



Captain of My Heart

Danelle Harmon

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Updated and revised from its original 1992 version.

Excitement heralds the arrival of Captain Brendan Jay Merrick, a dashing privateer whose daring sea battles against His Majesty's fleet have made him a legend in the American colonies. Brendan has plans for the Ashton Shipyard to build his magnificent new schooner. But one look at the handsome Irishman, and Ashton's daughter Mira is making plans of her own . . .

Mira Ashton - queen of schemes and mistress of spunk - disguises herself as a crew member and sneaks aboard the newly built Kestrel to become the schooner's sharpest gunner ... and the captain's most outrageous distraction. As passions flare, desire explodes with the turbulence of an angry sea with Mira competing against Kestrel for Brendan's love. But when tragedy strikes, Mira must join forces with her mighty rival in a daring adventure that turns the tide of battle and brings glorious victory to the colonists, the captain ... and the lady who has captured his heart.

Captain of My Heart Details

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Author : Danelle Harmon

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From Reader Review Captain of My Heart for online ebook

Deb Diem says

Captain Of My Heart by Danelle Harmon is an extraordinary historical romance. Ms. Harmon has given us a book that is not only well-written but is packed with phenomenal characters. Brendan is a Flag Captain for the King's Navy, he's shot by a jealous captain of another ship and falls overboard. He resurfaces after a time as a privateer captain...working with America. Mira runs a horsemanship school, when she's not sneaking away on her brother's ship. Their story is action-packed and loaded with drama, humor and sizzle. This is a serious historical romance but the actions and antics of Mira turn it into a totally fun book to read. I enjoyed this book from start to finish and look forward to reading more from Danelle Harmon in the future. Captain Of My Heart is book 2 of the Heroes of the Sea Series but can be read as a standalone. This is a complete book, not a cliff-hanger.

I voluntarily read and reviewed an advanced copy of this book. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

Siobhan says

Captain of My Heart is the second book in Danelle Harmon's Heroes of the Sea series, yet it works perfectly fine as a standalone novel. I am now interested in going back and reading the prior book, along with going on to read the later books, but this is due to my enjoyment of this story rather than being a necessity for understanding of this story.

From the start, this one intrigued me. We begin with action in an interesting time period with a fun setting, ensuring I'll be desperate for more. As the story progressed and more came to light, I found myself slipping deeper and deeper into the story. In truth, I had been a bit unsure about this one – I enjoy a good historical romance, yet I generally stick to short stories and novellas in the genre – yet this longer historical romance certainly had me more than willing to dig much deeper into the story than I'd expected.

In all honesty, this one isn't quite a full four-star rating. That being said, it was so close I had to round up my rating. The only reason for this is due to the amount of information that was thrown about regarding the ships at times. Sure, I appreciated the amount of research and detail. At the same time, I found myself wanting the sections to move by rapidly so I could go back to the action. It wasn't often, but occasionally these elements would result in my attention slipping slightly. It was a small thing, though, which is why I was happy to round my rating up.

After all, the stories and the characters in this one grabbed me. There were plenty of things to love and hate with this one, plenty of things to bring about emotions. You'll let out some chuckles, you're groan at some of the characters, and you'll feel sucked into the story. It's certainly a story that engages you, leaving you happy to turn each of the pages.

As a whole, I had a lot of fun with this one and will happily read more of the author in the future.

Heather *Awkward Queen and Unicorn Twin* says

Buddy Read with Nenia and Sarah!

Well, that was refreshing!

The romance was adorable. Brendan was confident, talented, and handsome, but also rather shy of attention. He was a delight to read. Mira was a true spitfire heroine who annoyed me a little at first, but in the end I was charmed by her. Together they were quite cute.

I only wish more time had been spent on their romance (and sex, obviously). A large portion of the book was taken up by ship battles and descriptions, which, while stunningly researched, were not terribly interesting to me. However, I do think they were written in the best way they could have been. Brendan captaining a ship was fun, and his crew added much-needed character to the scenes.

