



The Girl at Rosewood Hall

Annis Bell , Edwin Miles (Translator)

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On his death bed, Lord Pembroke took great care to try to ensure the future of his beautiful, unconventional niece, Lady Jane. Her debutante ball featured the most eligible bachelors of London society. But when the night of the dance arrives, things do not go as planned.

To escape the superficial drama of the party, Jane seeks refuge in the garden of Rosewood Hall, where she discovers a gravely injured girl. With her last breath, the child beseeches Jane to find another girl, Mary, and to save her from the same fate she has suffered. Lady Jane vows to fulfill this final wish, a promise that will entangle her in a dangerous intrigue and take her from the safety of home to the hard streets of London. With the faded inscription in a tattered novel as her only physical clue, Jane sets out to investigate the region's orphanages and infiltrate London's most elegant homes. Can she save young Mary from a swiftly approaching doom?

The Girl at Rosewood Hall Details

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Rena says

fantastic book, victorian atmosphere, lively characters, well researched!

Sojourner says

The Girl at Rosewood Hall by Annis Bell deals with an unsavory topic but one which needs to be addressed. Reading the story makes me realize that we are nowhere near to ending such abuses and ill-treatment of the less privileged and orphans today than they were over a century-and-half ago. The situation has more or less escalated, with merchants of the orphans making pile of money in the name of the poor, enriching themselves at the cost of the lives of many miserable children the world over. Annis Bell's story is a brutal portrayal of the suffering of the orphans and how many some despicable people live a life of entitlement in the name of the suffering of the less privileged.

The novel takes the reader on a tour of Victorian-era London into the life Lady Jane for whom Lord Henry Pembroke has organized a ball, inviting the most eligible bachelors of London society. When an irritated walked out of the ball into the wintry night to find peace and solitude, she stumbled on a dying girl in the park of Rosewood Hall. With her last breath the dying girl asked Jane to search for her friend Mary and save her. The self-assured and over-confident Jane promised to help. When Lady Jane set out to investigate, she received unexpected support from Captain Westcott, a secretive, rather bleak acting, but also attractive man.

The Girl at Rosewood Hall by Annis Bell is a realistically written, well-researched and wonderfully conceptualized story. The book carries with it the aura and atmosphere of the period wherein it is set, making it easy to imagine the story as it unfolds. The writing style was clear and fluid. The flowing prose with which the author narrated the story quickly transported the reader to the period. It is unimaginable how orphans are leading a life of beatings, starvation, rape and fear in many orphanages. And I really loved the book for highlighting the plights of orphans and the cruelty of the people who are supposed to take good care of them. All in all, an eye-opening book, well worth the time invested in reading it.

Caridad Laack says

Just ok

I realize this is the first book I a series and there are characters that need to be set up. But this book did not wow me and I skipped sections in the middle when I could not out up with Jane 's attitude.

I'm a for women who are independent and know how to maneuver in the world and circumstances in which they live. Jane just came through as spoiled child who sulked because Wescott didn't bow down to her superior ingenuity.

I just couldn't find enough interest to continue with this series. I'm sure there is a fan base for Lady Jane and this author. Just not me.

Sonja says

Wiltshire 1860: Lord Henry Pembroke weiß, dass er nicht mehr lange leben wird. Vor seinem Tod möchte er seine verwaiste Nichte Lady Jane gerne noch verheiratet und somit versorgt sehen. Dafür gibt er einen Ball in Rosewood Hall. Er hofft, dass sie dort einen geeigneten Gentleman zum Heiraten kennenlernt. Doch zunächst findet Lady Jane etwas ganz anderes; im Park von Rosewood Hall entdeckt sie ein junges Mädchen, das dem Tode nahe ist. Sie bringt das Mädchen in den Wintergarten, wo das Kind stirbt, vorher aber Lady Jane darum bittet, seine Freundin Mary zu finden und vor einem ähnlichen Schicksal zu bewahren.

Mein Leseindruck:

Ich habe eine Vorliebe für Geschichten, die im England des 19. Jahrhunderts spielen, und so war ich auf dieses Buch gleich sehr neugierig, als ich es entdeckte. Das Buch hat mich nicht enttäuscht. Ich hatte sehr schöne Lesestunden mit dem Roman.

Die Atmosphäre hat mir sehr gut gefallen, ebenso wie die unkonventionelle und selbstbewusste Protagonistin Lady Jane, die zum Glück ihren eigenen Kopf hat.

Ein bisschen Romantik ist vorhanden und viel Spannung. Für mich eine sehr gelungene Mischung. Ich denke, ich werde auch die Folgebände dieser Reihe lesen.

Zoe Radley says

An amazing and a good historical murder mystery novel very good atmospheric and in depth look into how the setting and background to all characters. An incredible first novel from the author looking forward to the next one

Debbie says

I liked it!

