



Rules of an Engagement

Suzanne Enoch

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For proper young ladies, good behavior has always been the rule...

Captain Bradshaw Carroway loves the seafaring life - though he'd rather be battling brigands than his current assignment of ferrying a boatload of spoiled aristocrats. One passenger, however, has caught his eye: a bewitching young minx who definitely distracts him from the rules of shipboard decorum . . .

Some rules, of course, are meant to be broken.

Miss Zephyr Ponsley has traveled the world, but she's completely innocent in the ways of love. She's never learned to dance or flirt. But scientific observation has taught her that the laws of attraction *have* no rules, and that no adventure, on land or sea, is more dangerous - or delicious - than passion!

Rules of an Engagement Details

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From Reader Review Rules of an Engagement for online ebook

Alexis says

I only made it 50 pages in and then took it back to the library. For one thing, I was hoping this book was about the Duke of Sommerset, founder of the Adventurer's Club. Instead, it's about Captain Bradshaw Carroway, who is briefly mentioned in Book 2, and who apparently figures more prominently in another series. The heroine is Zephyr Ponsley, daughter of a famous botanist, and Shaw is charged with ferrying Zephyr and her father about for their work.

By page 50, Zephyr read like an insufferable brat, and Shaw was boring. The entire premise for the book seemed forced, and since the dedication in the beginning is to all the fans who demanded Carroway's story, I got the feeling that Enoch didn't have anything in mind for him before she sat down to write. The pacing was very slow, and I wasn't interested in either character. Perhaps I'll come back to this one another time, but I really just wish she'd written about the Duke of Sommerset!

Amanda Ryan says

Redonk Nutshell: Navy Captain battles his growing attraction to intellectual female passenger

I had previously had my eye on this title, and I only recently nabbed it because the eBook was on sale. I'm really glad I got it when I did because I really enjoyed this story. Rules of an Engagement is the 3rd book in Suzanne Enoch's Adventurer's series. I have not read any others in this series, so Rules was the first for me.

Captain Bradshaw Carroway is an accomplished navy man at the point in his career when he is contemplating what life has next in store for him. When he's sent to a mission in the South Pacific, he expects adventure. What he gets is a request to ferry a scientific expedition of civilians to collect and study field specimens of plants (and eventually animals). Though it baffles him, he accepts. In the process he inherits several passengers, including the scientist Joseph Ponsley and his intriguing daughter and assistant, Zephyr Ponsley. He's immediately attracted to Zephyr, but he soon comes to realize she's unlike any other woman he's ever met.

Zephyr Ponsley is smart, carefree, and independent. She's completely clueless about society's proprieties, and when she finds herself in close proximity to women of the ton she's reminded of her, er, coarseness. When her father's project takes them onto Captain Carroway's ship, she finds herself initially put off by the strict and imposing Captain. But before long she begins to warm to him.

After several adventures onto never-before-explored islands, Zephyr and Bradshaw develop an easy going friendship that soon blossoms into something more. Throw in a dash of humor, and you've got a most excellent set up for a wonderfully fun romance story.

It's always refreshing to read a regency romance that doesn't take place in a ballroom. While both of our main characters are headstrong, they actually get along quite well, thanks to their equal intelligence. It's really fun to watch them figure one another out and see how they maneuver in such close quarters.

Rules of an Engagement is a fun, swashbuckling adventure story with a healthy dose of sensuality. I giggled out loud several times from humorous exchanges between characters.

Rules of an Engagement by Suzanne Enoch, 384 pgs, pub 2010

Rating: B

Romance: 3/5 Raunch: 3/5

Jennifer says

Perhaps the most interesting thing to me about Enoch's *Rules of Engagement* is how much more interested she is in her hero than her heroine. Unlike most romances, we start off in the male lead's head, and while that's more common these days than it used to be, I can't remember the last time I read a romance where it took thirty pages to even bump into the female protagonist. (And it's another ten pages or so before we pop in to see what she thinks of everything.) Without having read the preceding entries in this series, I'm not sure if that's a standard here, or related to the fact that the male protagonist, Bradshaw Carroway, is related to a couple of previous Enoch heroes, and thus the sort-of familiar entree to this world.