The arguments of the Ashton family were pretty amusing, as was the way Brendan reacted to them. I had fun reading this, but like I said, I wished for more interaction between the leads. I did just download another freebie by Danelle Harmon, *The Wild One*, and I look forward to reading that.

Minx -The Genre Minx Book Reviews says

True Rating 4.5 stars!

When I started reading *Captain of My Heart* I thought that it was going to be a historical romance of the nautical sort and that was very cool with me. What I read was so much more though and I loved it. This story is set at the start of the time when America was starting to throw off the shackles of British rule and many in America were deeply set against anyone who was British. Brendan Merrick was a half-British, half-Irish Flag Captain for the British Navy before he was betrayed by one of his peers, Richard Crichton. An incident had left Brendan half dead. Before he was able to tell his side of the story though, Crichton had turned everyone against Brendan and Brendan lost everything.

Which was a great benefit for America as Brendan became an American privateer and he loved nothing more than to capture British ships to add to the American Navy. If he happened to take spoils from the British, well, that just added to the pleasure of it all. Brendan needed the money because he had a dream schooner that he designed and he wanted to have built by the best ship builder there was in America. Ephraim Ashton was an amazing ship builder and he definitely wanted to build the schooner that Brendan had envisioned but when Brendan had a few mishaps with Ephraim's daughter, Mira, it appeared that both men's dreams were going to disappear before their very eyes.

Mira was a spirited woman who was raised by men and threw off society's conventions. She could sail, fight, swear, and ride as well as any man and in many cases much better. She was a MARVELOUS character! She may have driven Brendan to the point of near insanity with her shenanigans but secretly that only added to her charm in Brendan's eyes. Which was why he needed to stay as far away from her as possible because he did not want to share his heart with anyone outside of his ship. Ships were safe and dependable unlike women who were deceitful and liable to leave you with a broken heart. Unfortunately, Brendan met his match in Mira. Once she had her mind set on a plan of action she was hell-bent to carry it through to fruition and she had her sights firmly set on Brendan.

Captain of My Heart is a wonderful story that has a lovely romance but also encompasses a burgeoning war as well as the fervor of revenge. There is a feud between Merrick and Crichton which may have started years ago but Crichton will not let it rest until Brendan is dead. The details in this story are just amazing. I cannot imagine the amount of time that went in to researching for this story but it truly shows. I may not be the most nautically inclined person but everything seemed pretty spot on in my opinion. The romance element was

wonderful. Brendan was not a brooding wounded hero but he was charming in an entirely different way and you will just fall in love with his character. There are many great elements to this story and the villain was the type you can truly despise. I always love that in a story. I highly recommend that you get your hands on a copy of Captain of My Heart today because it is a lovely romantic adventure that will appeal to all readers!

This review is based on a complimentary book I received from Aurora Publicity. It is an honest and voluntary review. The complimentary receipt of it in no way affected my review or rating.

Find this review and more at [The Genre Minx Book Reviews](#)

Sarah says

Read for the URR 2017 New Year's Reading Challenge prompt 'Pirate Romance'

23/3 - I enjoyed that a lot more this time around than when I last read it as an older teenager. I don't think I appreciated the seafaring action, historical accuracy and attention to detail that this book was full of. I think I was mostly just looking for lots of sex and this only has two scenes, so it got put in the 'boring pile' in my mind, which, I assume is why it got put in the donate pile a few years ago. My prior rating was three stars and when I was being ordered to ruthlessly cull the romances we owned I probably figured at three stars I wouldn't be all that interested in reading it again (how short-sighted I was).

I'm really glad I made the effort to find and read this with my buddy reading buddies Nenia and Heather.

I thought Mira's insults and curses were hilarious and while I **would not** have been happy to sit at their dinner table while a screaming match was going on (I hate confrontations of any kind and tend to try to escape if I can), it sure was funny to read about. While a lot of the details about the ship's movements and physical description went over my head, it all sounded very authentic and since Harmon has a reputation of being historically accurate I have to believe that this book was in the same vein. I wish she had included a sketch of a ship done to Brendan's specifications at the back of the book, because while I can look up individual ship terms, I doubt that this actual ship (or anything like it) ever existed otherwise she would have had to get permission from the ship owner's descendants to use it in her story.

