



The Pirate Hunter

Jennifer Ashley

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Diana Worthing is the wife of an English naval hero, daughter of a naval hero—she's had quite enough of heroes, thank you. So when James Ardmore, Southern gentleman pirate hunter and thorn in the side of the British navy, abducts her from a tedious house party and spirits her off to his ship, she lets him know what she thinks of heroes.

James interrogates her about the tiny island of Haven her father owns, where Diana and her father and deaf daughter retreat to escape the world. Diana resists, knowing that Captain Ardmore is an enemy of the English. But when Ardmore pins her to the wall of his cabin and asks her to sail away with him, sparks fly, and the temptation is great. But though Diana is an unhappily married woman, she has a daughter who needs her, and she refuses.

James knows the island of Haven holds the secret to the pirate he's been hunting for years. He can't bend the beautiful Lady Worthing to his will, though James is intrigued by this woman of unquenchable fire. He lets her go, learning nothing. But he's pleased to find himself stranded on Haven the following year, Diana Worthing now a widow, and the sparks between them just as hot . . .

The Pirate Hunter Details

Date : Published May 1st 2004 by Leisure Books (first published 2004)

ISBN : 9780843952803

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Format : Paperback 324 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Adventure, Pirates, Regency

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From Reader Review The Pirate Hunter for online ebook

Jill says

oooh another wonderful pirate romance ;) I love the old fashioned romances. You know the ones, where the heroine is kidnapped, spirited away in the middle of the night and has no choice but to go with the flow. Where the hero is a bad boy with a tragic past and just knows when he sees his heroine that she is something different. He wants her....and he will eventually have her.

ahhhh to me that is a wonderful romance book and that is what you will get in the Pirate Hunter.

Brilliant characters, enjoyable storyline. Adventure, mystery and steam with a good portion of heart and sweet romance.

What can I say? Just a plain old goody.

Elis Madison says

This is the second book in Ashley's pirate series and once again, there's lots of great adventure, which wins it back a star it lost because of the unfortunate fact that this book's "hero" is the smarmy, skeezy villain of The Pirate Next Door, James Ardmore. OK, we learn that Ardmore has lots of sad stories to tell, but the man all but publicly raped the heroine in the last book, so I kept wanting to chuck when the heroine here calls him "honorable." As for the attraction between them, I spent a good part of this story wanting to scream at the heroine, "Don't TOUCH that--you don't know where it's been!"

The gist: Diana Worthing is the daughter of much-respected, retired Admiral John Lockwood, and wife of the odious Edward Worthing, an ambitious Navy man who constantly accuses her of cheating. She's given up trying to convince him otherwise--in fact she flirts sometimes just to get his goat.

One day at a house party she stumbles onto Ardmore, who is doing something sneaky. She finds herself abducted (because the man just digs abducting women, I guess). He actually didn't come for Diana but he had in mind that he'd like to get his hands on her because he wants to question her about her father's secret island retreat. He makes some half-assed attempts to seduce the info out of her, but she manages to keep her mouth shut and given the abuse he heaped on Alexandra in the previous book, his heart must not have been in it this time. He ends up dropping Diana off in England, leaving her to face scandal and the rejection of her husband (her feelings aren't too hurt since she hates the worm).

Some time later, by a coincidence that can only happen in a work of fiction, Ardmore washes up on the shores of Haven, her father's island, where Diana finds him and an English Navy man. Ardmore was a prisoner aboard an English ship that went down at sea, and by some miracle he and one of his jailers survived. Ardmore wastes no time abusing the hospitality of the island, and pretty much treats Diana like a poop cupcake. [image error]

Ardmore is after a pirate that killed some members of his family, and he in turn is being hunted by the English Navy. There are some harrowing moments, and a point at which I finally felt like maybe karma caught up with him for his past misdeeds. I liked him a bit better after that, and then wasn't so unhappy with the romance.

If you like a-hole alpha anti-heroes who get redeemed by love, you'll probably love the series, and this book in particular.

