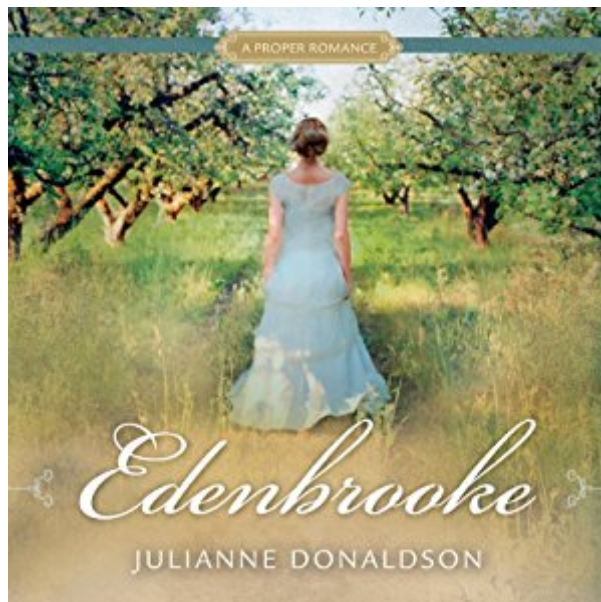


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# Edenbrooke



## Synopsis

Marianne Daventry will do anything to escape the boredom of Bath and the amorous attentions of an unwanted suitor. So when an invitation arrives from her twin sister, Cecily, to join her at a sprawling country estate, she jumps at the chance. Thinking she'll be able to relax and enjoy her beloved English countryside while her sister snags the handsome heir of Edenbrooke, Marianne finds that even the best laid plans can go awry. From a terrifying run-in with a highwayman to a seemingly harmless flirtation, Marianne finds herself embroiled in an unexpected adventure filled with enough romance and intrigue to keep her mind racing. Will Marianne be able to rein in her traitorous heart, or will a mysterious stranger sweep her off her feet? Fate had something other than a relaxing summer in mind when it sent Marianne to Edenbrooke.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Author Mariana Zapata posted that she liked reading this book last weekend, so I one-clicked. She was right -- it's charming and fun. My favorite part is in the beginning, when Marianne is at the inn, trying to eat her dinner, and has to sing a milkmaid's song. It is difficult to think about girls marrying at age 17, which is what society intends for this heroine to do. Teenage girls are so new to the world, I am sure a lot of marriages (as this book shows) seemed like one wonderful thing and actually were another, more miserable thing. The character's twin sister, insensitive, frivolous and self-consumed, does a bit of an about-face at the end, in the name of happy endings. Some of the heroine's details -- the motion sickness, the fainting and crying, the small stature, the silly twirling,

the accident-prone behavior -- are a little tiresome. Fortunately, her painting skills are a good talent, and her sense of humor shows up in the clutch.

Normally, I don't read historical romances. But a certain Muse told me about Ms. Donaldson and said that I must read her. Boy, am I glad I listened to her. This is the second book I've read of hers and I am in love with her writing. This book was so full of sweet romance that my eyes were prickling the whole entire time. I fell in love all over again. I feel like twirling with my eyes closed. Marianne has been away from home for 14 months. She wants nothing more than to be reunited with her twin, Cecily, and her father. But instead, she must endure constant affections from an unwanted suitor in a city that is the complete opposite of where her home is. She has been invited to spend some time in Edenbrooke with her sister and some family friends. And after a horrible incident with a highway man and then being subjected to a very flirtatious boy, she wonders what else will happen on her visit. The longer she stays at Edenbrooke, the more her heart strings get pulled. She starts to feel things for Phillip, the heir to Edenbrooke, but she knows that her sister wants him, so she tries to remain only friends. Phillip was the perfect gentleman. He was sweet and adventurous and enjoyed making Marianne blush every chance he could. But he always seemed to be there when she needed him. My heart broke for Marianne, while she examined herself and found it lacking. She always put herself in her sister's shadow and never realized that she was perfect, not inferior. She tries to convince herself that someone will love her, even if it's for her inheritance. Little does she know that love is right in front of her. "Where is your compassion when I need it the most? Open your eyes, love, and see what is right before you: that I am not merely a friend, but a man deeply, desperately, in love with you." \*swoon\* Seriously swooning happened. Phillip did everything a gentleman would do. He was perfect. "I will always want her." Always! There is nothing you could do to change that.

You know you've read a good book when you finish it and immediately want to read it again. I loved the romance and getting to know the characters. I loved the voice - it's not mimicking Jane Austen in style, so if you're wanting an Austen spin-off, this isn't really it. It has a more modern voice and writing style, but it's put in an historical setting. With that said, I didn't feel like the modern voice detracted from the story line in any way. It's not \*too\* modern where you feel like the main character doesn't fit in with the time period. It's just modern enough that you feel like it's easy to read and easy to connect with the characters. It doesn't feel like "work" to read the classic old-fashioned style.

(Not that I don't like classics or Austen - I love them too. But each style has its time and place in my heart). There were instances, especially in the beginning, where I felt like Marianne judged Phillip too harshly (so he hired you a carriage and took care of all your travel arrangements for you... Why is that a bad thing so that you're now calling him insufferable? I think that's nice... But then again, I live in an era where chivalry is mostly dead in the general population). But just as she is quick to judge, she's also quick to forgive, so it didn't really bother me. I liked the build up with the love story. It's fast, and she's relatively young (17 years old), but you still feel like their love is genuine. After I finished reading my library copy, I immediately went and bought a copy for my Kindle - and I hardly ever do that, so yes, this is one I'd recommend!

I'll be honest - I was hesitant to read it. I'm a Jane Austen snob and usually this genre does not deliver for me because it focuses more on setting up romantic moments than focusing on how it would REALLY happen in that time. When I began reading, I set out looking for errors and there were a couple of phrases or words in the first couple chapters that seemed too modern for the regency era. HOWEVER, once I decided to stop looking for flaws, I allowed myself to shut up and enjoy the story. And really, overall Donaldson does a GREAT job with dialogue and she did her research for the social construction of the day. Now for the story: AMAZING. I will actually admit that this surpassed my favorites (North & South, Pride & Prejudice) for the story's sake. The heroine is relatable yet admirable. The hero is wonderful, genuine and reading the prequel novelette (Heir to Edenbrooke) from his perspective, he became much more human and darling. Their story is lovely and perfect and I WANT MORE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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Edenbrooke

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