



# Pembroke Park

*Michelle Martin*

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**Pembroke Park** Michelle Martin

A highly entertaining lesbian Regency novel.

## Pembroke Park Details

Date : Published July 1st 1986 by Naiad Press,U.S. (first published June 1986)

ISBN : 9780930044770

Author : Michelle Martin

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Genre : Romance, Lgbt, Fiction, Glbt, Lesbian, Historical, Queer, Historical Fiction, Regency

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## From Reader Review *Pembroke Park* for online ebook

### **Jamie says**

This wasn't the best written book and there were some things that I didn't like, but at the end of the day it's a LESBIAN REGENCY ROMANCE and there is lovely co-mom-ing and lots of animals!! It also did a really good job of emphasizing community and the importance of intergenerational queer support networks which was really nice!

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### **Lizzy says**

A little silly at parts but charming. So charming.

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### **Hawthorn says**

I loved this book. I enjoy a good Regency romance, and this is the first (and maybe only?) lesbian Regency book I've ever read. Someone should fix that. Maybe me.

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### **Heather Jones says**

If you ask readers for titles of the best lesbian Regency romances they know, *Pembroke Park* is usually one of the first mentioned. The widowed Lady Joanna Sinclair is irresistably drawn to the mannish Lady Diana March, leader of an eccentric social set that includes Joanna's brother-in-law and his "very good friend" Geoffrey. But pursuing a friendship with Diana sets Joanna at odds with her overbearing brother Hugo, and Joanna's insistence on not re-marrying at her brother's command places the custody of her young daughter in jeopardy.

This is a light and somewhat formulaic romance, though not without its serious moments. But the prose is smooth and polished and there are enough sub-plots and side characters to carry the story along. One definite plus is the way Joanna and Diana's developing relationship is situated as part of a community of same-sex lovers, both male and female.

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### **Anisha says**

3.5 stars

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### **Anna says**

Enjoyable! I'm glad I read it. The world needs more lesbian regencies.

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### **Ulla says**

One of my "old" favourites

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### **Bethany says**

I wanted the sheer delight of reading a lesbian regency romance to overcome any shortcomings this book had, but.... no such luck. I cringed and eye-rolled a lot. Worst of all I felt little-to-no attachment to the characters. Sigh. (But I do often have this reaction to romance, so I wouldn't say it's much worse than a lot of lesbian romances out there.)

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### **Adam says**

I have to agree with all the reviews I've seen--a fun, funny tidbit that I can't really give five stars, but it's so hard not to like. It's just so damn charming that I want to ignore them entirely. If I'd grown up with this on my bookshelf I can imagine it having a dramatic effect on me.

Not perfect but really worth reading. Somehow better than 90% of contemporary attempts at same.

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### **Thegirlintheafternoon says**

This was both a very fun Austen/Heyer readalike and a fascinating piece of queer literary history. 3.5/5 stars.

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### **Claire says**

This was actually a re-read -- I DNF'ed a chapter or two in a few years ago because it was just a little too plotty and not quite character-y enough for me, but I decided I needed to give it another try. I still had a hard time getting emotionally engaged, but I recognized much more to enjoy this time through.

The best thing about this, other than that it's a relatively smoothly written f/f Regency -- to call that rare is the understatement of the three decades since it was written -- is that it is FULL OF QUEERS being friends, mentoring, and supporting each other. \*That\* was a truly unexpected delight. I have no time anymore for contemporary OR historical books and media that erase our communities and connections with each other. It gets a whole extra star for that, and for being among the better-written and edited offerings from Cleis/Naiad/etc that I've trudged through. (I want to love them. They're just often SO TERRIBLE.)

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## **Julie says**

A story that so delights in itself, you can't help but smile.

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## **Eowyn says**

this book blew my little mind...it was the first lesbian story i ever read. i randomly picked it up at my mother's house, and really i was never there, just one time in 5 years and this is what i stole, just to steal. then when i read it, floored on so many counts.

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## **Korri says**

Martin's delightful departure (billed as the first lesbian Regency novel) is more in the vein of Jane Austen than contemporary romance novels. The social intricacies of the era are observed: the heroines know each other for months before addressing each other by first name; gossip spread at public balls in the Herefordshire countryside can ruin reputations; and the villains of the story are an arrogant, overbearing brother and propriety rather than some dastardly foe with a complicated scheme.

Amid this simplicity, it was wonderful to read about the growing attachment between new neighbors Lady Joanna Sinclair and Lady Diana March. Who could help but love the unconventional Diana, a woman who is free in her speech, exotic in her attire, and who was once hauled before a court in Alexandria 'on charges of drunk and disorderly conduct, assaulting an officer of the law, liberating a trader's camel, and soliciting the English Ambassador for prostitution'? Joanna's playfulness with her daughter and repressed talent for painting endears her to readers and to Diana.

The slow-building attraction between Joanna & Diana is charming. The secondary characters are suitably amusing. I only wish the happily ever after had given us more time with the heroines, showing readers what their life was like as a family with Joanna's daughter Molly. I would love to read more lesbian Regency novels. Perhaps, like Ms. Martin, I shall have to write what I wish to read.

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## **Meagan says**

A lovely little lesbian story, where there is homophobia, but the gays aren't beaten down or discouraged and in fact stick it to the homophobes. Happy ending!

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