The summary on the Kindle edition says it's updated and revised from the original 1992 version. I'm not **sure** what's changed, but I don't remember reading that prologue. I'm actually going to 'ask' the community in the 'Reader Q&A' section of the book page, otherwise it's going to bug me until I manage to get my hands on a copy of the '92 edition (and since I now own a Kindle edition I don't really feel like spending money buying another just to satisfy my curiosity).

Now I want to reread the first book in the series, hopefully Kindle has a sale on it at some point so I can grab it.

Carolyn says

Read on 1/29/13

Kristal Faith says

I am seriously so excited to write this review of Captain of My Heart by Danelle Harmon. Let me preface this by saying that I have gone through a little reading slump this year and find it very hard to “fall madly in love” with many books. I promise you, that I did not have that problem with this book. Actually it was quite the opposite. I fell hard and fast and probably now all of the other books I read this year will not compare at all!

With Captain of my Heart I found so many old feelings rushing back while I was reading! Those feelings of angst and being unable to put a book down in the middle of the chapter, or thinking about ALL day at work about getting back to the last place you left off. That warm, achy feeling you get during a really tender kiss or love scene that just makes you find the romantic in you and give them a big old hug. Does any of this sound familiar? Do I sound crazy?! I certainly hope so. That’s the only way to be about a book that brings so many emotions to the forefront and at the same time introduces you to a heart stopping h/h like Mira and Brendan. not to mention their quirky secondary cast of characters. I can’t remember how long it has been since I have been so in love with a group of characters!

Everything about Captain of My Heart just works! It’s a guiltless pleasure of a read with an absolutely fantastic plot full of action, romance, intrigue, the open seas, treachery- it all worked together to simply keep me entranced! The writing is great, the characters both believable and completely over the top and the romance..... the romance is one that grows from page to page until all of a sudden it’s this wonderful living, breathing entity taking my breath away.

I loved this entire cast of characters. I mean really, there isn’t just one that I love they are all up there on the list. But really no single character in any of the books that I have EVER read has made me have the kind of reactions that I had to Mira. She’s absolutely hysterical. She is crass, vulgar, brazen, she has no tact whatsoever, not a drop of refinement to her and yet I completely LOVED her. More than once I simply threw my head back and laughed at something that she said or did. She is not afraid of a single person and her lack of boundaries makes basically every decision she makes questionable and yet I was rooting for her the entire time. She’s magnificent and completely deserving of a man like Brendan Merrick. Never have I liked a female character more.

Brendan is for all intents and purposes a refined gentleman, loved by many, revered by his shipmates. He’s a golden boy with a heart that beats for the sea and his beautiful ships. There isn’t a woman alive who can take the place of his first love....not any normal woman anyways. Brendan finds himself entranced by Mira from the very first time he sees her and his entrancement grows right along with ours.

Honestly, I cannot say enough good things about this book. This is one of those warm and ooey-goey stories that stays with a person for a long time. I could go on and on and on about all of the things I love about Captain of My Heart or you can just read it for yourselves and see what all this fuss is about! Go forth and buy it and read it immediately and be happy! You will definitely not be sorry!

Krissie for b2b

Regan Walker says

An Unusual Tale of American Privateers in the Revolutionary War

This is part of Harmon's Heroes of the Sea series and chronologically follows MASTER of MY DREAMS. It begins in 1775 on the eve of the War of Independence. Brendan Merrick, just promoted to Flag Captain in the Royal Navy, is shot, the victim of a fellow officer's jealousy. Three years later, in 1778, the half Irish naval architect and rising young officer has defected to the American side to become a privateer, taking his former crew with him.

Brendan is on his way to Ashton Shipyard in Newburyport, Massachusetts to have a schooner built for him when an encounter with his former nemesis leaves him thrust overboard again, but this time he is rescued by the shipbuilder's son, Matthew Ashton. Exhausted after a night spent in open water, Brendan meets Matt's sister, Mira Ashton, dressed in mud-soaked boy's clothes and carrying one of her many rescued cats.

