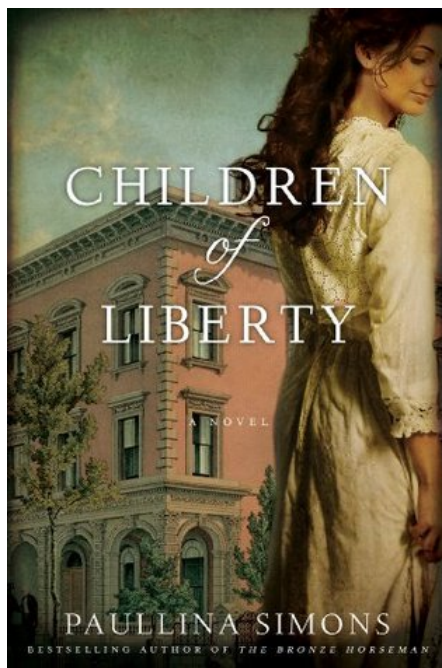




Children of Liberty

Paullina Simons

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Children of Liberty Paullina Simons

Children of Liberty, the much-anticipated prequel to Paullina Simons's *The Bronze Horseman*, is a story of love and possibility in turn-of-the-century America.

Gina Attaviano travels from Sicily to Boston to start a new life with only the clothes on her back. Harry Barrington is the son of one of New England's most successful businessmen. Despite their differences and the strong opposition of their families, their attraction is strong. Set against a time of transformation for a growing nation, Gina and Harry must find the courage to do what is right, no matter what the price.

Deeply emotional and satisfying, *Children of Liberty* features a cast of characters you'll root for as they fight against their feelings, but discover that true love can never be denied.

Children of Liberty Details

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Author : Paullina Simons

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Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Romance, Fiction, Historical Romance

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From Reader Review Children of Liberty for online ebook

Jacinta Boland says

Sadly the anticipation was the only form of pleasure here. Simons forgot to make her characters likeable before they started behaving badly and I was grateful when the weak plot (full of weird inclusions at the end, added in attempt to make it all come together?) finally ground to a halt. Preachy, tedious and utterly underwhelming. I am not sure I can put it on the shelf beside its much-loved cousins from the same author.

Erin says

Prequel to one of my all time favorite series (The Bronze Horseman trilogy) This is where we meet Alexander's parents Gina and Harry. Gina, is the youngest daughter in an Italian family, recently arrived to Boston's shores. Harry is the only son of a wealthy American businessman. Slow moving storyline, but a lot of background information on the different political movements sweeping across America in the early 20th century.

Curlyhairlass says

I'm breathless, stunned and I need a minute to process. My poor heart! This is what Paullina Simons does to me every time. A punch right to the feels, but yet you dare not stop. I love Gina "Jane" and Harry Barrington. That is all♥?

Natalie says

★★★★! Children of Liberty (stand alone). It's the start of the new century and Gina and her family have emigrated from Italy to start a new life in America.

"Never forget where you came from."

Before Tatiana and Alexander

Before Leningrad and Lazarevo

Before everything, there was Gina from Belpasso who came to Boston's Freedom Docks to find a new and better life and met Harry Barrington who was searching for his."

I never wanted to read this. What's the point when we know how the story ends, it can bring nothing but heartache? So I thought that I'd just skip this one and go directly to *Bellagrand*, to meet a young Alexander. What made me finally read was that the author is my all time favourite. And I'm so grateful I decided to pick up *Children of Liberty*. It was so much better than I could have imagined. This is essential to read to completely understand Harry and Gina. And no, this first part of their story, isn't sad at all. On the contrary, I fell in love with this book from the moment a 14 year old- Gina stepped foot on American soil with her family in 1899. I adored being in that era. Learning how the filthy rich lived, seeing how immigrants, like Gina survived, it was fascinating. I was a little worried beforehand that the politics of this story would bore me, but it didn't at all. What little there was, was actually very interesting. The ratings are extremely

underserving to this book. They have to be because people doesn't like the turn of events. It can't be anything else. It's extremely confusing to me. Nothing will ever be as good as *The Bronze Horseman* but the writing is just as exquisite. The passages are meaningful and deep. Are you a fan of Paullina Simons you will recognise yourself immediately and adore every second. This book really did consume me.

