

# Historical Accuracy



Sophie C. Turner

Arlington Court

# Anachronisms

- "as busy as a bee"
- "on the puppyism of his manner"
- "though not quite so chatty"
- "super-excellent disposition"
- "peeped through the blind"
- "I do admire your patriotism."
- "cricket, baseball, riding on horseback"
- "would still remain to suffer from the concussion"

# FAUXnachronisms

- “as busy as a bee” - Sense and Sensibility
- “on the puppyism of his manner” - Sense and Sensibility
- “though not quite so chatty” - Pride and Prejudice
- “super-excellent disposition” - Pride and Prejudice
- “peeped through the blind” - Emma
- “I do admire your patriotism.” - Emma
- “cricket, baseball, riding on horseback” - Northanger Abbey
- “would still remain to suffer from the concussion” - Persuasion

Sometimes, historical  
accuracy still doesn't feel  
accurate.

# What's wrong here?

"She reached for her reticule, recalled she did not have one, and fumbled in the pockets of her dress until she found her handkerchief, wiping at her eyes."

-A Season Lost

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with a sort of anxious parade of mystery fold up a letter which she had apparently been reading aloud to Miss Fairfax, and return it into the purple and gold ridicule by her side, saying, with significant nods,

- Emma

# Where to bury someone?

Avoiding spoilers, twice I've had to reference burying someone beside someone else.

Sometimes, historical accuracy may cause more confusion than it's worth.



# Introducing Mr. Kent

"Kent entered the study, a tall, handsome Black man who wore civilian clothes even better than he had worn a uniform."

- The Crimes of Elizabeth Darcy (draft)

Historical accuracy is never  
good when it's harmful.



...and now, a word on those  
Pesky Victorians.

# My favourite tweet, ever



**Nicola Davidson** 🇺🇸 🇦🇺

@NicolaMDavidson



The greatest trick the devil pulled was convincing everyone the entire Regency era was one big straight, white, G-rated tea party.

6:58 PM · Oct 6, 2019 · Twitter Web Client

**45** Retweets   **4** Quote Tweets   **275** Likes

# Egads, they're alone!

"Steady to his purpose, he scarcely spoke ten words to her through the whole of Saturday, and though they were at one time left by themselves for half an hour, he adhered most conscientiously to his book, and would not even look at her."

"...under that apprehension was putting away her half-finished letter that she might escape all impertinent questions, when the door opened, and to her very great surprise, Mr. Darcy, and Mr. Darcy only, entered the room."

-Pride and Prejudice

# Egads, he's witnessing a birth!

"When Elizabeth had been given a few minutes to change, Darcy returned with Mrs. Padgett; Mrs. Nichols, who had attended only her own birth, would stay in the nursery with Bess. It was Darcy who assisted his wife up onto the bed, and once she had laid down on her side in the manner Dr. Whittling had indicated she should, Mrs. Padgett brought a chair back over so he could sit, facing her. He grasped her hand, and she returned his grip; the pains were rapidly becoming both more severe, and more frequent."

- A Change of Legacies

# Egads, they're sitting down!

"A private dance, without sitting down to supper, was pronounced an infamous fraud upon the rights of men and women; and Mrs. Weston must not speak of it again."

- Emma

What to do? I explain  
things after the story.



# Example of my Author's Notes

"Childbirth was, at this time, undergoing a change in terms of the assistance available to women. Midwives, for the very rich, were replaced by accoucheurs, who were willing and experienced in intervening with a birth (forceps and similar instruments were already being used in this time). Most births took place in London, where these new specialists were readily available, although it was not abnormal for them to attend the particularly rich elsewhere.

The prior, more modesty-preserving method of using a birthing chair, with the physician or midwife making eye contact with the woman through the whole birth and catching the baby as it came out, gave way to new methods. Women used a lightweight folding bed, such as is described for Elizabeth's birth, and laid on their side in what is known today as the Sims position, where the accoucheur could see everything, but the woman did not have to face him as he did so. This position was commonly used in hospitals in Britain into the 1970s..."

# Thanks!

More questions?

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