HEATHER MOLL
JANE AUSTEN VARIATIONS

Steam in JAFF:

yes, there's a place for it

JAFFCon Online
Where Writers & Readers Get Together



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Presented By:
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Read What You Like

- It’s ok to have boundaries! No one should tell you to read outside your comfort zone

- Check book descriptions, reviews, author websites for the Austenesque read YOU want: open door vs closed

- Personal preferences are great! Moral judgments are not



the trend against steam

- Censoring spice is rarely about the spice–it's about control. There is empowerment through choice
- Women explore sex, desire, consent, and relationships through reading open door. They gain education and confidence
- Villainizing sex on the page is dangerous to women. Implying grown women can't handle reading about sex is insulting



the trend against steam

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- Women explore sex, desire, consent, and relationships through reading open door. They gain education and confidence
- Villainizing sex on the page is dangerous to women. Implying grown women can't handle reading about sex is insulting.
- Open door content is not pornography

★★★★★ Verified Purchase

interesting but too much sex

Reviewed in the United States on March 18, 2025

Format: Kindle

Yes, an interesting story but I want romance and loving not raw sexual scenes. I am not into female porn.



Plotting the steam



The sex scene in chapter 15 actually started in chapter 3. The emotioanl connections starts first.

Physical tension increases as the emotional stakes do. You build toward those moments through character development.

Intimate scenes need stakes just like emotional ones. They can be poignant

Plotting the steam:
more about my approach



Same as any scene: every scene has a purpose.
Use all the senses, focus on feelings and personalities



I'm not very explicit. The emotions and setup have more detail than the act. That's what my ideal reader wants



These are the hardest scenes for me to write! And I hate editing them; I feel like I'm envading their privacy



sometimes the steam doesn’t work



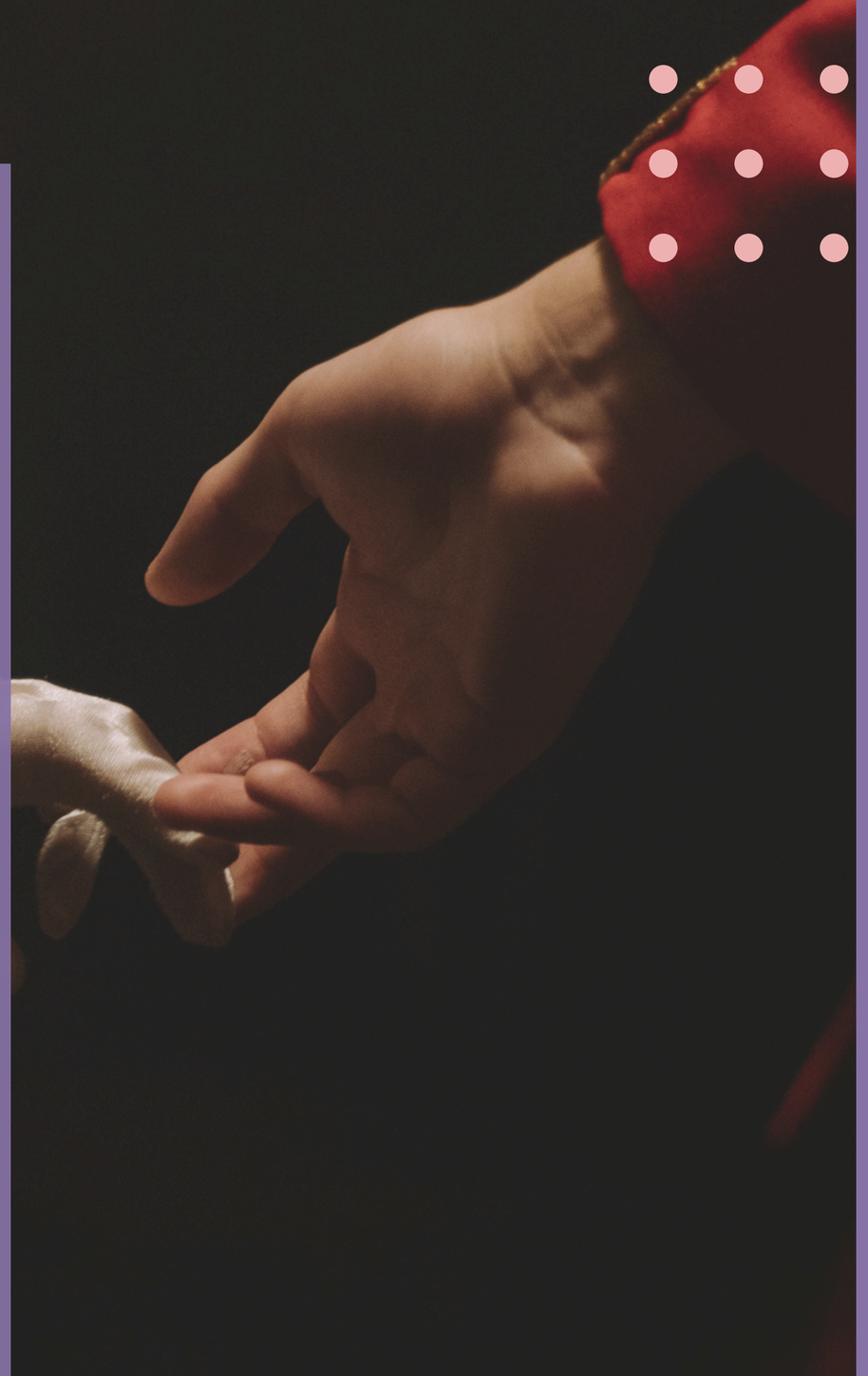
I’ve started out intending to be steamy, but then it didn’t feel right. Then they changed to kissing-only or closed door

Sometimes I’m just tired of wedding night/first time

Steam or not, you still need the emotional payoff. It’s about the journey!

“But it’s not historically accurate!”

- Don’t bring your own preferences or misconceptions to your reading
- By 1800, %20 births were out of wedlock* Parish records show “early first babies” were common
- People were still people two hundred years ago. Premarital sex existed



Sex and Sexuality in Georgian Britain
2020 Pen and Sword History by Mike Rendell

Why can’t you cut out the steam?

- No censorship. Mind your own bookshelf
- The steamy scenes were built upon the character development and the plot.
  If you pull on that thread, the story falls apart.
- Steam has a rightful place in entertainment



THANK YOU

- Questions?

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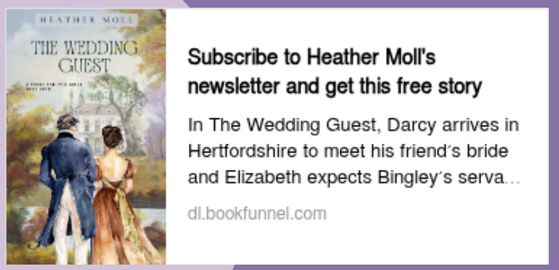
https://BookHip.com/DSTABXV



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