"Love is the strongest and deepest element in all life. The harbinger of hope, of ecstasy, the defier of all laws, of all conventions. Man has conquered nations, but all his armies could not conquer love. Man has subdued bodies, chained the spirit but he has been utterly helpless before love. High on a throne, yet he will remain poor and desolate if love passes him by. Love, ladies and gentleman, has the power to make out a beggar a king."

Paullina has such an amazing gift. Even though I didn't agree with everything that happened in this book, she somehow made me love it anyway. No one can do that but her. Not only was the writing astonishing, she also introduced us to the most wonderful set of characters. Harry's whole family, and his wealthy world, I eventually grow to love it all. Gina's whole family and their struggle to make a new world. I loved it all. The contrast between the two worlds was so much fun to spend time in. I instantly loved Salvo, Gina's brother the most. And I loved Gina, she reminded me so much of a young Tatiana Metanova. The fact that I knew from the start, how Gina and Harry's fateful love would end didn't take away from the story one bit. In fact, I think Paullina Simons is a genius for releasing this as a prequel when we already know the main story. It was the first time I've ever read a story in this order and I loved it. I have grown tired of stories with a traditional happily ever afters. I want angst and drama. Anyway, this had nothing sad about it but if you are avoiding this because of sadness, don't. Have you no interest in finding out how exactly the events leading to Russia or misery turns out, and are just curious to see How Gina and Harry ended up together? Then read *Children of Liberty* as a stand alone. **It's so beautiful it's worth it.**

Mollie says

"It's late afternoon on the wide Hampton beach; it's gray and foggy when he kisses her. He's never kissed Sicilian lips before, only Bostonian. There is a boiling ocean of contrast between the two. Boston girls were born and raised on soil that was frozen from October to April and breathed through perfectly colored mouths that took in chill winds and fog from the stormy harbor. But his Sicilian queen has roamed the Mediterranean meadows and her abundant lips breathed in fearsome fire from Typhonic volcanoes. He kisses her as if they are alone at night—as if she is already his. His arms wrap around her back and press her to him. They become suspended, he floats like a phantom around her in the moist air. He won't let her go, he can't."

This is fine quality writing. Paullina Simons crafted a beautiful beginning to Harold & Gina's non-traditional happy ending.

My heart absolutely melted for this couple. They were fools, but fools in love. They have a love to desire, but not one you can easily respect. It's doomed from the start. We learn about their demise in *The Bronze Horseman* series, so you're reading into this with an ending in hand. We know what's coming. I think I relished in this love affair because of that, no matter how messy the circumstances, and because I see this as the calm before the storm. The dream before their reality, Bellagrand, that is.

Children of Liberty is the first part to Harold & Gina's journey and *Bellagrand* the second. I know I will visit this story again in the future. To me it is epic. What is the saying? *All great love stories must end in tragedy.*

?λσα says

παιι λοιπον ο τομος πριν την τριλογια. Τι κ αν εχει βαθμολογια 3 στο goodreads, τι κ αν δεν ειχε την αναμενομενη ενταση. Για εμενα το 4 το παιρνει επαξια γιατι λατρεψα τους χαρακτηρες. Ανθρωποι γεματοι παθη, γεματοι συναισθηματα. Ερωτες που μεσα απο δυσκολιες δυναμωνουν. Ανθρωποι που ζουνε την καθε στιγμη χωρις να τους νοιαζει τι θα πουνε οι γυρω τους. Τζινα και Χαρι σας λατρεψα!! ♥

Rachel Zylstra says

I want to give this 5 stars because I just smashed the last 100 pages and am on a total high! But I can't forget the slow, sinking and eerily disappointing feeling I had for the first half of the book.

There was a lot of character development and introductions to get through. In true Paullina Simons style she does not hold out with her pen. But after about 100 pages I was losing interest and getting VERY worried about where this whole thing was going.

But I knew I shouldn't have stressed about it too much, because finally when Gina and Harry's affair began to really get started things got better. Gina is a lively and lovable character. Harry was very mysterious in the beginning. A closed book almost. He didn't offer much. But as the story went on and I got to know him better I really fell in love with him. He had a smart, witty and yet sometimes dark sense of humour. I loved his jealous streak, and his courage and passion.

Turning the last few pages made me sad as we all know where these star-crossed lovers meet their final fate. Or do we? I'm hoping in the next book (or two?) Paullina reveals Gina's true undoing.

