



Another Life

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A beautifully written novel with great emotional appeal, set in Cornwall and Canada.

Marine historian Mark Hannah finds a hauntingly beautiful figurehead in Newfoundland. He traces her ship, The Lady Isabella, back to a small port in Cornwall where he meets Gabrielle Ellis, the woman who is going to restore her to her former glory. Together they begin to trace jigsaw pieces of the lives of the carver, Tom Welland and the real Lady Isabella.

Gabrielle becomes increasingly haunted by Isabella's lost life. As Gabrielle's own life becomes inextricably involved with Mark's, her story runs parallel with the lives of Isabella, her husband Richard and Tom Welland, the carver.

Two women, living more than a hundreds years apart yet against the same wild backdrop of sea and landscape, make a rash bid for freedom to live another life. But for both of them, that choice means a loss which will greatly affect the next generation.

Another Life Details

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Author : Sara MacDonald

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From Reader Review Another Life for online ebook

Ellen says

I liked this book, except for the fact that it contained 16 unnecessary 'F' words and some brief but explicit sex.

I liked the change of typefaces for the different stories but they weren't always as cohesive as they could have been and there was a lot of detail that could've been left out of the story in the past that didn't connect to the present day story..

This book could have been written in half the words and still told a very good story.

The main character is Gabby who has had a difficult life growing up, a cold marriage and chooses to embark on an affair with Mark, the historian who brings the ship's mast head to Cornwall. Gabby's first friend was Olive who ran the B & B in Cornwall she first came to, then she had Nell, her mother-in-law and she didn't really have any others until Mark. She was married to Charlie for over 20 years yet had never told him what she told Mark within a few months.

There are plenty of subjects for book group discussion - eg:

Gabby didn't drink alcohol at the beginning of the story and Elan said to her that alcoholism isn't genetic but recent research seems to suggest that it is - which is right?

Charlie and Josh did hand slapping and 'wahoo' at each other to say goodbye, self-conscious of hugging;

Thomas said that he carved feelings that men cannot speak of - is it true that men cannot show their feelings?

Josh came home from army training because a friend had been killed during an exercise; "Over the past 15 years there have been 126 deaths during training across all 3 services, including 4 so far this year," BBC News Sept 2015 - why?

"it's the courage that comes with having suffered which strips away cant and shallowness" page 420 - is suffering really character building?

Kim says

Meh

There were many times I wanted to stop reading this book because of the boring nature. Every time I was ready, she'd pull me in with an exciting few chapters, giving me hope for the rest of the book. Then back to boring. What's worse is the final few chapters where, I assume, she was trying to give us some closure.

Characters that were quite enjoyable were suddenly dead or dying with flippant remarks like, oh so and so died, then carries on with the sentence. I would not read this again or recommend it to anyone.

Lynne Vokatis says

This was a great book but sometimes hard to read . It was really In depth with family ties and emotions . I love the art aspect tied in as I am an artist and I'm always interested when it is tied in . It was very well written and I am looking forward to reading more of Sara's books

Jo Wilson says

Nice steady storyline, with twists that lead you through the book.

Enjoyable read, well written and an unusual story. Recommend to someone who wants to read a good story that's not over sentimental.

Anyrock says

In het nederlands heet dit boek Isabella en het is heerlijk leesvoer

Lisa Bergin says

First book by this author that I had read. Absolutely loved it. Just a shame she does not write that many book as I have enjoyed all her offerings.

Roo says

This is one of the best books I've read in a long time... Sara MacDonald made her characters believable. Brilliant

Jill Lamond says

At last. That was a very slow read.

Debbie Richardson says

This is my favourite book of the year so far. The characters are all written with warmth and I spent most of the second part of the book in tears. The author has a knack of writing moving scenes without being overly sensitive. The storyline kept me interested with little twists and turns. I was sorry to get to the end as I'd grown so attached to the characters.

Julschaen says

Meine Meinung:

Ein wunderschönes Buch von Sara MacDonald. Wer auf Bücher á la "Der verborgene Garten" steht, sollte

dieses Buch unbedingt lesen!

Joanne Hall says

A long book that seemed to take me ages but the characters are so believable and it had me in tears more than once. One of those books that has you dying to get to the end to see what happens whilst also dreading next getting to the end because it means the end of the story

mrs julie knowles says

Good read

A wonderful book, really felt you were there. Scenery described so well, loved the characters. Both sad and happy parts

Bluejay44 says

A wonderful read. I laughed and cried at the same time. Both timelines held my interest and all the characters came alive to me. Will definitely look out for more books by this author.

Nadine says

Gleich mal vorweg: Nicht vom kitschigen Titel täuschen lassen!

Erzählt wird in zwei Erzähl- und Zeitebenen, die durch eine Gallionsfigur verbunden sind. Gabrielle, relativ unglücklich verheiratete Restauratorin, und Mark, ein kanadischer Historiker sind fasziniert von der Geschichte der Gallionsfigur der "Lady Isabella" einem Schiff, das im 18. Jahrhundert (glaube ich, ist schon eine Weile her, seit ich es gelesen habe, kann auch Anfang des 19. Jhds. gewesen sein) gesunken ist. Parallel dazu wird die unglückliche Liebesgeschichte zwischen Isabella und dem Schreiner Tom erzählt, der die Gallionsfigur nach Isabellas Vorbild gestaltet hat. Nach und nach fügen sich die Teile zusammen, so dass Gabriella und Mark die Geschichte der Gallionsfigur und damit die der beiden unglücklich Verliebten kennen lernen.

Das Buch ist sehr spannend und auch nicht sehr vorhersagbar, ich bin jedenfalls einige Male ziemlich überrascht worden. Der Teil, der in der Vergangenheit spielt, ist allerdings deutlich spannender und die Charaktere einfach liebenswerter.

Es ist deutlich weniger schnulzig, als der Titel suggeriert und einfach ein fesselnder Schmöker, den ich sehr genossen habe. Durchaus empfehlenswert.

Anna says

Nope.

There may well be a decent story in here, but I'm abandoning it at 14% as the incessant naming in a two person conversation - my biggest hate in any book - is driving me insane. You know the sort of thing:

'Blah blah blah, Gabby.' 'Yes, blah blah blah, Charlie.' 'But Gabby, blah blah blah. 'Oh, Charlie, blah blah blah.'

Just. Stop. Now.
