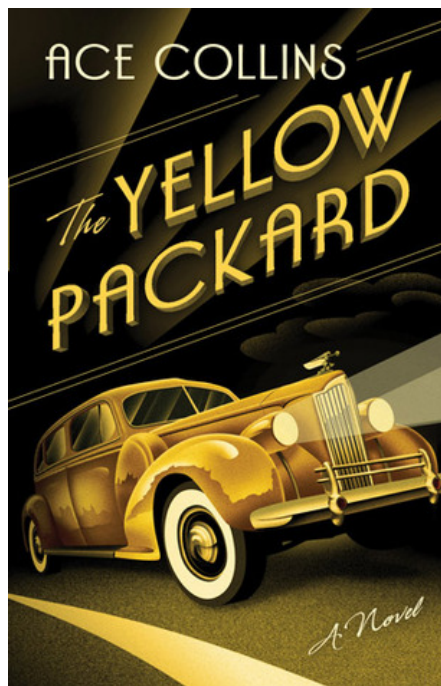




The Yellow Packard

Ace Collins

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The Yellow Packard

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The Yellow Packard Ace Collins

Buckle up for intrigue and adventure in scenic Depression-era America. George Hall, a draftsman, buys a 1936 Packard sedan from the estate of spinster Abigale Watling in Oakwood, Illinois. At first, the car brings George, his wife Jean, and their daughter Rose an unexpected boon. But tragedy follows when Rose is kidnapped. The auto then comes into the possession of salesman William Landers, FBI agent Helen Meeker, and serviceman James Coffman's family. As clues to the kidnapping caper come to light, more than one life is in jeopardy. Will Agent Meeker catch the culprit before it's too late?

The Yellow Packard Details

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Author : Ace Collins

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Genre : Mystery, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Yellow Packard for online ebook

Terri says

This book is a mystery/crime novel set in the era before the war. It does a good job of setting the atmosphere. I found the main character likeable but the rest of the characters were not fleshed out and so elicited no real emotional reaction.

It is a good story. It is very intricately plotted, so much so that it becomes quite unbelievable at times. The coincidences become too much, in an effort to make a point. It's a nice point but the story so hits you over the head with it I found it annoying.

All in all a pleasant way to spend an afternoon, but ultimately it is not compelling.

Martic says

This book was frustrating for the first half of it. Several independent threads about owners of the Packard, but Collins nicely brings them all together with a grand finale at the end. Worth my wait to finish the book.

Jennifer Clark says

Classic, fun "whodunit" set in the late 1930's-early 1940's with a surprising and enjoyable ending. Great read for a rainy day or day on the beach!

Terri Wangard says

A 1936 Packard, special ordered in bright yellow, seems to be a curse. People have died in some connection with the car. When it's auctioned in 1937, George Hall buys it for \$200. The curse is broken when the car's brakes keep George, his wife, and baby daughter Rose from being in a crash. Then Rose is kidnapped. Two days later, the car is stolen.

Helen Meeker wants to be an FBI agent, specifically working on kidnapping cases. The FBI is a boys club, however. FDR gets her in as a Grand Experiment. She wants to find Rose in the worst way. Another kidnapping still haunts her, and she doesn't want that for George and Carole Hall.

Most kidnapped children are killed within the first few days. Hope dims for Rose, but eventually the Packard is found, repainted blue. It yields a few clues, but the search for Rose keeps stalling in dead ends.

The car changes hands a few times. The U.S. is pulled into World War II. And then a chance encounter between the car's new owner and another woman working at a war plant breaks the case wide open.

For me, the novel was a slow starter. The first few chapters focusing on the Hall family didn't entice me to keep reading, but once the story shifted to Helen Meeker, it grabbed me. Cracking the FBI's male bastion proved a harder task for Helen than solving a kidnapping. The ending proved to be unexpectedly poignant.

Charity U says

Wow, what an interesting adventure/mystery! The book opens with a death, closes with a solution, and incorporates numerous stories and adventures inbetween. It was packed with surprises. I was always interested by it, but at the same time, I was able to put it down. The last quarter was extra riveting and will definitely keep you (as the reader) reading! My only problems were a few things that struck me personally as strange...the word "teen" used in 1937 (although it wasn't invented until 1941 – pet peeve [see page 25]) and a two-day baby smiling (rather improbable [page 54]). However, the whole book was seamlessly written despite all the stories in it, and I think it will be enjoyed by male and female readers alike.

I reviewed this book for the author and publisher. However, I was not obligated to post a positive review, nor was I recompensed in any other way.