Heidi says

Children of Liberty is the prequel to Paullina Simons much loved Bronze Horseman series. Set in Boston at the turn of the last century, it tells the story of the forbidden love between Gina Attaviano and Harry Barrington, who feature as Alexander's parents in The Bronze Horseman. Fourteen-year-old Gina, just arrived from Sicily with her mother and brother Salvo, first meets Harry and his best friend Ben as the young men try to drum up customers for their apartments for immigrants near the Freedom Docks. And although the family only stay for one night before making their own way to nearby Lawrence to live with other family members from Sicily, Ben is instantly smitten by Gina's dark-skinned, dark-haired sensual beauty. Despite Salvo's efforts to protect his sister and his obvious animosity towards her American admirers, Ben starts making frequent visits to the Attaviano family, dragging his friend Harry along for company. Gina, an enterprising young woman with big dreams for the future, falls head-over-heels in love with Harry, the son of a wealthy Boston businessman, who is also engaged to one of Boston's most eligible socialites. Considering Gina's youth and their vastly different backgrounds, her love for him seems doomed from the very beginning. But Gina does not give up that easily

The problem with prequels of much loved books is that they are being read with high expectations, and can easily disappoint when those are not being met. Since The Bronze Horseman features on my all-time-favourites list, I tried to put those thoughts aside when picking up this book, and to read it with an open mind

and judge it on its own merits rather than in comparison with its sequels. And whilst Boston's politics and turn-of-the-century history could never compete with the interesting and dramatic backdrop of the siege of Leningrad, I was soon drawn into the story and really enjoyed reading about Harry and Gina's love story. As Alexander's parents I had thought them rather foolhardy for trading the freedoms of American life for the confines of communism, despite trying to understand their idealistic political beliefs. Reading about their young love totally changed this opinion, and their characters gained much more depth as I read about their youthfully innocent hopes for a better future.

Gina Attaviano is a delightful character. Like Tatiana, she sparkles with youthful innocence and energy, and I liked her tremendously. Her scheme to win Harry over and ingratiate him with her brother was nothing short of ingenious. I could picture her vividly, this colourful Sicilian peasant girl, so different from her stuffy Bostonian counterparts. No wonder half of Boston's bachelors would have fallen instantly in love with her. And how dreary a life it must have been for women at that time, despite their wealth and the nice clothes – not surprising that speakers like Emma Goldman drew such large crowds as women were fighting for recognition as equals in society. Simons does an excellent job at painting Boston society at the beginning of the 20th century – although I admit that a lot of the political details were lost on me, as I was mostly ignorant about Boston's historical past and famous characters and had to google them to understand their background (I am a little bit wiser now :). And whilst Gina and Harry's love story did not evoke the same roller coaster ride of emotions as the one I experienced reading *The Bronze Horseman*, I enjoyed every moment reading this book and finished it in one day.

My advice to readers is to read this story in its own right, not as a prequel to *The Bronze Horseman* – and to let it take you on its own unique journey.

Thank you to The Reading Room for providing me with a copy of this book!

Athena Macmillan says

I am a big fan of Paullina Simons and as such had huge expectations for this book, thinking it would draw me in as her others have so successfully.

Honestly? I was bored. The book droned on terribly with a very predictable run, including the long expected 'plot-twist' at the end. It almost seemed as though Simons wanted to see how much political diatribe she could fit in one book and still call it a romance, which is a terrible pity because the beginning chapters held so much promise!

Because of the ending one can only assume this is part of a trilogy, so let's hope things improve for our characters! This is about Alexander Barrington (of *The Bronze Horseman*)'s parents, so we know at the outset that eventually they meet a tragic end because of their communist ideals and subsequent travels to Russia, so let's hope that this first book is merely a slow build for a coming exciting ride of hope, intrigue, passion and despair...!