Unfortunately, once we get past that one little narrative quirk, there's not much to say about the inoffensive but uninspiring *Rules of Engagement*. The story follows the progress of Carroway's ship as he transports Zephyr and her famous botanist father around the South Seas, and while there are a few seafaring contretemps tossed in, there's never any central conflict between the characters. Bradshaw likes Zephyr, Zephyr likes Bradshaw - there's absolutely nothing standing in the way of this relationship (unless it's the impossibility of generating a lyrical romantic portmanteau for the couple), which makes it a slightly dull fait accompli. Even the possibility of Zephyr being torn between her beau and familial duty is snuffed midway through the narrative when Enoch begins turning the latter into an insensitive git.

Enoch will forever remain toward the top of my list for her excellent *Stolen Kisses*, but her *Rules* weren't enough to really engage me.

Ashlee says

I'm sad to say that I'm no longer interested in the lives of Zephyr Ponsley and Captain Bradshaw Carroway. Which is sad. Because I like their names (Zephyr: a warm, following breeze).

I neither liked nor disliked this book (although, I obviously didn't like it enough to continue reading it), hence the 3 stars. It was okay. Just okay. I had no possible chance of connecting to the characters because they were so flat a crepe has more dimension than those two. Which, again, is sad because I've read a couple of Enoch's previous novels and enjoyed them. But when you come off of reading one of the most fantastic historical-romance novels (*Ten Ways to Be Adored When Landing a Lord*), anything less than extraordinary right now was unacceptable.

I got bored, to put it simply. And I was more than a little surprised by how fast they decided to start kissing. One minute they're just meeting and producing some - kinda - witty banter and the next, out of the damn blue, she kisses him? I had to read the entire paragraph to make sure I had actually read what I did indeed read. Also sad: I didn't even make it to sexy times before I decided to put the book down.

I don't normally like this whole abandoned-book nonsense. Usually if I stop reading a book in the middle, I either don't tell anyone what's happened (it's like having your own sexy times before you get to the *good* part), or I'll eventually pick it back up. I don't intentionally say I can't read anymore, I'm done. But it seems

as though there's a first for everything after all.

Amanda says

[I am also

Jessica says

This was so cute.

I think the author must have been gorging on "Bones" while writing this, because Bradshaw and Zephyr are the 19th century model of Seeley Booth and Temperance Brennan. Since I like that show, I didn't mind one bit. This was a sweet story, with little to no angst and lots of good banter. Zephyr's dad was a total jerk, in my humble opinion.

This is the third story by this author that features a lead character with at least a touch of post-traumatic stress disorder... I would say Bradshaw is the least affected of the three. I find this a worthy cause. Sometimes heroes have to do things and witness things, for the good of all, that are scarring.

Nicholas was hardly in this book at all... this means he'll probably be the last book in the series.

Lorka says

What a completely unlikeable leading lady! I only made it to page 67, and stopped because I just couldn't understand how the hero could be as interested in her as I was reading about. It was a joke. On their first meeting of each other, she acted like a spoiled brat and treated him with complete disdain. After he admitted that he isn't interested in botany (like her father is) and that he is not an avid reader, she continued to call him a barbarian and such. I would have pushed her overboard if I was him, instead of trying to kiss her!!

Amarilli Settantatre says

da www.sognipensieriparole.com

Rispetto alle costanti che continuano a rincorrersi nelle trame dei romance, questo episodio conclusivo della saga del Club degli Avventurieri (che però si può leggere da solo senza problemi, come ho fatto io) è una vera boccata d'aria, con un cambio di prospettiva a tutto tondo. Finalmente un libro senza lord malvagi/belle senza dote e i soliti appuntamenti della Stagione londinese.

Partiamo dal protagonista, un figlio cadetto, un capitano abituato alla guerra e al sangue, ma anche stanco di una vita sempre sul baratro, alla ricerca di un angolino dove trovare finalmente casa, stabilità sotto i piedi e meritato riposo.