Lisa Johnson says

Title: The Yellow Packard

Author: Ace Collins

Pages: 320

Year: 2012

Publisher: Barbour Books

The Yellow Packard is a well-written mystery with so much more than a "whodunit" foundation. The timeframe for the story is the 1930's, ending right as WW II is beginning. It is a truly captivating story. Have you heard the phrase "looks can be deceiving"? Trust me when I say that this work of fiction has this flavor from the first word until the last. In fact, as hard as it was, I had to stop reading with less than 100 pages to go because it was 5am and I had been up all night reading! Normally that would be fine with me, but being under the weather I forced myself to put the book down so I could get some sleep. I was glad I went to sleep, but the first thought I had when I woke up and after some things were done was, "Okay Ace let's get to the end!" I was not disappointed. When I put the book down, I was amazed at the gift for weaving a masterpiece that Ace Collins shows in this novel.

We start with an eccentric elderly lady who had no children, but loves her niece and nephew. She had been married and built up a collection of books and memories from her earlier years of life. Abbi had been all over the world and reflected on the multiple events she witnessed firsthand. Abbi knows she is dying, though up to that moment she has had perfect health. When a man she knows ransacks her home, she is unable to stop him. When her niece, Janet, comes for the funeral, it is with a questioning and sad heart that she has to go through her aunt's things to prepare for an auction. You see, Abbi wanted the stuff she treasured to be sold or auctioned off so others could enjoy them and have the money go to charity. Everything is going well...almost.

Then, a man who has just become a new father needs a car. He comes to the auction and estate sale, dreaming he can own the one piece he is sure he will never own, the yellow Packard. George has heard all sorts of rumors about the car, and how it is cursed, but he needs a working car. He starts to walk away, but the further he goes, the more he knows he has to go back and try to get that car for his wife and new daughter, Rose.

The Packard travels through many owners, and with each owner something occurs in their lives. Some see the car as a blessing and others as a curse. Rose is kidnapped at a young age. The only lead the agents have is that eventually the abductors say they want \$5000. After giving some confusing but very exact directions for the drop off of the ransom, when all is thought to be okay was Rose is returned, it seems worse for not only had the abductors taken the money, not returned Rose, they took the Packard too.

The characters are a variety from everyday people to the White House with scenes from all over The United States of America. From housewife, to FBI agent, florist to factory workers, each has somehow been tied together because of this one car. There is greed, kidnapping, murder, as well as solving the multitude of crimes with an added bonus. If I were to tell you the added bonus or more about the book, it would ruin it for

you. Since my goal is to share with you enough to whet your appetite to read it, I hope I have succeeded in doing just that. This novel has a multi-layered plot from a Class A writer with storytelling at its finest that should grab your attention. I know it did mine!

My rating is 4 ½ stars.

Note: I received a complimentary copy for an honest review of this book. The opinions shared in this review are solely my responsibility. Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyurheart.blogspot...> . Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

Linda says

[I must confess I was surprised when the identity of the kidnap victim was revealed. I was convinced she was going to be Angel. (hide spoiler)]

Beckie Burnham says

In an attempt to whittle down my Kindle TBR list, I randomly choose books to read. Last week I picked The Yellow Packard by Ace Collins. Was it really a random choice (more on that later)? Not sure, but I am glad I did. What a great story. Again a winner from Ace Collins!

The Yellow Packard can be described as an historical mystery. Set in the years leading up to WWII, Collins has done a great job in making his novel feel authentic — from the old cars, to the police work, to the descriptions of people and places. The characters are nicely developed with realistic actions and reactions to the stress the author puts them under. One of my favorites is Helen Meeker, an attorney with a past that drives her to try to break into the FBI, a job not just dominated by men, but at the time reserved only for men. Her intelligence and ambition, plus intuition help her to crack a case that others give up on.

A cursed car, greed, murder and kidnapping — all the elements needed for a twisting, turning mystery that will surely keep you on your toes. As the Packard changes owners blessings abound. But many find the car to be the cause of heartache. And just as you think you know what is going on, Collins takes the story in a whole other direction. Seemingly random events build on each other to bring the final conclusion — one you won't see coming. It is the randomness of life that Collins explores. Coincidence and happenstance follow the Packard and its owners. But two verses from the Bible kept coming to my mind as I read:

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose

Genesis 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Characters struggle with a good God in the face of evil. The truth of God's sovereignty, wisdom and provision are subtly expressed throughout the novel.

If you are looking for a complex mystery as well as a story well-told, definitely check out The Yellow Packard. And if you love Helen Meeker's character there is good news! Collins has developed an episodic series, In The President's Service, available in ebook form that features Helen as she takes on criminals and spies during WWII.

Highly Recommended.

Audience: Older teens and adults.

Great for Book Clubs.