Sandi *~The Pirate Wench~* says

Setting: Turn of the century Boston

Rating: 2.5 stars

Gina Attaviano sails with her family from Sicily to Freedom Docks Boston, where she meets Harry Barrington. Though Gina only has eyes for Harry, as he is the scion of a wealthy family there is no hope for her. However, five years later Gina-now Jane-is a college student graduate and Harry is a struggling academic plagued by his parent's demands that he give up his career to join the family business. A chance meeting alters their lives. As they begin a secret affair, they must choose between family and love, duty and expectation, passion and loneliness. But their choice has consequences, setting them on a path to ruin. This is the "prequel" to *The Bronze Horseman*. The telling of Alexander's parents and how they met. Since the end is known of course, it is the beginning that first intrigued me and I was expecting high expectations for this book I think. I didn't find the characters well motivated. I also found the story, as well as Harry and Jane not very passionately absorbing and started to skip here and there just to get through. Do you really need to read this one before the other three? I think not. I haven't yet read the next three books, and I certainly could have done ok without reading this one as I felt it really didn't give me any extra interesting info into the past. But this is just how this reader felt, it maybe just right for others who feel they need to read this before diving into the rest of the series.

Paiman says

For fans of Paullina Simon's work, in particular her *Bronze Horseman* series, this book was both to be excited and nervous about.

Since this can be thought of as a prequel to TBH series, many already knew how the story of Jane and Harold Barrington ended, but not the "beginning" and "middle" part of their story. I would say that *Children of Liberty* is about the start of their story. It didn't ruin the book for me, but I thought this book would be more of their life together and there is still plenty of their story left to be told, I believe. If Paullina ever wants to write another book about the "middle" of their story, I'm all game.

Having said that, the "beginning" is pretty good. It has the classic Paullina Simons slow build up and burn. I got more invested in the story and characters the further I got into it. The longing and the denial of feelings and what is expected of one, the culture and class clashes, old school thoughts and traditions during and start of a new century and industrial revolution. Both Harry and Gina rebel in this respect, hence the title *Children of Liberty*.

That's another interesting aspect of the story. How Gina Anttaviano becomes Jane Barrington and how Harry Barrington becomes Harold Barrington. As someone who read *The Bronze Horseman* series it was interesting and fun to see how characteristics from both mother and father are in their son, Alexander.

Another minor complaint I have is all the dialogue and passages about politics and economics. I see Paullina's background as a financial journalist and political science major really coming through here. I understand with the era that the novel takes place in, and we know later on how politically involved both Harold and Jane become, the importance of showing the beginnings of this mindset and way of life they decide later on is important. It could just be me, but I thought a few times it brought the pace down and I would have liked more scenes with Gina and Harry just being Gina and Harry- young and love.

There is beautiful writing (as expected by Mrs. Simons) that is just like poetry. One particular passage that stuck out for me:

"Love is the strongest and deepest element in all life. The harbinger of hope, of ecstasy, the defier of all laws, of all conventions. Man has conquered nations, but all his armies could not conquer love. Man has subdued bodies, chained the spirit but he has been utterly helpless before love. High on a throne, yet he will remain poor and desolate if love passes him by. Love, ladies and gentleman, has the power to make out a beggar a

king."

I wish once again that goodreads would do half stars, but alas, the site doesn't so a solid instead. Having said all this, if you are fan of Paullina Simons work or want a good story of two people coming together and finding love, this is for you.

SissiReads says

This is my sixth books by Paullina Simons and it just once again shows why she will forever remains to be my favourite author of all time.

I finished this book with a throbbing heart. I don't know how to make of my feelings and my emotions. I don't know if I should be glad or sad, should be anger and hurt, or should be happy and hopeful. It makes me so conflicted that I really don't know what to do with myself!

I came into this book thinking I would not love Harry and Gina for what they have done in The Bronze Horseman series, for their choices. But I can't help but have fallen deeply in love with both of them! I love their passionate and carefree young love! Oh how glorious are those days! But the consequences? I can't even begin to think about this without having an anxiety attack! I just know for sure that book 2 Bellagrand is going to be hard to read, the agnst that's going to come!

The writing in this book is phenomenal. I know a lot of readers are not fond of all the political discussions in the book but lucky for me, I love politics so that totally is a bonus for me in this book. The way Paullina wrote about family dynamic is just out of the world! The banters, the insults, the subtle hidden agendas, each character development is just so well done and polished, all of them mix so well together, I have laughed out loud so many times and cringed so many time equally! Those parts are so refreshing to me and new to me from other Paullina's books that I feel like i am reading another author's work!

It won't be a Paullina Simons' book without an all consuming and angsty love story and oh my world, that's exactly what this love story to me! From page 1 to the end of the book, I feel it all! The angst, the longing the hope the angry the desire, all of it. When I read those parts, I saw the Paullina Simons writing that made me fall madly in love with The Bronze Horseman series! The beautiful prose, those whisper words! Those stolen moments! I can't get enough!