Carolyn says

Only a writer as talented as Jennifer Ashley could transform the villain, pirate hunter James Ardmore, from the first book in this series ("The Pirate Next Door"), into a man you learn to understand, respect and adore.

After reading the first book, I was certainly enticed to read how Ms. Ashley was going to accomplish this enormous feat. She skillfully and oh so subtly draws you in, tantalizing you with little bits and pieces of his personality and what drives him. And, then Ms. Ashley throws you completely off balance just when you think you have him all figured out with a clever shift and twist in the storyline. Brilliant!

My favorite scene in the entire book was toward the end. James and his heroine, the delightful Lady Diana Worthing, have retired to their bedchamber after an elaborate wedding and are dining quietly. Well, it starts as a quiet "repast." What ensues will make you laugh out loud and then sigh as secrets are revealed and feelings and hearts are bared. Again, brilliant!

"The Pirate Next Door" and "The Pirate Hunter" are must reads. I simply cannot wait for the third installment in this delightful series "The Care and Feeding of Pirates."

Maria says

Only read this book if you absolutely need a pirate fix and there is nothing else. And I mean nothing else... like cereal boxes or shampoo bottles.

Gennielc says

This book is the most fun book iIve read in a long time(and I tend to read a lot). I absolutely adore James and Diana, and the other charcters too. But mostly, I'm rarely surprised in novels anymore. The authors feel as though they need to lead one by strings and explain everything at least 5 times. Jennifer Ashley (in her many guises) expects one to keep up, and invites us to be surprised (I gasped aloud twice!). Thank you!

Tarra says

Villain from previous book gets his redemption and his HEA. This book lacked the farcical fun of the first book. Overall, a bit underwhelming and at times quite slow. There were some really good provoking moments (the old admiral and Capt. Ardmore together, a brutal torture scene that was riveting to read). The chemistry between James and Diana was on fire (as the reader is told time and time again.)

Katyana says

I had a hard time getting through this one. I just kept putting it down and didn't have much interest in picking it back up.

It's possible that I've been burying myself too much in HR lately, and am just burning out a bit on it. But I don't think so. Here's where I had trouble.

James was hard to redeem.

He went way, way too far in the last book - the whole chaining up naked thing - and the kind of person who would do that to an innocent woman that he claimed to have some respect for ... that kind of person is a piece of garbage. Now, I've been surprised to like heroes that I've expected to dislike in HR before - usually because they played a villain role, and then ended up as a hero later in the series - so I was willing to see where it went. But it just didn't do it for me.

Basically, James never stopped manipulating. And I don't know that I buy that they were in love. It seemed like... he found her physically attractive, and he really enjoyed pushing her buttons so she'd fight with him. They honestly don't seem to get along, and I'm not sure that they ever will. And James is so ... my-way-or-the-highway ... I just don't see a point where he and Diana ever stop bashing heads.

Diana was no great prize either.

I think that, mostly, my problem with Diana was that she had no real depth. (view spoiler)

The story was kind of a big nothingburger.

I liked the bits on Haven - I just liked the environment, the isolation, the enforced companionship. But the resolution of that arc felt thin to me. After all the build up ... I was just like "wait, what? Is that it? It's done?"

Also, the bits with Diana's father - his choices - they don't make any sense and no real attempt was made to give them a rational explanation. (view spoiler) But no. No intelligent life here.

This book repeatedly set us up with something interesting and then had it disappear, largely offscreen. (view spoiler)

It was honestly super disappointing, on all story points.

Given that I didn't like the first that much more, I think I will probably skip the last book in this pirate series. Because meh.

2.5

Katrina Passick Lumsden says

I thought this one was better than the first in the series since James Ardmore is definitely more interesting

than Grayson, but still. Not so much swashbuckling, piratical adventure as angsty, emotionally manipulative melodrama. Diana Worthing bothered me. A lot. I have yet to figure out why so many female authors shoot for "feisty" and completely overshoot, landing their heroines firmly in "bitch" territory. Part of being strong and capable is knowing that not *everything* is a bloody fight. *sigh*

Like the first book, I didn't like the length of this one. Nor did I care for the pacing. I read these books because I wanted to read more of Ashley's work after reading the MacKenzie series. Sadly, these books aren't as entertaining. The characters aren't as likable, the dialogue isn't that great, and the sexual tension is, predictably, relegated to the snip and snipe kind. I'm so tired of the protagonists fighting each other every step of the way up until they peel their clothes off and bang like Bonobos. Oh, and if I'm *real* lucky, the heroine gets a good dose of stress relief in the form of a massive orgasm brought on by a monstrous penis, and *still* acts like a childish shrew afterwards!