Insomma, un eroe intrepido ma con una vena di malinconia e di ricerca d'altro.

In vista dell'ultima missione nell'emisfero australe (circa altri tre anni lontano dalla terra e da casa) gli appioppo varie "commissioni": saldare un vecchio patto e scongiurare una maledizione; scortare un noto

botanico con scontrosa figlia al seguito a recuperare reperti esotici; accompagnare un gruppetto di giovinastri viziosi ad assicurarsi un'eredità.

Ed eccoci quindi con una nave da guerra trasformata in nave da crociera, con tanto di passeggiate sul ponte e feste notturne, e con una sfida continua di esplorazioni, tra specie rare, cannibali, e i soliti odiosi francesi, sconfitti eppure ancora in agguato. Con in più il jolly della figlia del botanico che è partita presto dall'Inghilterra ed è del tutto digiuna di buone maniere (sociali e amorose).

Devo dire che è stata una lettura divertente, briosa, con una certa atmosfera stile "Bounty" in sottofondo e un gran bel capitano coraggioso sempre all'erta.

Consigliato per chi, oltre alla storia d'amore, cerca un pizzico d'avventura e una trama non scontata.

WhiskeyintheJar/Kyraryker says

This book was hard for me to rate. I would describe the characters as being flat but on the other hand, the dialogue between the flat characters was fantastic snappy witty banter, which I liked a lot. The storyline had a tendency to be meandering and an oddball "bad" guy who was a jerk, isn't a jerk? Not sure if author wants to use him in a future book or what but strange either way. The author had something here but I feel like she was maybe writing several books at one time or was somehow distracted while she wrote this.

I know I'm giving the impression I didn't like it but I did, solely on the two main characters banter and interactions, seriously, read it if you like a feisty lady and a man willing to accommodate that passion.

Story takes place on a ship with occasional stops on islands, not great with describing the settings but will provide a nice break from London ballrooms if you're tired of that.

Stacey says

As excited as I was to find this book was about another Carroway brother, Shaw's story was a disappointment compared to Robert and Tristan's books. I'm being generous with 3 stars merely for the long awaited mentions of the rest of the Carroway clan. I absolutely adore that family; the "Lessons in Love" trilogy is one of my all time favorites that I've re-read over and over again.

Ruth says

I really enjoyed this story. I probably enjoyed it more than its predecessors in the trilogy.

The plot, the setting, the hero, the heroine and the secondary characters are all exactly what I look for in a Regency romance. The story is set around the explorations of the Pacific, when scientific discoveries were really becoming *de rigueur*. The heroine is a botanist's daughter, who is also his assistant. She's not a wallflower, she has her own opinion, but also shows real affection for her father and his work. The hero is a *bona fide* hero - a naval captain who has lost his taste for blood.

Well, it all just worked for me. The romance develops at a measured pace, but I like that the hero and heroine don't fall in love, get married and conceive the son and heir within 48 hours, as they seem to in quite a lot of romances. I also have a personal weakness for the naval setting, so it gets an extra star right up-front!

Can't wait for the next installment. 5 stars.

Inshirah Kamal says

Has anybody ever not been fascinated by mermaids?

Time to move over unicorns

You can search the world for pretty girls
Till your eyes are weak and dim,
But don't go searching for a mermaid, son,
If you don't know how to swim.
"THE MERMAID"

Her face it was a work of art,
I loved that girl with all my heart.
But I only liked the upper part,
I did not like the tail.
"THE MERMAID"

Lisa says

This was an enjoyable sea worthy tale, and while I didn't love it, it is still a fun, easy read. This is the third installment in The Adventurers Club series and we get the swash buckling, dashing Captain Bradshaw Carroways story. (Just a side note...I think this could be read as a stand alone as almost the entire book takes place at sea so the previous characters make only brief appearances). Shaw is tasked in taking Miss Zephyr Ponsley and her father, Sir Joseph, around to islands so that Sir Joseph may collect new plants and animals for his discoveries. Even though Shaw is in the marines and this is not exactly what he signed up for, he accepts as he also has a secondary secret mission given to him from the Duke of Sommerset (who was hardly in the book this time around, sigh).