Brendan is a bit like the absent minded professor when it comes to being a ship's captain, brilliant but distracted by plans for his ship going through his head. Still, his crew loves him and he is a worthy strategist in battle. Mira is instantly taken with him as he is with her. To observe his prowess as a captain, Mira disguises herself as a boy and steals onto his ship as a gunner. His crew, loving the jest, aids her deceit.

Harmon has certainly done her homework when it comes to ships of the era, though you might have to look up a few nautical terms as there are dozens you will not be familiar with sprinkled throughout. Her characters are richly drawn. She is wonderfully gifted with words and describes the action scenes beautifully. As with MASTER OF MY DREAMS, there is humor and whimsy here making it a less serious historical romance. I did find Mira's hatred of Brendan when he returned home without her brother a bit hard to believe (it was over the top and didn't seem in character for her). And, it made me dislike the heroine.

If you love an unusual privateer romance, I can recommend it.

Heroes of the Sea series:

Captain of My Heart (1992)
Master of My Dreams (1993)
My Lady Pirate (1994)
Taken By Storm (1995)
Wicked at Heart (1996)

Brigitte says

Captain of My Heart is a historical romance set during the American Revolutionary War where the Americans fought for independence from Great Britain.

Brendan is half English and half Irish. He earns his title of flag ship captain through his prowess at sea. He is respected by his crew for his fairness and the way he respects and interacts with them.

Mira is the daughter of a ship builder. Raised by her father and brother, she doesn't possess the same etiquettes as the other ladies. If anything, she likes being different! She is also quite a handful.

Brendan finds himself being betrayed by one of his jealous compatriots who leaves him for dead. He reappears three years later, looking for the best ship builder to realise his dream of producing a schooner. One of his own designs. Mira's father is one of the best and this is how they get to meet each other. Although, he is taken aback by Mira's attire and her unladylike behaviour, he is also smitten. She too, sets her eyes on him. Brendan has sworn off women after a bad relationship, but can he resist the brazen Miss

Mira? After all, she always gets what she wants!

I like the storyline and the romance. The twists are projected in such a way, that I couldn't turn the pages fast enough to get to the outcomes. Brendan is a humble hero and I couldn't help but love him. Mira is another story, she brings out different emotions. She can be infuriating, but her heart is in the right place. What she does for Eveleen, Brendan's sister is full of kindness and compassion. The lengthy war battles are a little chaotic and even though, they are detailed, I found them confusing and hard to visualise. Otherwise, an entertaining story with Love, laughter, compassion and tragedy. The cats and horses are great features. As for the deafening family "discussions" I don't really know what to say. A worthwhile read.

Frankie Reviews says

Now this is wonderful, who doesn't love a pirate romance? Captain of My Heart is book two in the Heroes of the Sea series, I haven't read the first book in this series but that didn't really matter as I came into this book as though it was a stand-alone and it is an easy to read story that will grab your attention. This is the first book I have read by Danielle Harmon and I can say without a doubt that it will not be the last, I thoroughly enjoyed her creative imagination and easy to read style of writing.

From the first page I was gripped by the story, the story begins in 1775 newly promoted and all around golden boy of the Royal Navy, Flag Captain; Brendan Merrick is shot and falls over board to be thought as dead, all because of a jealous and spiteful fellow officer; Captain Crichton – who really is a horrid, manipulative and sinister man you've ever come across. He really is acid! But don't think that once Brendan is nearly killed that is the end we see of evil Crichton, oh no! Three years later the handsome young Irishman is alive and is now a privateer working with the America. He plans for one of the best shipwright Ephraim Ashton to build him a whole new ship and because of his fierce and legendary reputation of his battles against the British fleet, Ashton agrees and builds him the beautiful Kestrel.

