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The White Feather: A Novel Of Forbidden Love In World War I England



Synopsis

The *White Feather* is a poignant, romantic, and sometimes tragic novel set in both the battlefields of World War I France, and in a small village named Claybourne-on-Coln. This engaging novel presents the reader with unforgettable characters, courageous and cowardly, generous and self-serving. Mary Christian Payne takes you to a quaint English village where Lord Christopher Claybourne lives with his new American wife, Eleanor, and his mother, the Dowager Lady Cynthia, in his opulent family estate. At the other end of the village lives Lily Barton in a charming cottage with her widowed mother, Elisabeth. Their worlds meet at the beginning of World War I. This first novel in the Claybourne Trilogy takes the reader on an adventurous journey, fraught with peril, both at home and abroad. A story of selfishness, devotion and loyalty, culminating in a perplexing mystery, *The White Feather* will leave you wanting more of the Claybourne family. This novel is a stand-alone book to be enjoyed by itself or followed up with books two and three in the trilogy. All three books in the trilogy are now available: Book 1: *The White Feather* -- [.com/dp/B00K1MNNQK](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00K1MNNQK) Book 2: *The White Butterfly* -- [.com/dp/B00KLM7OJ2](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00KLM7OJ2) Book 3: *White Cliffs of Dover* -- [.com/dp/B00M8HL4TO](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00M8HL4TO)

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Customer Reviews

Excellent historical romance set in England during World War I. After the death of her father, Lilly must find work so that she and her mother can continue to live in their modest home. As the daughter of a physician, she apprenticed with her father while hoping one day to go to medical

school. Her father's death changes this plan. Needing to stay close to her mother, she responds to an advertisement for a nurse for a fragile, pregnant, American bride of a nobleman. About to leave for active duty in France, Kit is concerned about his sheltered young wife and feels that Lilly is well suited as both a nurse and a companion. The story follows the events of the war and the decline of the marriage between the the spoiled young woman who realizes she only married the Earl to make her friends jealous, and the officer who returns from the war a haunted and changed man. Lilly may be his only salvation. Then of course tragedy befalls the family. It's a story of forbidden love, vanity, the sacrifices of war, misunderstandings and murder. I have not read this author before but I will definitely find her other works. I enjoyed the storytelling style, although there were moments when the attention to inconsequential details tempts you to skip paragraphs. Overall this is a well-paced, lovely story that I thoroughly enjoyed.

It was agony for me to finish this book, and the knowledge that I have two more in this series to get through - well, I am really kicking myself. I need to learn that a bargain isn't always a bargain. At first, I thought I was reading a poor man's version of GWTW. The part where Kit is lamenting to Lily that Eleanor didn't want his babies reminded me of Rhett telling Melanie the same thing; and then there was the part after Eleanor has the baby and she is worrying that she'll never get back into her dresses reminded me of Scarlett telling Mammy that she just needs to get back to a 17" waist. And then there was that dreadful part where Eleanor insisted that she is a Southern Belle and will always be one. Well, let my say that Southern Belles turn into Southern Matrons once they get married. We deal with it. Okay, that was just the start. Yes, there is a lot of editing that needs to be done in this book, and why the estate has to be italicized, I don't know, but it is bothersome. Lily is an angel, Eleanor is a spoiled rotten brat with no redeeming qualities - that is just over the top. She sounds more like a sociopath. And I do not see why Kit was charged with the crime when he wasn't the last one to see her. And one more thing, maybe I watch too much Downton Abbey but I cannot see the Dowager Duchess being thrilled to have the woman's maid/nanny eating dinner with them, or dating her son. Remember how Lord Grantham responded with the opera singer and the chauffeur? Just my humble opinions. Now on to Book 2. Ag-o-ny!

I felt this book would be easier understood by a British reader. You must be fit and proper with a stiff upper lip, etc. etc. I found it hard to respond to the author's dislike of the young spoiled American bride far from home and family and expecting her first child and not doing well. Being thrust into a family who just didn't like or understand her American ways. All this without a husband's support. It's

no wonder she acted like a 'brat'. She was miserable which was no excuse for her behavior, but was more understandable than her new family's total lack of sympathy and insistence she submit to their right and proper ways. She was struggling with much bigger issues for a young immature woman-loneliness, pregnancy and lack of a loving family's support.

I rarely read novels, except for the occasional historical novel. This beautiful, tender love story provided plenty of WW 1 details which were accurate and germane to the narrative. The story flowed well and never bogged down in superfluous detail. I am a 79 year old man, but I fell "over the moon" for the heroine! . There was no gratuitous filthy language nor sex. The lone sex scene was tasteful and was necessary for the narrative. I'm eager for my wife to read it!

The trials of true love are evident in this sweet story. It seems to follow the nuances of the time period during WW1 when young women were sheltered, and actually discouraged from independent thinking and understanding of worldliness. I look forward to the continuance of the family saga.

At first I didn't think I would like a story set during WW1, however, I couldn't put it down. It expressed the horror of that terrible war. It also had a sweet romance.

Excellent read. Not my usual genre but the author made the characters and plot so interesting I just couldn't put it down. Highly recommended.

This was excellent and reminded me of novels by Danielle Steele. The characters were well developed and the story held my interest from start to end. I look forward to reading more from this author.

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