The history part was interesting. I did not know a lot about that war. The characters were fine. The writing was enjoyable.

Cindy Woods says

Something missing!

I don't exactly know what it is, and maybe it's just me, but there is something missing in the story. If there was supposed to be a spark of romance between Jane and the Captain, nothing in the writing indicated it. The so-called romance is nonexistent... no fire, no sparks, no smoke even! It's as bland as the color grey! I can't stand Jane. She cries over everything and is a spoiled pain-in-the-ass aristocrat with ideations of grandeur. She seemed very childish. Half the time she's angry at the Captain, and I never could figure out why. Made

no sense. Also, as a philanthropist in children's causes she fails miserably in my book. The basic story is an old plot with new paint, and the writing leaves much to be desired. This one isn't worth my recommendation.

Babus Ahmed says

The spirited Lady Jane lives with her Uncle, who has raised her after the death of her parents with much freedom and affection. However, her cousin and his wife are not in favour of Lady Jane and she finds herself in a situation where she needs to marry or face an intolerable situation where her cousin will be her guardian. Faced with an appealing offer from Captain David Wescott, Jane is given a way out of her predicament but in the meantime the appearance of a frail and seriously ill young girl at Rosewood Hall leads her on a mission to save another young girl who maybe in dire peril.

A thoroughly enjoyable historical thriller read with interesting characters, whom I had come to like very much and would definitely want to read again. I was happy to learn a second book in the series will be out in Autumn 2016.

Although the book sensitively writes about child abuse, it is disturbing to read about the realistic poverty, hardship and violence the poor children at the time were subjected to.

Jane and Captain Wescott make a good team and mutually compliment each other in the intrigues and investigations Jane is determined to undertake. If all that isn't enough to entice you to read this book then Jane's pet Dane, Rufus definitely steals the show.

Freda says

Child abuse, ignorant female lead, don't bother. Read, then skimmed to the bitter end, completely skipping the chapters from the perspective of the abused child, Mary. Historically inaccurate - by 1860, women did not remain the ward of some male until their death, under the 1857 Marriage Act, once they passed the age of majority, they could manage their own property. The main character remained unreasonably angry to the fine war hero who married her to the point where she was just a shrew. Crossing this series off my list.

Trish says

Okay for the most part, but bits of it annoyed me as not being realistic for the time it was set in.

Pippi says

Mildly entertaining but rather cliched. The poor grasp of historical facts irritated me greatly. Don't read it for the history!

Tess says

authentic, gripping, well written - can't wait for the next one!

Kim Power says

A Victorian Mystery

This is a well intentioned book, and that is its shortcoming. The mystery centres on who is abusing young orphan girls but the passion for the cause means that the novel sometimes is overtaken by it, instead of serving it. That is, it can feel like a lecture with a story instead of telling a story so passionate that the reader shares the passion. Perhaps it is a function of translation? The story itself is quite gripping, but the heroine, Jane, aggravated me as well as her husband. She is immature in her notions of freedom, and rash to the point of self-endangerment. David is under drawn, and one intuit his backstory might make more gripping reading. If the author can get the balance right, I can see this developing into an excellent series.

Leserling /Belana says

I don't know how I came across this book, but it was on KU for both ebook and audio, so I decided to give it a go. I'm glad I did! What a veritable gem. Very well researched from what I can tell, and everything just fit: the historical context and conditions, the language, the characters and places.

An absolutely great story, wonderfully narrated by Sue Pitkin. This book has it all, really. It's both an historical novel and a mystery novel, the characters are believable.

I had read a lot about poor- or workhouses, and orphanages in that era, not just through Charles Dickens, but generally. It is a topic that makes one shiver, and this novel is taking the horror of those times even farther (see wikipedia **after** you've read the book: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_Ch...)

I have to say that I'm impressed with the love for detail you can find in this story -- but don't get me wrong, it's not detail as in a minute description of a dress or some-such. Just many small things the observant reader will notice, like the taste of apple pips.

And now I'll go and read the sequel. I do hope to discover more books by this author!

And oh, the irony--this is translated from German, which I never realized, so I could have read the original.
:D

Diana says

Fairly good read, but there's a rape trigger involving very young girls

I enjoyed the book, but... Not the subject matter so much. The whole thing was about saving young orphans from rape and murder. Some reviewers have said lady Jane is spoiled, but she's also educated, and the

captain is a compelling romantic lead. So it was a pretty good book, I just wish that the mystery had been about something else. I really hope they find Fiona and Tim in book 2.

I think it would've been better suited to around the turn of the twentieth century rather than the 1860s, but perhaps the shipping of children off to the colonies needed that era.

Also, what the hell is a seismic navigator? And if there was a translator, what language was the book originally written in? German?