I should have known better to prepare myself before I read this book, I should have known better that it is going to make me ache my heart out with the angst! It makes me feel so conflicted and that's why I love Paullina Simons, she truly makes you feel all the emotions that you have never felt before with her words. I need to brave myself into Bellagrand, my poor heart, will it survive?

Alejandra says

Bueno, que puedo decir de los libros de Paullina... solo que la pluma de esta mujer es de otro mundo y que todos los libros que he leído de ella me han robado el corazón.

La historia de Gina y Harold no ha sido menos y, a pesar de que me ha costado más por el tema de leer en

inglés, he disfrutado cada frase y cada nuevo detalle que iba descubriendo sobre los padres de Alexander. Ha sido muy bonito ir viendo como se conocieron y se enamoraron. La verdad es que no pensaba que la historia de Gina y Harold me llegara tanto, pero así son las novelas de Paullina, que están en una liga muy superior y te hacen sentir miles de emociones. Creo que para todos los que amen la historia de Tatiana y Alexander, es imprescindible leer esta precuela????

Misfit says

This book is a prequel to the wildly popular Bronze Horseman trilogy, a series I enjoyed a lot despite the need for a red-pencil guy (book #3 went on and on and on). Readers familiar with the back history of Alexander's parents have an expectation of what they're likely to find in this book, so I won't spoil for those new to the story. Unfortunately, this book ends where it should have been started, and I hear that there's at least one more book in the works to tell the story that fans of these books are waiting to read; a story that you aren't going to get in this book.

Children of Liberty begins in 1899 with the immigrant Attaviano family arriving in Boston Harbor to start a new life in America, and almost fifteen-year-old Gina is full of hope and promise. Harry Barrington and his friend Ben offer their assistance to the family (Harry's father owns several apartment houses that cater to Italian immigrants). The Attaviano family begin their new life with family (cousin? aunt?) in a nearby town, while Harry returns to his privileged life in Boston. The bulk of the book then alternates between dinner party after dinner party at Harry's family home with endless conversations talking about politics and socialism, and the struggles of Gina and her family to make a go of things, and whether or not Gina should work or go to school.

Yawn

I'm the kind of reader that prefers a story to start when there's something interesting happening, and then backtrack and fill in the gaps. In this case, the book should have been started at page 375 and moved on from there (but then that's one less book to be sold). While I admire an author who uses dialog to set up the story instead of endless info dumps, the dialog here and the discussions contained therein were endless and mind-numbing. The same discussions over and over and over and over again, for almost 375 pages of this 422 page book. Add to this misery two of the most unlikable characters I've come across since those gawd-awful 50 Shades books. Harry is dull as dishwater and a spineless ninny to boot. Gina was a teenager for most of the book (we all know what teenagers are like), and she wastes no time in lying to her family and the nuns at school and sneaking out with a friend to meet the much older Harry and Ben in Boston. Perhaps they'll grow up and be more sympathetic characters in the next book, but you won't find much to care about here. Library only, then buy it if you love it.

Abs says

4.5* my heart needed a few days to process this one. That ending broke me.

I haven't been able to read anything in months, and knowing how I already felt about these characters after reading The Bronze Horseman series, I was hesitant to read this. But, it's Paullina & of course I fell in love with these flawed and doomed characters. I went into it with an open mind and regardless of how much I wanted to hate them, I didn't. Not one bit. Some of the scenes between Gina and Harry are unforgettable. Gina was such a scheming and compelling character, and I couldn't get enough of her. Harry intrigued me because I needed to know what was going on in his head, he was mysterious and I missed him when I wasn't

reading about him. I didn't trust anyone (except maybe Rose --- LOVED her), so the suspense and the way the story slowly unfolded with the different points of views and side stories had me completely invested.

My only reason for not rating it higher was due to the politics, I didn't hate them, but there was a lot. And thank God it was Paullina writing this or it might have been torture. She just has a way. I laughed so much, esp the banter between Ben & Harry & the Thursday night dinners etc. I just loved this one. I feel closer to Shura because I know more of his history and I'm one step closer to reading my beloved The Bronze Horseman. On to Bellagrand.