It's too much, I tell you, too much.

Mary23nm says

I love Jennifer Ashley but did not like this book as much as the first in the series. (I read the older version without the changes.) I thought the beginning of the book very choppy and hard to get into. It is a bad sign when I keep putting the book down to do other things. Not a keeper and not a book I would re-read either, except perhaps the revisions.

Julie says

Second in Ashley's Regency Pirates series, this one didn't capture my attention at all, maybe it's because pirates just don't do it for me. Still, I love this author and can't get enough of her, even if I don't like pirates. I meandered through this book and didn't care that much about Diana or James. It got off to a good start, but just really slowed down while they are together on Haven. Her father's secret turned out to be entirely anticlimactic and then James' capture, etc. For some reason there seemed to be a lack of cohesiveness in the storyline, but I plodded along until the finish line. It didn't help that there were loads of typos in the kindle edition, which really surprised me and became increasingly annoying. Simple things that a spell and grammar check would catch. I love this author, but this series is not a favorite. Since I got it for next to nothing on kindle, I'll read Book 3 since I already have it though. Disappointing.

2.5/5

Jennifer Ashley says

Ok, I changed the title of this book back to *The Pirate Hunter*, which I think fits it better. When I first republished, I wanted to distance this book from the Dorchester edition for various reasons that have nothing to do with the story and much to do with things that upset me during its original publication. However ... now that a few years have passed, I'd like it to go back to what I originally intended.

To that end, I have restored the title and given it yet another cover. However, the text is unaltered from the second edition (where I added the new beginning). Got all that? :-)

So--if you purchased this as *The Pirate Hunter's Lady* in e-, there is NO need to purchase it again as *The Pirate Hunter*, unless you just want the new cover. Same story.

Netanella says

Our insane but sympathetic villain of the first novel, James Ardmore, takes the eponymous role of the Pirate Hunter in the second of Ashley's pirate series. And as hatefully as Ardmore was portrayed in the first novel, in this it is a compliment to Ashley's narrative that this reader can change her mind and view the character in a different light. Quite enjoyable.

Monique Takens says

Minder luchtig en vrolijk dan boek 1 maar ook iets minder idioot dus toch ook 3 sterren . Het grote probleem in dit verhaal was eigenlijk dat de mannelijke hoofdpersoon - James Ardmore - in boek 1 het zo grondig bij mij verbruid had dat ik hem nu op geen enkele manier sympathiek kon vinden .

Less fluffy and jolly than book 1 but also less idiotic so it gets 3 stars also . The big problem with this book was the male lead - James Ardmore - In book 1 I was so thoroughly exasperated by this jerk I could not in any way like or sympathize with him in this one .

Jennifer Ashley says

Book 2 of Regency Pirates. Original title: The Pirate Hunter. New edition has new first chapters, new epilogue.

iamGamz says

Captain James Ardmore found himself in an interesting situation when he kidnapped Lady Diana Worthing. He assumed her to be just another silly member of the British aristocracy, but soon found out how wrong he was.

I had a love hate relationship with Captain Ardmore in the the first book in this series, "The Pirate Next Door". Then Diana was introduced and showed a different side of James and of his experiences. It showed his as a man who felt deeply but turned that off to deal out justice in his own way.

I enjoyed this book much more than I did "The Pirate Next Door." The characters are way more interesting, giving you a richer, more enjoyable story. It also showed James as fallible and vulnerable. I also loved that Finley and Alexandra made an appearance in this book, allowing Finley to gloat over Ardmore's downfall into Luuurve! ?

A very enjoyable summer read.