Now, Zephyr has been her fathers assistant for years, traveling the world helping him collect his botany and drawing sketches to accompanying his findings. She was not brought up in London and therefore does not know all the proper rules of society and is very free with her thinking and her opinions. Upon her first meeting with Shaw, she snorts at some comment he makes and he is immediately intrigued and drawn to her. He takes it upon himself to always accompany her about the islands as they travel, to protect her from unknown dangers, and they continue their sparring back and forth. Shaw tells her he wants to bed her and she tells him that he must court her properly....and he does. There are some wonderful, tender moments as their courtship progresses. Oh and the ending on the ship, so sweet it brought a sigh to my heart.

Overall, this was a good book. A few things dragged it down a bit for me though. Shaw is forced to take on some more passengers who need to get back home immediately and I felt they added a layer of unnecessary chatter that wasn't needed. I can not really imagine ladies and gents and maids willingly go aboard a naval ship versus a passenger ship...the comforts are far different! Also, once again, was the overuse of the word chit. I don't know why it bothers me but I just do not like seeing it on almost every single page! Then of course, we barely see Lord Sommerset and I really hope Ms Enoch is working on his book next! But for this book, if you like a strong, snappy (in a good way) heroine and a strong, passionate hero who fall in love over the high seas with a bit of danger, this is a great book for you! Oh, and of course, the talking parrot makes an appearance to add a bit of chuckles! :) 3 1/2 stars

Lover of Romance says

Captain Bradshaw Carroway, has a passion for living a life on the sea, and loves the excitement and danger that comes from being Captain of his own ship, however when he is ordered by to be a babysitter to a load of Aristocrats, he would rather cut his own tongue out. However there is one passenger that has caught his eye, daughter of a well known historian, Zephyr Ponsely, has been by her fathers side ever since her mother passed away and been all over the world, and is eager to learn how to a lady and learn how to flirt and learn about life and passion. Zephyr is blunt and the desire between Shaw and Zephyr explodes after sharing a sensual embrace, Zephyr keeps breaking all sorts of rules of decorum and such, but would much rather be in Shaw's embrace, than follow all the rules and be miserable, but what she never counting on was learning that giving into personal desires, can lead to matters of the heart, something she isn't prepared for but then ...neither is the confident rogue of a Captain...Bradshaw Carroway. Rules of an Engagement is the third in the Adventure Club Series by Suzanne Enoch. I just fell instantly in love with this story and the characters. The characters alone were full of wit and passion. The story itself wasn't that incredible, however there was a sense of flirty fun throughout the story, that kept me engaged throughout the whole of it. At the beginning both the main characters hate each other, and had me laughing at their interactions with each other, but we see from the moment that they share that memorable first kiss, that things change for them both, and they realize how much alike they truly are. I truly haven't enjoyed such a romance in a while, and it was good to have one that was carefree and full of laughs...plus the cover is utterly charming

Keri says

This wasn't one of my favorites of the series. I could understand at first setting Zepher and Bradshaw up as enemies. I got that, but didn't always understand where it was coming from in the latter part of the book. I can understand calling someone a "barbarian" as a term of endearment. I didn't always feel that Zephyr was being that nice. Or understand why Brad was mad at Zepher half the time or vice versa. So this book didn't really work for me as well I wanted it to. I still look forward to the next book and see if SE can recover to the same as A Lady's Guide.

Becca says

Rules of Engagement was a fun adventure novel worthy of the Adventurers' Club series and its name. In fact, almost the entire novel takes place outside of England.

At first, I thought I was going to hate the heroine, Zephyr Ponsley (her weird name is explained, don't worry). She has lived most of her life outside of society, doesn't trust men because they never take her seriously, and hates gossip. While most of these qualities I enjoy in a heroine, at the beginning of the novel, she attacks Bradshaw at every turn with no provocation whatsoever. She came across as a bit of a judgmental, prickly snob. If this annoys you, never fear! As she realizes that Bradshaw is not who she expected, she softens up immensely and the development of their relationship is enjoyable. Bradshaw is funny, sexy, and clever. He acted like a competent sea captain and not an autocratic barbarian. Once Zephyr starts to see this, she falls under his spell as quickly as you will as a reader.