But Brendan is yet again nearly killed again by his former nemesis, poor Brendan again ends up in the water, not to worry Ashton's children are at the rescue, which is where Brendan meets Ashton's vivacious, spirited and feisty daughter; Mira. Mira is a brilliant character, I love her determination, her fire and the fact that she becomes Brendan's best gunner aboard the Kestrel as she sneaks aboard dressed as a boy. Brendan is a little taken back by her, she isn't at all what he is used to, she is definitely no wilting wallflower, this is what draws his attention to her.

I love Brendan, but then again I do have a soft spot for Irish rogues who have a twinkle ? I have always thought you always know the measure of a man, from how he treats his men and Brendan is a brilliant Captain. I found him to be quite the contradiction, in one hand he is fierce, animalistic, powerful and impossibly sexy and on the other he is caring, kind, a thinker with a real warm and kind heart. The romance between Mira and Brendan is fun, saucy, tender and passionate, they are both so alike which does mean fire.

What particularly struck me was how much research the author put into this, the battle scenes are breathtaking, the description the sights, smells of the sea and the ships in particular are atmospheric and stunning. I can smell the sea salt and hear the gulls from my cosy chair, I have read many sea based romances and this has to be one of the best, Ms. Harmon has a true talent for engaging the reader with stunning writing and compelling story telling, which hooks you from the very first page and you will devour every word.

This really is wonderful and one that I cannot recommend enough!

This was a complimentary copy via Aurora Publicity, Thank you Pam.

steph says

Ugh. I had to force myself to finish the last half of this book. I just didn't care and I just didn't like any of the main characters, Myra was annoying and loud and I'm sorry but how did she manage to get onto Brendan's ship time and time again without him noticing? That annoyed me. Judging from the reviews I see I am alone in my solitary dislike of this book which is a shame because the time period is really interesting (Colonial America + Royal Navy + Privateers) but I just couldn't stomach the characters and all the yelling. Every single person yelled in this book.

I did like the cats, however.

Dianne says

He dreamed of his perfect woman, then he designed her and had her built. Together he planned for them to take to the seas on adventure after adventure as an American legend, a privateer who could become a thorn in the backside of the British Navy. Captain Brendan Merrick didn't know that he could find a flesh and blood woman who could rival his love for his ship. Then again, he hadn't yet met Mira Ashton.

Mira is a force to be reckoned with, a tsunami of a woman who could stand with the best sailors at sea, and on land, she was as brash and hot-tempered as any man. She also knew as soon as she saw the half-dead sailor that her heart was spoken for.

Prepare to set sail in a delightfully refreshing tale of action and romance as Danelle Harmon's **CAPTAIN OF MY HEART** plunges us headlong into a gloriously humorous love triangle between a ship's captain, his schooner and the woman he couldn't have known existed!

Brendan is that hero, the one with honor, the one who dares to taunt the enemy and sail away, the one who is as dashing handsome as he is charming. Mira is a powerhouse of excitement, completely a woman way before her time! She is also, warm, caring and absolutely endearing!

This is NOT your typical historical, seafaring romance, this is a breath of fresh sea air, sweet, daring and proof that love knows no bounds! Passions abound in this unforgettable tale, filled with colorful characters and all the adventure one can handle!

My Rating: 4.5 Stars

Series: Heroes of the Sea - Book 2

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For Reviews, Giveaways, Fabulous Book News: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

Eileen Dandashi says

Audiobook Review: Captain Brendan Merrick was a man of compassion and one who believed in doing the right thing which meant taking care of the men who served under his command. Captain Brendan Merrick was the new flag captain who previously captained the crew on the Halcyon. It was apparent how much the men love and respected him. Crichton the current captain of the ship was despised by his men and captained with an iron fist. We walk into a scene where Dalby was strung up to be thrashed for stealing a dry biscuit.

The day he was cruelly, and with knowing intent by Crichton, shot and then fell overboard was the day that he no longer belonged to the Royal Navy (1775).

This was a wonderful way to start the story, my emotions were laid out plain and simple-- compassion for Dalby, hatred for Crichton, the antagonist, and affection for the well-loved flag captain, all were dumped into the cold ocean along with Brandon Merrick's body. I was dumbfounded!

