heyer) but which some detest for the less-than-attractive heroine and for what they see as Heyer's snobbery. This is not a tale of high adventure, and yes, Heyer has written that type, particularly in her earlier years. It is a tale of a beautiful young woman who has nevertheless resigned herself to spinsterhood and to life as the hostess for her younger brother who is unlikely to marry. Into the neighborhood however comes a rake, who is a slightly unlikely figure in that he is not handsome nor appealing at first sight. But he is attracted to Venetia and she to him, perhaps united by their shared sense of the ridiculous. [Warning: Do not read this book on public transportation or in public libraries, if you do not want to draw attention to yourself].

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