



The Pursuit Of...

Courtney Milan

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What do a Black American soldier, invalidated out at Yorktown, and a white British officer who deserted his post have in common? Quite a bit, actually.

- They attempted to kill each other the first time they met.
- They're liable to try again at some point in the five-hundred mile journey that they're inexplicably sharing.
- They are not falling in love with each other.
- They are not falling in love with each other.
- They are... Oh, no.

The Pursuit Of... is about a love affair between two men and the Declaration of Independence. It's a novella of around 38,000 words.

The Pursuit Of... Details

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Author : Courtney Milan

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From Reader Review The Pursuit Of... for online ebook

„•*°*~Gwendolyn~°**★°**★ says

[The separat

Em says

I don't know where my review diappeared off to but!

This book deals with a black officer and a white british officer who go on a trip together from georgia i think to rhode island. this deals a lot with henry's own insecurities thanks to his father's abuse. as well as john's fear for his family. i loved it. absolutely ate it up.

Ashley says

Originally read as part of the anthology, *Hamilton's Battalion*. Review [HERE](#).

Chasia Lloyd says

This m/m historical romance between a Black American soldier and a white British officer/cheese aficionado is HILARIOUS. I could not stop grinning while reading. Their pining for each other is so deep and real. LOVE that this is a part of the Worth Saga as it is quickly shaping up to be my favorite historical romance series.

originally read in Hamilton's Battalion

Alisa says

3.5 stars

There were a ton of things to like here but for some reason I just didn't mesh with the book or maybe the writing style? I can't put my finger on it. I liked it but didn't love it.

BananaBerry says

Very preachy, yet preaching to the choir. If you're the kind of person that picks up a bi-racial mm book, the intro-101 class type "debates" about race and equality aren't going to change any minds. We all likely (hopefully) already fully agree. If I wanted to read about class/race discrimination, then I prefer to read serious books about it, not freshman college party level discourse. And, the characters are extremely modern

in tone, communication style and beliefs - including, very blasé about being gay in the 1700's.

Also, I just didn't see it. Out of nowhere they were in a "haze of lust" and I really thought to myself - wait, what? Did I just zone out for the last ten pages? Where did this come from? And when were they suddenly 'necessary' to one another?

If felt amateurish to me - someone just exploring race relations and mm, and outlining their nascent learnings in fiction form.

Anyway, people love it, so I'm sure it's just me.

Anne Boleyn's Ghost says

Originally read and reviewed for the anthology, Hamilton's Battalion.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

4.5 stars

Holy crap, THIS is the Courtney Milan book I've been waiting for.

A few years ago, Courtney Milan was my favorite historical romance author. I bought up everything she has ever written, and I absolutely *devoured* her backlist. But since then, I've had issues.

I hated her contemporary romance series, and her more recent works have felt uninspired and forced. I didn't get that sense of ease and humor that I had from her earlier books, and that made me feel disinclined to keep reading her.

The last few CM books I've read have all been ARCs (advanced review copies), and so I vowed to stop requesting her ARCs because I don't exactly *enjoy* giving negative reviews. However, once I spotted the cover for *The Pursuit Of...* and read a few positive reviews from my friends, I *knew* I had to get it. I one-clicked it that day and started it a couple days later. And, holy F, **I was blown away**.

I like that Courtney Milan puts her money where her mouth is and **actually writes diverse books**, especially in the historical romance category where diversity is hard to find. I loved that we had a POC MC in *The Pursuit Of...*, and that his circumstances and hardships weren't brushed aside.

But what made *The Pursuit of...* really special wasn't the fact that we had a diverse romance, but that the book was funny and easy and, most importantly, felt *natural*. The storyline just *flowed*, and I loved the plot and characters, which is really, really hard in a novella format.

The humor is what really sold me. The story is the farthest thing from slapstick-funny, but the cheese... oh god... *the cheese*. I had tears, I was laughing so hard. I f-ing loved that horrible/delicious cheese.

I also loved the characters, who both had personality and made a huge impression on me, which, again, is very difficult to do in less than 200 pages.

This book showed the spunk and talent that made me fall in love with Courtney Milan. I'll buy 100 more of her books if she keeps this up.

goodreads|instagram|twitter|blog

~☆~Dαni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

~2.5~

My mother is a huge fan of Courney Milan's work and has read all her books. I don't read M/F but was excited to see that Milan had written a M/M historical romance (her first M/M, I believe).

Unfortunately, I didn't mesh well with Milan's writing style. I found it overly descriptive and somewhat stuffy. (Mind, this is a subjective preference; objectively, Milan is a strong writer.)

I enjoyed the Revolutionary War setting and the focus on the continuing hardship and cruelty freed slaves faced.

John and Henry are brilliant MCs. I especially loved Henry (who clearly had severe ADHD) and his runaway mouth.

John's stoic refusal to trust any white man broke my heart. I didn't blame him, not at all, even though he was at times unfair to Henry.

I liked the banter between the men, although I think their speech patterns were too modern and the focus on the cheese (literal cheese made from milk) was a tad OTT; funny, yes, but it went on for too long.

