

now Mrs. Wickham, is staying nearby, and other friends from the seminal novel of all romance literature make their appearance, along with the balls and the landscapes and the sharp dialog. Fans of the original will enjoy especially the send-ups of Lady Catherine and Caroline Bingley. I wanted more detail of the clothes and settings, and the little mystery throughout rather fizzles at the end, but all in all an enjoyable read.

Cecelia Holland

THE SEA CAPTAIN'S WIFE

Beth Powning, Plume, 2011, \$15, pb, 384pp, 9780452296954 / Vintage Canada, 2010, \$22.00, pb, 384pp, 9780307397119

Azuba Galloway, the daughter of a ship-builder in Nova Scotia, has always wanted to go to sea. When she falls in love with sea captain Nathaniel Bradstock, they plan to spend their married life together aboard his ship, *Traveller*. After their marriage and the birth of a daughter, Nathaniel changes his mind and Azuba remains at home. She chafes at being left behind and never settles into the usual pursuits of a sea captain's wife, but continues to yearn for travel and adventure. After she commits an indiscretion, Nathaniel changes his mind and decides to let her and their young daughter accompany him, albeit reluctantly. At this time in the mid-19th century, many seamen believed it was bad luck to have a woman on a voyage.

At first, Azuba is thrilled to have achieved her dream and be on board her husband's ship. But she soon learns that life at sea sometimes brings with it unimaginable hardships. They face storms, pirates, illness, starvation, fatal accidents, and potential mutinies. At times, Azuba cannot believe she has put her child in such a perilous situation, and longs to be home safe. But the hardships are tempered by her joy in the exciting ports of call, periods of luxurious living in European cities, the joy of being together as a family and having their daughter grow up knowing her father.

Full of adventure, romance and historical details of life on board a ship during the 19th century, this was a beautifully written, engrossing story that I highly recommend. A glossary of nautical terms is included for landlubbers.

Jane Kessler

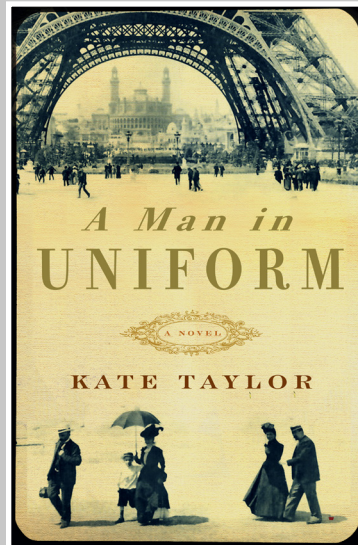
THE LADY MOST LIKELY...

Julia Quinn, Eloisa James and Connie Brockway, Avon, 2010, \$7.99/C\$10.99, pb, 384pp, 9780061247828

Subtitled "A Novel in Three Parts," *The Lady Most Likely* is a triplet of novellas written by three of the best-loved writers of historical romance. Each story interweaves a background tale of matchmaking by the sister of the Earl of Briarly. Lady Carolyn Finchley is convinced that her horse-mad brother will never find a suitable wife, so she plans a lavish house party at her country house to solve the problem. She invites the most eligible ladies of her acquaintance, as well as some attractive gentlemen to act as escorts. Never let never be said that Lady Carolyn did not have the

✦ A MAN IN UNIFORM

Kate Taylor, Crown, 2011, \$25.00, hb, 336pp, 9780307885197 / Doubleday Canada, 2010, C\$32.95, hb, 432pp, 9780385667999



Taylor, who wrote the superb *Mme Proust and the Kosher Kitchen*, with its own story set during the time of the Dreyfus affair, transports readers into late 19th-century Paris, allowing us to see the machinations behind Dreyfus's denunciation. Two of Mme. Dubon's brothers are in the Army, and they help to provide a context for the case, as does Maître Dubon's work in an office responsible for spying. My only quibble is the lack of a historical note at the end of the book: I would have loved to know what was real and what was created. Regardless, I recommend this book very highly.

Trudi E. Jacobson

EDITORS' CHOICE

Maître Dubon, a civil lawyer in Paris, is visited by the mysterious Madame Duhamel, who says she is looking out for the interests of a friend, the wife of Captain Dreyfus. It has been two years since Dreyfus had been tried for treason in 1894, convicted, and deported, but Madame Duhamel and the family believe that he is innocent. Dubon is puzzled as to why he has been approached. A detective seems to be called for, or at least a criminal lawyer. True, as a junior lawyer, Dubon had represented Communards following the Franco-Prussian War, but that was long in the past.

Madame Duhamel and her request for assistance turn Dubon's life inside out. He finds himself less inclined to visit his mistress, an integral part of his daily routine, and after he manages to infiltrate the office from which the evidence against Dreyfus was produced, he even shows up at his own office far less often. His wife feels that any work Dubon undertakes should reflect well in the eyes of society, so he experiences tensions at home as well.

best intentions at heart for all of her single friends!

With three single gentlemen and three single ladies at hand, each of the authors tells the story of a specific pair and how they find love. But who gets together with whom? As in all romance novels, there is a happy ending—actually, three happy endings.

The idea of three related stories in the same book is a fun concept. The individual stories stand alone, and yet are support for one another in the full story arc. Surprisingly, the voice of each storyteller is distinctive and draws the reader in without being jarring. I recommend it and hope there will be similar anthologies planned for the future.

Monica Spence

MAKING WAVES

Lorna Seilstad, Revell, 2010, \$14.99, pb, 363pp, 9780800734459

When Marguerite Westing discovers that her wealthy family will be spending the summer of 1895 at Lake Manawa, Iowa, she is thrilled, believing it will be the perfect opportunity to rid herself of her unwanted suitor, Roger Gordon. Once there, however, she stumbles on the fact that her father has allowed his gambling habit to ruin the family finances and a marriage to the boring, controlling Roger may be all that will protect her mother and younger brother. Heartsick over her circumstances, Marguerite's emotions are tossed

about further when she meets the handsome Trip Andrews, a boating instructor who agrees to teach her brother (and in actuality, Marguerite) how to sail. Will she be able to go through with a loveless marriage or will Marguerite follow her heart (and her God)? When is it all right to think of yourself first?

Making Waves is a delightful Christian novel that doesn't hit you over the head with its messages. Marguerite is a spunky heroine whose loyalty to her family is boundless, but finds compromise a hard pill to swallow. Roger is as despicable as Trip is good, and the story's ultimate outcome is easy to predict. However, the setting of wealthy families on a lake in Iowa is unique, and Marguerite's love of sailing gives the story a fun dimension. I did find a few of the twists a bit convenient and one of them (the issue with Trip's mother) decidedly odd, but overall this was a fun novel that makes me sure I will be seeking out more in the series as they are released. A great debut novel from an author bringing a new voice to the Christian historical market.

Tamela McCann

THE LOVEDAY VENDETTA

Kate Tremayne, Headline, 2010, £19.99, hb, 342pp, 9780755347681

From start to finish *The Loveday Vendetta*, one in a series concerning the fictitious 18th and early