Three years later (1778) Captain Brendan Merrick had his own ship, privateering for the American colonies. He survived the bullets and sea, changing sides from Royal Navy to the American colonies. The gods of fate intervened.

We early on are introduced to Dalby, an incredibly funny character with hypochondriac inclinations, and Liam, an officer on the captain's ship, who was Brendan's childhood friend. Both of them produced lots of humorous moments.

I want to share this funny scene, one of several in the story. It seems that Crichton has not lost his hatred of Brendan Merrick through the years and he's following him into Newburyport getting ready to blow the ship Annabel out of the water.

Excerpt:

"Brendan!"

Liam's voice, desperate and wild.

"Bren-daaaaaan!"

Faith, where was their confidence in him?

Sure enough, there was Liam, all two hundred strapping pounds of him, shoving his telescope into a seaman's hand and hurtling toward him at breakneck, speed. Blue eyes bulging, he slid into the deckhouse where Brendan was sitting, nearly tripping over a ringbolt as he grabbed desperately for his arm.

Brendan barely glanced up. "Honestly, Liam, as an officer, you really should try to set a better example. Racing across the deck like that—"

"God Almighty, Cap'n, it's Crichton commandin' that frigate!" Liam had his arm now, nearly ripping it from its socket; the drafts jumped in the wind, and Brendan grabbed them just in time. "D'ye hear me, Brendan? Crichton!"

Astern, the British frigate drew closer, determined to prevent them from reaching the Merrimack River and the safety of Newburyport. Water thundered and creamed from her bows. Drums rolled ominously upon the wind. Pipes shrilled. Gunports were yawning open. . . .

While forward in Annabel's bows, Dalby O'Hara crouched miserably, a gnarled hand clamped over his belly, and his face the color of oatmeal as he remembered his own treatment at the hands of that frigate's captain, three years before.

At his elbow, Fergus McDermott, an atheist who'd adopted religion thirty seconds earlier, recited the Twenty-third Psalm over and over in a mindless chant.

Brendan held up the schooner's drafts so that Liam could see them better. "Y'know, Liam, I've been thinking . . . Maybe I ought to give the bowsprit a bit more steeve. Other than that, I think she's going to be perfect. Sharp in the topsides around the bow, lean in the stern, and lots of rake in both. Not only will our new privateer be a swift as the wind, she'll sit so low in the water that her profile will be all but invisible from a distance! And with this hull shape, she'll be perfect for windward sailing, and we'll be able to carry a greater press of sail, even flying topsails and topgallants if we've a mind to--"

"Brendan—"

"Too little beam and she'd be fast but unstable. Too much and she'd be a laggard. Too fine a bow and stern and we'd sacrifice weight-carrying ability fore and aft. That means guns, Liam! And in a privateer, that won't do, now, will it?" Beyond Annabel's desperate bowsprit the sunset smeared the sky in brilliant tones of red and purple, reflecting against the water as it changed from sea-cop to rippling cat's paws of current. In the distance, Newburyport was coming into view. "Ah, Liam, if we had this schooner right now, we'd leave that beast back there lumbering in her own bow-wake. If we had the schooner—"

"Dammit, Brendan, we're not goin' t' have a schooner if ye don't put down those bloody drafts and listen 't me! It's Crichton!"

Brendan glanced up, his eyes alight with mirth, and his mouth set in the same quirky grin that was as reckless now as it had been when he and Liam had spent their childhoods exploring the rocky shores of Connaught. It was a grin that was sure to drive poor Liam mad. "So anyhow, I've decided that if I have this Ashton fellow build her exactly to my specifications, ninety feet on deck, with a beam of twenty-three feet—"

Dead astern, the frigate's sails shook and boomed as she leaned over onto a new tack, the guns that stabbed from her forecandle glinting blood-red in the setting sun.

"—and with a draught of just under ten feet- Faith, Liam, will you please let go of my sleeve?"

"But it's Crichton!"