My mom claims Milan writes steamy stories, but that was not the case here. There is but one muted sex scene late in the book. Maybe my 70-year-old mother and I have different definitions of steamy?

The MCs are separated for several years, and the epilogue is a weird setup for the next story. Even the last chapter where the MCs reunite was disappointing; they never touched or hugged.

I felt the friendship between the men, but nothing more.

Skye Kilaen says

Milan says this delightful novella is "about a love affair between two men and the Declaration of Independence." Which sounds like a menage, and I find that hilarious, but not as hilarious as this book. John, a Black American soldier who leaves the army after being injured at Yorktown, and Henry, a white British aristocrat officer who went AWOL, go on a road trip to find out the fate of John's sister and her husband back in Rhode Island. I don't understand how Milan packed so much into such a short space: John unabashedly challenging Henry's ignorance and privilege, unpacking the impact on Henry of his undiagnosed ADD (my best guess) and his family's horrible treatment of him because of it, a tender falling-in-love story, and amazingly funny conversations about terrible cheese. Actual cheese, which Henry carries around in his pack. It's like a master class in combining banter with real emotion, politics with comedy, and building characters who learn and grow. Loved it.

Ami says

This is my FIRST Courtney Milan's and it's an **MM (!)** historical -- with interracial couple, no less. See, I have embraced MM historical but I still cannot really read MF historical (due to my problem with limitation of what women can do in yesteryear, plus the topic of marriage *bleh*). So I am happy when this one is released individually (previously, this one is released in anthology Hamilton's Battalion: A Trio of Romances)

And I LOVED it!! It's AMUSING -- and Henry Latham is one ADORABLE human being!! I loved that this is slow burn; I had so much joy when Henry and John were on their *road* trip back to John's home... and I loved the letters they both writing when they were temporary being apart. The technology these days has reduced to 'art of writing letters' in my humble opinion, people write shorter in 280 characters or less, or write shortened language in text. So yes, I adore John and Henry's letters to each other.

And the ending (before the epilogue chapter) was lovely *sigh*

Alison says

This novella was one of my favourite things I read last year (2017). It's funny and moving and just really well done. I absolutely love it. I originally read it as part of Hamilton's Battalion: A Trio of Romances, which is an excellent collection of historical romances featuring diverse main characters and the American Revolution. I bought this straightaway when it was re-released and devoured it a second time (and I rarely re-read). I really enjoy Milan's het historical romances, but this is her first queer romance and it's stunning. Henry (white, British) and John (American and black) are both absolutely marvellous characters and so beautifully developed. Their character growth over the course of the story is a treat to read. This road-trip love story is so entertaining, but it's also very moving, and the ending is a beauty. Class and race and privilege are explored in neat ways here, and this book's thoughtful discussion of America's revolutionary ideals is well done. Milan writes excellent banter (one of my favourite things about her books) and the dialogue in this story is quite funny. This is an absolute cracker of a beautiful romance and I completely adore it. I expect I'll re-read it many times.

anna (readingpeaches) says

This review is also posted on Reads Rainbow.

I feel like even if you're not generally a fan of historical fiction, it's different when the books tell gay stories and you're gay yourself. There's just something magical and healing about meeting in the text someone like you, who lived a century, two ago. Especially when they get to have a happy ending.

So with that in mind, let's talk about *The Pursuit Of...* It takes place in the XVIII century, right during the American Revolution. (And yes, there is some recitation of the Declaration of Independence and yes, it's more romantic than you would ever have imagined.) To make things more interesting, our main characters are a black, freed American and a wealthy, white Brit. They meet on the battlefield, where they obviously try to kill each other.

The thing is, though, this isn't actually an *enemies to lovers* story. Because they're never actually *enemies*? Yes, they seem to be on the opposite sides, but only in name. And before you ask, no, it doesn't take away anything from the slowburn quality of the romance. They still have to learn to see eye to eye, they still have to learn to outgrow their prejudices & what's most important - Henry, the British officer, has to acknowledge his privileges and figure out how to use them for something good.

So it's a story of two people growing up together, in a way; learning about themselves, about each other, about the world. The bulk of it takes place when they walk some 500 miles (and they would walk 500 more). You'd think that means it's boring, that nothing happens. And you'd be mostly correct, nothing much *does* happen. It's not boring at all, though, and that's thanks to the characters. Henry and John are just so wonderfully well fleshed out! To top it off, Henry is probably the most ridiculous person I've read about this year and he makes the whole novella absolutely hilarious.

Yes, *The Pursuit Of...* is a novella, it's barely 40.000 words long. And yet - because of how real the characters are - it will make you laugh, it will make you cry, it will heal your gay heart. It's a love story and it's an exceptionally wholesome one. It's full to the brim with smart metaphors, with little moments that feel almost sacred and ring very true to a gay ear, with pure *hope*.

Tess says

5 stars

Very funny, tender and with a nice slow burn!

emma says

Everything Courtney Milan writes is gold, what did we do to deserve her
