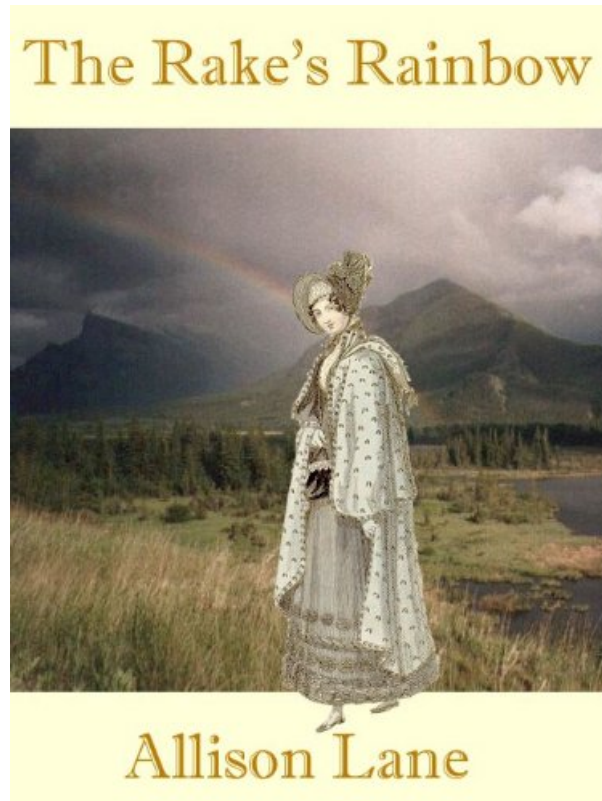


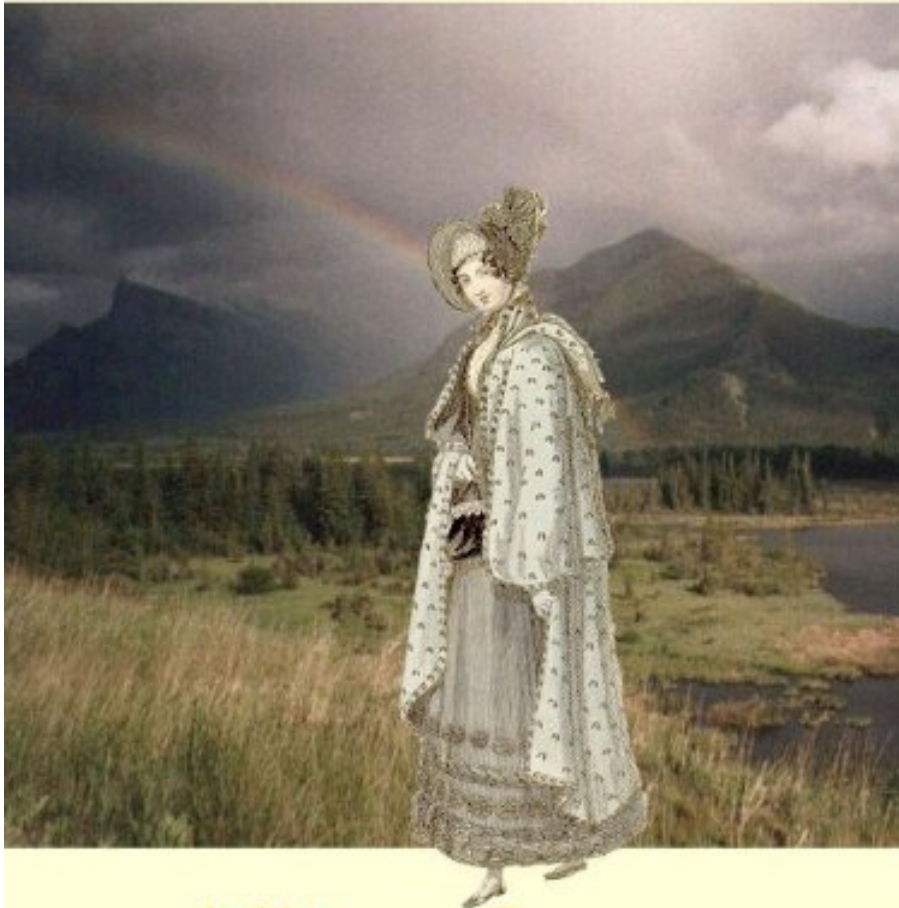
THE RAKE'S RAINBOW BY ALLISON LANE



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From Library Journal

When a coach accident lands the vicar's daughter, Caroline Cummings, and disreputable rake Thomas Mannering in the same bed at a local inn, their only choice is marriage. Then Caroline realizes that the husband she loves is still besotted by a notorious beauty. In a story that strikingly delineates the roles of honor and social consequence in Regency society, an admirable, lively heroine and an honorable but inwardly tormented hero struggle with feelings and duty to discover what they really want. Other characters, such as a wickedly beautiful other woman and a fop, are excellent, as is the author's attention to the social concerns of the times. A high degree of sensuality keeps sparks flying in Lane's first Regency. Lane lives in San Jose, California.

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THE RAKE'S RAINBOW BY ALLISON LANE PDF

Caroline Cummings, a talented vicar's daughter, is inadvertently compromised by Thomas Mannering, rake and second son of an earl. They are forced to marry, though Thomas is obsessed with a now-married London beauty. While Caroline works to understand her tormented husband and build a life with him, he struggles to maintain his honor and their social position in Regency society. Regency Romance by Allison Lane; originally published by Signet and winner of Romantic Times Best First Regency award for 1996.

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From Library Journal

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Most helpful customer reviews

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

Portrait of a dysfunctional marriage

By Susan Smith

My first experience with Allison Lane (*The Beleaguered Earl*) was a disappointment for the book was so full of flaws that I was reluctant to try again. I am pleased to say that I was very much surprised with *The Rake's Rainbow* and recommend it highly.

The story of *The Hon Thomas Mannering and Miss Caroline Cummings* is not an easy read. If you like your regencies lite 'n' fluffy, then this book is not for you. It is dark, distressing and depressing but, ultimately, full of hope and triumph against what seem to be pretty overwhelming odds.

Thomas and Caroline marry in order to escape - for her poverty and governessing and for him in order to gain an inheritance. Thomas had become ensnared by Alicia - a heartless, fickle nymphomaniac who strings him along never intending to marry an earl's mere second son. He slips into a deep depression, drinking and gambling and nearly slipping over the edge into madness.

