

# Persuasion (2022 film)

***Persuasion*** is a 2022 American historical romantic film based on Jane Austen's 1817 novel of the same name. It was directed by Carrie Cracknell from a screenplay by Ron Bass and Alice Victoria Winslow. The film stars Dakota Johnson, Cosmo Jarvis, Nikki Amuka-Bird, Mia McKenna-Bruce, Richard E. Grant, and Henry Golding.

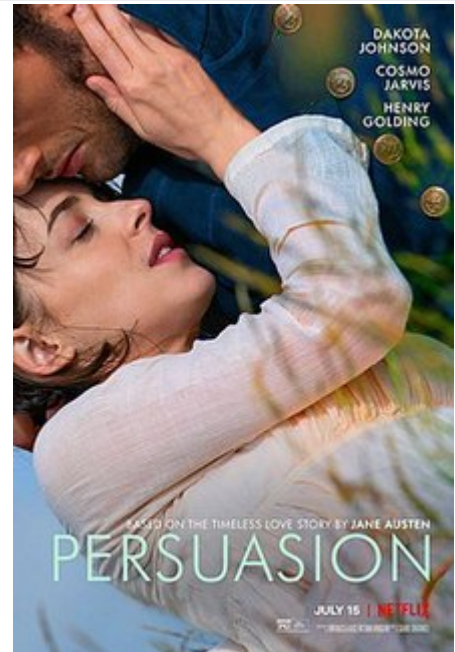
*Persuasion* was released to theaters in the United States on July 8, 2022, a week before its streaming release on July 15, 2022, by Netflix.<sup>[2]</sup> The film received generally negative reviews criticizing the film's modernization of the source material and the main protagonist Anne Elliott (Dakota Johnson) breaking the fourth wall by interacting with the audience.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Plot

The story begins seven years after the broken engagement of Anne Elliot to Frederick Wentworth, then a young and undistinguished naval officer. Wentworth was considered clever, confident and ambitious, but his low social status and lack of wealth made Anne's friends and family view him as an unsuitable partner. Furthermore, Lady Russell, a distant relative whom Anne considers to be a second mother to her after her own died, also saw the relationship as imprudent for one so young and persuaded Anne to break off the engagement.

Sir Walter Elliot, his debts mounting, decides to lease Kellynch Hall, the family estate, to Admiral Croft despite Sir Walter's objection to having a naval man in his house. Sir Walter and Anne's sister Elizabeth, along with the widowed Ms Penelope Clay, go to Bath while Anne is instructed to care for her sister Mary who had taken ill. Admiral Croft and his wife arrive, where it is learned that Admiral Croft's wife is Wentworth's brother and he is also expected to be in the area. While visiting Mary, the Admiral, his wife and Captain Wentworth are expected for dinner; Mary miraculously recovers from her illness for the dinner and Anne volunteers to miss the dinner to sit with Mary's injured son. Unknowing of their previous attachment, Mary's sister in law Louisa encourages Anne to pursue Captain Wentworth but ends up pursuing him herself.

### *Persuasion*



Official release poster

<b>Directed by</b>	<u>Carrie Cracknell</u>
<b>Screenplay by</b>	<u>Ronald Bass</u> Alice Victoria Winslow
<b>Based on</b>	<i><u>Persuasion</u></i> by <u>Jane Austen</u>
<b>Produced by</b>	<u>Andrew Lazar</u> <u>Christina Weiss Lurie</u>
<b>Starring</b>	<u>Dakota Johnson</u> <u>Cosmo Jarvis</u> <u>Nikki Amuka-Bird</u> <u>Mia McKenna-Bruce</u> <u>Richard E. Grant</u> <u>Henry Golding</u>

The group, including Mary's family, Anne, Louisa and Wentworth travel to Lyme to enjoy a holiday by the sea and meet some of Captain Wentworth's naval friends, including Captains Berwick and Harville. Louisa's infatuation with Wentworth is obvious, and Anne tries to hide her feelings. She and Wentworth agree to be friends, and the group encounters a mysterious gentleman who seems to be interested in Anne. They discover his identity after he has departed to Bath; the gentleman is William Elliot, cousin to the family who stands to inherit everything.

Louisa, in a misguided attempt at flirtation, has Captain Wentworth catch her as she jumps down the last stairs of a staircase. She tries to repeat the gesture, despite Wentworth's objections, and is seriously injured. Captain Berwick fetches a doctor and Mary resolves to stay with her while Anne goes to Bath.