* * * * *

The scene goes on, continuing to make me laugh. As I retyped this scene, I was laughing! Isn't Captain Brendan Merrick just the sweetest thing? I liked him from the prologue scene in how he treated his old shipmates in 1775, but in 1778, I loved him. And I must tell you, Wayne Farrell knows just how to portray the captain. I could hear the tone of mirth in the dialog. His accent was just amazing.

When we meet Miss Mira Ashton she's singing Yankee Doodle Dandy, in breeches which is her usual dress, training a horse. Here, dear reader, is a scene where we learn the stuff that makes Mira Ashton who she is. And she ISN'T a singer. Again Wayne Farrell does an excellent job with the singing. I have NEVER heard Yankee Doodle Dandy sung by someone tone-deaf. Yikes! (Wayne had difficulty singing it thus, since he has an excellent singing voice)

Ms. Mira Ashton had a personality that was fun discovering. She had a softer side hidden by the only way

she knew how to act. But she was very perceptive, both with animals and people. She is a rather boisterous, uncouth young lady, acting as her brother Matthew and father. She holds her own in their umpteen arguments. She's a multi-faceted character, well-defined. Narrator Wayne Farrell outdoes himself in the dialog as they argue. I've listened to it several times since my first listen and it is STILL crazy fun.

Mira loves animals and cares for and saves injured or starved strays. Once well, she finds new homes for them, well, MOST of them. She's extremely patriotic, loves ships. Mira changes through the story, not who she is so much, but how she interacts with people. She wants and needs to change, because she knows that Captain Brendan is her man. She just needs to make him at least like her. There are some very poignant moments between these seemingly ill-matched pair.

Wayne Farrell speaks each sentence clearly, in a quiet manner letting the listener hang on to each sentence. His voice is mellow, with a light lyrical lilt of words that simply held the magic so eloquently splayed on the page.

The author uses powerful words in her descriptive sentences and Wayne gives the listener time to savor them. His Yankee and Irish accents are brilliant. The carefree, gallant, and sometimes jocular manner of the Irish captain Brendan is personified through Wayne's emotional tone.

At other times he bellows where dialog provides the opportunity, sings as if he's tone deaf, and carries us into the story as waves to the shore.

I could go on and on about the book, the dialog, the description of scene, the character development, the characters themselves. It truly was marvelous. It is a MUST READ if you love historical romances, to laugh, cry, and generally fall in love with a book. I plan on listening to it again, just for the fun and pleasure of hearing it a second time. I absolutely KNOW you will love the book and if you can get the audiobook, even better. This is one of my top reads/listens of the year.

Nenia ? Queen of Literary Trash, Protector of Out-of-Print Gems, Khaleesi of Bodice Rippers, Mother of Smut, the Unrepentant, Breaker of Convention ? Campbell says

Instagram || Twitter || Facebook || Amazon || Pinterest

I read this book for the Unapologetic Romance Readers' New Years 2017 Reading Challenge. For more info about what this is, click [here](#).

Heather, Sarah, and I decided to do an impromptu buddy read of CAPTAIN OF MY HEART because it was free, and as the mods of the Unapologetic Romance Readers group, it is our job to read as many romances as unapologetically as possible. #ReadDangerously

I was skeptical about this book from the beginning and only downloaded it because it was free. Why? A) that title, and B) this book was originally published in 1992, and you guys *know* how I feel about 90s bodice rippers (or should by now, considering how often I complain about them in my reviews - have you been following me?!).

So with low expectations, I began reading this book, and found myself...actually impressed.

CAPTAIN OF MY HEART opens up with action. We're introduced to Brendan Merrick, a charming, half-British, half-Irish flag-captain who is beloved by all his crew. When he finds out one of his immediate subordinates is mistreating members in exceedingly cruel ways, he immediately sets out to put a stop to it. But that man - Richard Crichton - is a villain of every sense of the word. He shoots Brendan's sister, Eveleen, shattering her hand, and then shoots Brendan as well, knocking him overboard. With no one the wiser, Crichton tells his superiors Brendan turned traitor, gets his position, and continues his villain unchecked.