Caroline is the stronger of the two for, with astute insight into human nature, she is able to save him by letting matters run their course, never giving up hope that the man she sees beneath the hopeless despair is worth nurturing and loving. Some might say she is a bit of a sacrificial lamb but, within the social context of the times, she did what she had to in times when divorce was virtually impossible. The descriptions of her meeting Thomas's family for the first time and finding her way through the Season were excellent for she

does it without the support of her husband who, by this time, is so depressed that he ignores her completely. I liked the way the author developed Thomas's family; each member, particularly his father, the Earl of Marchgate and his foppish but sweet elder brother, had a significant role to play in the development of the story.

There is a great deal of pain, angst and high emotion in this story. Tempers flare, characters sometimes act against their own best intentions and the hero is flawed but honourable. The heroine is strong but tender and loving. Sometimes the reader will want to point a pistol at Thomas and at others will want to love him - for this story is a real emotional roller coaster.

I will read another of Allison Lane's books to see if my first experience was atypical. It's just too bad she did not meet in *The Beleaguered Earl* the exceptionally high standards that she set with *The Rake's Rainbow*. It was very well done; polished prose and obvious careful research gives it a very authentic air. Her depiction of the Season, the Ton and marriage and family life in the Regency era were very good and most realistic.

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

This hero is NO hero

By So Many Books

The "hero": selfish, mean, cheater, weak in character, whiny, self-pity (why is my life so bad, woe is me - let me abuse someone else because I'm too lazy and selfish to care of my own life).

The heroine - liked her for the most part but she put up with his abuse (verbal and emotional) and then when he did have his about-face she made it too easy on him. She didn't require he do anything to atone for his abuse of her.

23 of 27 people found the following review helpful.

Heroine is too good for undeserving hero

By A Customer

Mannering, the novel's supposed hero, is so unappealing and thickheaded that it defies even romance novel logic that a spunky heroine should fall in love with him. Mannering spends the entire novel in love with another woman and treats the loveable heroine, who is his wife, so badly that you actually hope the author kills him so our heroine could find a worthy mate. Not a noteworthy book.

See all 14 customer reviews...

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