Bradshaw has never really been seriously interested in marriage. His brothers have lovely wives, but as a sea captain, he never saw that for himself. As he gets to know (and become fascinated) with the innocent, honest, and wildly adventurous Zephyr, he sees paths ahead for himself that he never thought would be possible.

What I liked about this novel was that each character was willing to compromise in order to be with the other. Becoming a couple is about caring for the other person and recognizing that your life may have to change to accommodate the other person, but if it is the right person, the change is a non-issue. Bradshaw and Zephyr become friends, then lovers, and see that a life with the other will be an adventure no matter where or how they live. This was refreshing and pleasant to read about. The couple is unconventional, but with their interests and life experiences, they wouldn't be happy any other way.

Most of the novel takes place on the high seas, with some tropical islands from the south Pacific thrown in. Zephyr is helping her father with his botany expedition doing sketches and collecting samples, while Bradshaw has been charged with transporting them and ensuring their safety. Also along are some stranded members of the haute ton, some salty pirates, and even a few cannibals. It makes for a colorful, adventurous, fun, and unconventional road to love.

Huma Rashid says

This is a 3.25, maybe, possibly a 3.5.

It's quite fun and delightful, and Bradshaw is awesome. Nowhere near as awesome as his brother Robert, but awesome. Even more awesome than his brother Tristan. I'm still not terribly fond of the heroine's name. Zephyr. It's just clunky and unusual, and not in a particularly endearing way. But whatever. The heroine herself isn't half-bad, actually.

Beanbag Love says

The introduction to the heroine of this book basically put an anvil around her neck. She was immediately unlikable. How in the world was she going to pull it out and be an acceptable heroine for beloved Bradshaw Carroway?

Well, she does. She has an arc and it's drawn with nuance and charm by Enoch. Ultimately Zephyr Ponsley ends up being exactly the love interest Bradshaw needs and vice versa. She learns a lot and has the intelligence to realize it. Not your run-of-the-mill sharp tongued heroine.

The adventure is good. I find, however, that the vast majority of father figures in Enoch's work are selfish

asses. Why is that? I've come to expect it. I suppose in this book it was necessary to ensure Zephyr's desire to leave her old way of life, but it might be a cheat.

Not a big deal, it's just something I've noticed.

I love Enoch's "Lessons in Love" trilogy and Bradshaw is a carry-over character from that. This is the third installment of the "Adventurer's Club" series but I never read the second one and did not feel lost at any point. So, it's probably more helpful to read the Lessons trilogy than it is to read the series attached to this book.

It was good to see the Carroways again. Just in short dashes, but I loved the development of Bradshaw's relationship with Robert.

If you're looking for a charming historical with some exotic locations you will probably enjoy this. And it was on sale for Kindle so get it while it's hot!

Sammy says

This book had a lot of potential: the characters seem remarkable, Miss Zephyr who has traveled the world and seen many unusual sights and Shaw, a captain who is war-wary and jaded, and a setting that is absolutely fascinating, some remote, uncolonized islands. It could have been absolutely delicious and sensual and adventurous but it isn't. The author loses the story to too much detail that don't directly relate back to the two main characters and/or that do nothing to move the plot (their romantic relationship) along. But what was absolutely dreadful was the stiffness of the two main characters (so somber) that the author sprinkled with spontaneous kisses and sex. It felt a lot like the author forced the story on characters rather than having the characters lead the story.

I honestly gave up on this book halfway through this story.

Minesweeper says

Considering how annoying the heroine was at the start of the book, she really redeems herself by the end. I really liked her by the end, more so than I do many other heroines in the romance genre. The relationship between our protagonists developed in a very straightforward and healthy manner. There were no nonsense twists or misunderstandings. It took a little while for the story to get started, though.

As far as the girl's dad goes ... what the heck is wrong with him?