Meanwhile, America is currently in the midst of its Revolutionary War. Mira is an overzealous patriot who enjoys dressing in men's clothing, fighting with her fists, singing boisterous songs, rescuing stray cats and then sneaking them into her house (they're called Rescue Efforts and they have numbers), and baking inedible pies. Her brother, Matt, is a privateer who leads his men against British ships to either sink or rob. When Brendan washes ashore, everyone assumes he's a no-good British spy, but it turns out he's actually her father's newest client with a ship design that's never been done before, but will make her father both famous and rich.

The romance unfolds against the backdrop of war, as well as Crichton's revenge quest for the man he felt robbed him of both his honor and his rights. The descriptions of the ships are wonderful, and the schooner that Brendan commissions, *Kestrel*, is pretty much a character herself. I can't imagine how much research went into this book, but it must have been a lot. The detail is incredible, and it seems like the author knows what she's talking about (I don't know for sure, though. What I know about ships could fill a thimble, and there would still be plenty of room left over for the thumb).

Crichton was a great villain. He was scary without being ridiculous, and his obsession with bringing Brendan down really kept the plot going. I loved Brendan. He's not one of those rapey heroes who still desperately tries to pretend he's the good guy that you see so often in 90s bodice rippers. He's a genuinely nice guy, and his charm seduces its way off the pages, making the reader go, "Faith!"

When Brendan's sister, Eveleen, is introduced, she and the heroine don't like each other and there is some body shaming that made me go, "Okay, here we go..." But then Eveleen's character is developed more, and to my surprise, Harmon did a halfway decent job portraying emotional eating. Eveleen and Mira bond, and Mira actually helps her exercise to lose weight and helps give her a renewed sense of confidence in herself. She loses the weight slowly, and learns to deal with the hand that was disfigured by Crichton's bullet. I really enjoyed her story arc a lot, because it isn't often that you see female characters who aren't the heroine developed so fully.

I could never really figure out whether Mira annoyed or amused me. I loved the Rescue Efforts (because I am a cat lady), and it was refreshing to read about a heroine who was genuinely a bad-ass and not just playing at one. It was cool to see her beating the crap out of people and manning the guns on a ship with

deadly accuracy. Towards the beginning of the last quarter of the book, however, she does something pretty terrible to Brendan with devastating consequences, and it was really annoying to me because I've read several books about heroines who do annoying things because of a Misunderstanding, and then end up doing something drastic instead of just talking it out with the hero. She feels terrible about it later, as she should have, but I couldn't bring myself to like her as much after that. It tipped the scales too much in favor of "impetuous" instead of "endearing."

CAPTAIN OF MY HEART is a great book, though. The pacing is uneven, but the scenes with action and romance are well done, and all of the characters stand out as individuals. You'll be amused by Mira's family's terrifying fights, Brendan's rather eccentric crew, and the personality of *Kestrel*, the ship who doesn't have time for your games. It's got wonderful nautical descriptions and a villain who is genuinely creepy. Okay, 90s bodice rippers, you win this time. I surrender...

Read Heather's review [here](#), and Sarah's review [here](#).

P.S. I see that the Kindle edition I read was "updated and revised." I'm always curious to hear what's changed from the first edition. Does anyone have an idea? Inquiring minds want to know!

3 to 3.5 stars!

SOMDReigel says

I was at first a bit intimidated at the size of this read, as well as seafaring theme, the time period, and that this is an older written book. I'm so glad I gave it a go. I LOVED IT! Action, romance, eccentric characters, and battles at sea against the backdrop of war. The descriptions are wonderful (setting, characters, schooner). *Kestrel*, Captain Merrick's schooner, is a front and center character herself. Details are brilliant and seems like a lot of research went into this book. I highly recommend *Captain of My Heart*.

I just came across that *Heir to the Sea* is now out (came out in 2017). It's the journey of the youngest son of the Captain Brendan and Mira Merrick and I'm eager to read it.

Review copy provided by Aurora Publicity