Andy2302 says

Exactly what I was looking for. An anecdotal adventure with a central thread. The characters were real in a nostalgic time. Fast passed action & interest to the last page with a female over achiever. A solid 4 stars ~ Recommended.

Lorraine says

A fun, classic 'whodunnit' mystery.

Hooskadoo says

This is a fast paced page turner. Your attention is grabbed right at the first chapter and you are quickly filled with anticipation of the coming events. Each subsequent chapter adds more anticipation, twist, turns and intrigue. There is never a dull moment. Just when you think you have it all figured out, another twist, another angle. Great great read. From the first chapter to the last, this book does not disappoint. If you are reading another book right now, put it down. Pick up "The Yellow Packard"

I received this book free as part of the "first reads" giveaway. Thank you for a wild, exciting and eventful ride in a beautiful classic car.

Thera Rhodes says

I probably would have given this book 5 stars if not for one or two things. The first thing is that new characters were introduced in the middle and at the end of the book that had seemingly had nothing to do with the actual plot. We find out that they do have to do with the plot later thought. It was just a little frustrating to be reading and then wham a new family to get to know.

I won this book as a first-reads giveaway. The book seems to be a finished copy. However, there were a lot of errors and on one page they called a character the wrong name and almost gave away the whole plot. Good thing there was another twist and that didnt happen. Not sure if that is an author error or publishing error.

The book was really good though and grabbed you from the beginning with a lot of twists and turns that you never really saw coming! I would definitely recommend this book to my book-loving friends. In fact, I have and she plans to read it as well!

IrenesBookReviews says

What a suspense filled story! There is so much going on in the story that you will not want to put it down till you read the ending! I gave this book 4/5 stars. I liked the plot and thought it was very well written. It flowed from one scene to the next flawlessly. There were some issues with some of the characters. I just could not relate to all of them. Usually you can get a feel for characters and empathize with them but a few of the characters in this story did nothing for me. I think the plot could have done without a few of the extra characters and that would have made this a five star book!

I would like to thank the publisher for the copy of this book I enjoyed reading. I gave an honest review based on my opinion of what I read.

Rhonda says

The Yellow Packard by Ace Collins
4 STARS

This book has so many twists and turns in it. I have to admit to shedding some tears in it. The Yellow Packard some believe its cursed with bad luck. Before it was even all put together it caused a death in the factory. After that it caused havoc and mayham to the owners. Also some good luck to them too.

Its a mystery of who dunit books,kidnapping case,murder mystery all in one book.

Abigale Watling was the owner of the bright yellow Packard when she was murdered. Thier was no proof that she was murdered but she had over 100,000 in cash that disappeared and never showed up.

The car was sold at sale and the money to go to a orphanage but nobody wanted the car because death seemed to follow it.

George Hall and his wife have a new baby and his car died. He hears about the car at auction and makes a low bid. People warn him not to get it. That he has a new family to take care of. George is thinking he needs a car to bring Rose home from the hospital. He is the proud owner of the car.

People start to shun the family because they don't want to have anything to do with the car. They were almost killed by a big gravel truck but the brakes were so good they were able to stop in time.

George and family had some good luck for awhile. His daughter even found 5,000 dollars. When they could not find the owners they used it to buy a flower shop.

Then Rose was kidnapped and they wanted 5,000 \$ and leave the money in the packard and walk away for 30 where she was told to park the car. Then turn around and walk back and her daughter would be in the car. The car and money disappeared and then they finally called the police in.

Helen Meeker was a experiment working out of white house to see if women could bring something different to the FBI. Helen and her partner looked into Rose's kidnapping and they were not having much luck with it. FBI Agent Henry Reese was looking at another case when William Landers backed his car into him. William was driving a blue packard and the accident showed the car was yellow underneath it.

So they had new leads on finding the kidnappers.

This story has so many strings that tie all together to find the kidnappers. Thier was a few places the story lagged but over all I liked the story. I did guess one of the bad guys but not all of it.

I really liked Helen and Henry but Thier boss not so much. Helen wanted to make a difference because of what happened in her younger years. She fought hard to be considered for the FBI where they did not think women belonged thier.

This story brought to me a slice of what life was like before WWII and right after Pearl Harbor was bombed. I would read more books by Ace Collins in the future. I was given this ebook to read in exchange for honest reviews from Netgalley.

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Julie says

I received a copy of the Yellow Packard through a First Reads giveaway. The premise of the book seemed fantastic, and I was looking forward to reading it. The book started off great and I was able to engage with the characters, despite the odd mix of religion in a non religious book. As the story moved on, however, many coincidences occurred in the plot which pushed the point of believability. I felt like the entire second half of the book could have used some stronger editing as there was some extraneous detail which did not help to develop the plot. Overall, the book was ok.
