



Grace's Story

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'Downton Abbey' from the servants' point of view! Another fascinating chapter in the life of Swallowcliffe Hall, a grand old English country house. It's 1914, and World War One is about to change the lives of the aristocratic Vye family and their servants for ever. The war brings tragedy in its wake but also new opportunities for Grace, Polly's daughter and a reluctant kitchenmaid. As most of the young male servants leave Swallowcliffe to fight in France, trainloads of wounded soldiers begin to arrive at the Hall in their place to convalesce. Grace begins to realize the terrible effect the war is having and worries desperately about her beloved brother Tom, away at the Front. Nobody is safe, not even Lord and Lady Vye, making their way back from America aboard the ill-fated liner Lusitania. And then Grace finds herself falling in love - with the wrong person. Can she ever escape from the servants' hall, or is the old order as strong as ever?

"Come on, Grace," he said. "When did you worry what other people think? Surely the only thing that matters is whether you're as fond of me as I am of you."

"How can you possibly say that?" I snapped, angry that he should be so short-sighted and selfish. "The world might be changing but no doubt there'll still be Vyes at Swallowcliffe and servants to look after them for a good few years to come. I shan't be welcome in the drawing room yet awhile."

Grace's Story Details

Date : Published (first published April 1st 2007)

ISBN :

Author : Jennie Walters

Format : Kindle Edition 251 pages

Genre : Historical, Fiction, European Literature, British Literature

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From Reader Review Grace's Story for online ebook

Katherine Coble says

A marvelous discovery!

I am not overly generous with 5-star reviews, but this book earned it. I stumbled across it while searching the Kindle Store for 'Downton Abbey' and figured that for three bucks I had not much to lose. I became instantly swept up by the story, which was filled with interesting detail yet still very well-paced.

I quite literally could not put it down and ended up reading straight through til morning, having downloaded the subsequent two books in the trilogy and burning through those as well.

This is not a ponderous literary tome. It's just a ripping story that is well worth your time.

Patricia Miller says

Continuing story of Swallowcliffe

The story continued at the next generation with Grace's family and the war. It kept your interest and kept the story moving as not to allow you to get bored. To learn about their lives at that time was fun with good descriptions although life was hard due to war.

Alison says

Insipid dreck....the author has the writing skills of a 12 yr old.

Catherine Mayo says

From the start I was caught. The story is interesting as well as being well-researched and well-written. Grace's voice as first person narrator is neutral-modern, with a casual, everyday tone that fits her place as a servant in a great hall, but doesn't contain any hint of dialect, in contrast to the voices of other servants. She's 15, which will appeal to young teenage girls.

Grace falls in love with Philip, son of the younger sister of the Lord of Swallowcliffe Hall, in a slightly eerie parallel to the story of the ill-fated housemaid, Iris of the first book of the trilogy, House of Secrets. (view spoiler)

The reader has to wait for the third book of the trilogy, Shelter from the Storm, to find out, via back story, what happens to Grace and Philip

JayeL says

I like these stories and see the similarities to Downton Abbey. Perhaps the Downton Abbey authors were inspired by these stories? I think this is another cryptic story where we don't get all the background information. Did Grace marry Philip? If not, who did she marry? Did she tell Polly about Edward and Iris? I feel like I am reading the abridged version and not the full version.

Vi Khong says

I would give this book 3 1/2 stars because it was slow in the beginning but the 2nd half got better.