In Bath, Anne is reacquainted with William Elliot, who appears to pursue her, while also stating that his intention in Bath is to ensure Anne's father does not marry Ms Penelope Clay thereby creating the potential for an heir which could displace him. Anne learns that Louisa is engaged to a sailor and believes this to be Wentworth given their previous attachment. Wentworth arrives to Bath and is piqued by William Elliot's apparent pursuit of Anne, especially as William leads Wentworth to believe he and Anne are engaged. William Elliot does in fact make her a marriage proposal, although Anne has not given an answer. Anne's sister Mary and family also soon arrive to Bath. Captain Wentworth has been made an offer of a ship and is deciding whether to take it, and overhears Anne and Harville discussing the relative faithfulness of men and women in love. Deeply moved by what Anne says about women not giving up their feelings of love even when all

<b>Cinematography</b>	Joe Anderson <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Edited by</b>	Pani Scott
<b>Music by</b>	Stuart Earl
<b>Production companies</b>	<u>MRC</u> Bisous Pictures Mad Chance Fourth and Twenty Eight Films
<b>Distributed by</b>	<u>Netflix</u>
<b>Release dates</b>	July 8, 2022 (United States)  July 15, 2022 (Netflix)
<b>Running time</b>	109 minutes
<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Language</b>	English

hope is lost, Wentworth writes her a note declaring his feelings for her and departs. Anne runs after him, along the way seeing William Elliot in an embrace with Mrs Penelope Clay. Anne and Captain Wentworth embrace. The wedding of William Elliot and Penelope Clay is shown.

## Cast

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- [Dakota Johnson](#) as Anne Elliot
- [Cosmo Jarvis](#) as Captain [Frederick Wentworth](#)
- [Henry Golding](#) as Mr. William Elliot
- [Nikki Amuka-Bird](#) as Lady Russell
- [Mia McKenna-Bruce](#) as Mary Musgrove
- [Richard E. Grant](#) as Sir Walter Elliot
- [Ben Bailey Smith](#) as Charles Musgrove
- [Nia Towle](#) as Louisa Musgrove
- [Izuka Hoyle](#) as Henrietta Musgrove
- [Yolanda Kettle](#) as Elizabeth Elliot
- [Edward Bluemel](#) as Captain Harville
- [Afolabi Alli](#) as Captain Benwick
- [Jenny Rainsford](#) as Mrs. Harville
- [Lydia Rose Bewley](#) as Mrs. Penelope Clay

## Production

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In April 2021, it was announced [Dakota Johnson](#) had joined the cast of the film, with [Carrie Cracknell](#) directing from a screenplay by [Ron Bass](#) and [Alice Victoria Winslow](#), based on the novel of the same name by [Jane Austen](#), with [Netflix](#) set to distribute.<sup>[4]</sup> In May 2021, [Henry Golding](#), [Cosmo Jarvis](#), [Suki Waterhouse](#), [Richard E. Grant](#), [Nikki Amuka-Bird](#), [Ben Bailey Smith](#), [Izuka Hoyle](#), [Mia McKenna-Bruce](#), and [Nia Towle](#) joined the cast of the film.<sup>[5][6]</sup> In June 2021, [Edward Bluemel](#), [Lydia Rose Bewley](#), and [Yolanda Kettle](#) joined the cast of the film.<sup>[7]</sup>

Principal photography began in May 2021.<sup>[8][9]</sup>

## Reception

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On the review aggregator website [Rotten Tomatoes](#), 31% of 129 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 5/10. The website's consensus reads: "Despite Dakota Johnson's best efforts, the chaotically anachronistic *Persuasion* fails to convince as a worthwhile Austen adaptation."<sup>[10]</sup> On [Metacritic](#), the film has a weighted average score of 42 out of 100 based on 37 critics, indicating mixed or average reviews.<sup>[11]</sup>

*Variety*'s Peter Debruge found Carrie Cracknell to have "gone and done a strange thing with the book", by trying to "modernize it, borrowing heavily from *Fleabag* with its fourth-wall-breaking gimmicks", while "casting a free-spirited, fully liberated American star, Dakota Johnson, as Anne — all of which strips the novel of its core tension."<sup>[12]</sup> Christy Lemire from the [Roger Ebert](#) website found Dakota Johnson offering in the film "a taste of her under-appreciated comic timing", though she claims "it's impossible to care about whether Anne ends up with Frederick Wentworth because, as played by Cosmo Jarvis, he is so stiff and uncharismatic."<sup>[13]</sup> *The Guardian*'s Stuart Heritage wrote that the "attempt to modernize the classic novel



Nikki Amuka-Bird plays the role of Lady Russell.

has led to a disaster of anachronistic dialogue and annoyingly wry glances at the camera,"<sup>[14]</sup> while *Vox* critic Constance Grady found the film an "absolute disaster."<sup>[15]</sup> *The Spectator* went so far as to proclaim in its review that "everyone involved should be in prison."<sup>[16]</sup>

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## External links

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- *Persuasion* (<https://www.netflix.com/title/81410649>) on Netflix
  - *Persuasion* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt13456318/>) at IMDb
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