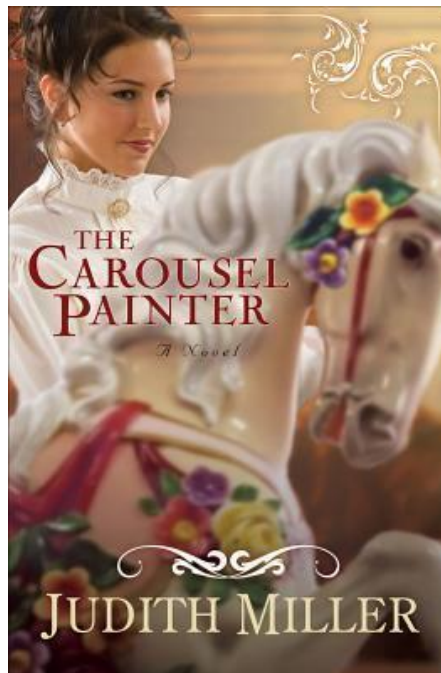




The Carousel Painter

Judith McCoy Miller

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Without the means to support herself after her father dies, Carrington Brouwer receives the opportunity to use her artistic talent at her friend's father's carousel factory. But the men at the factory are not happy that a woman has been given the very desirable job of painting the elaborately carved horses. When mishaps occur at the factory and jewelry disappears from the home of the factory owner, accusations swirl. Is the handsome young factory manager truly Carrie's ally or will he side with those who believe she should be fired?

The Carousel Painter Details

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From Reader Review The Carousel Painter for online ebook

Kathleen says

I would consider this book to be a Gentle Christian Suspense Romance novel. I describe it as gentle Christian genre because our main character Carie finds her faith gradually throughout the novel. The religion is nondenominational and sprinkled in a little here and there. The suspense also builds along with the romance. I fell in love with Carie and her character. I liked that her name is Carrington, Carie for short. I don't appreciate it when authors choose spiffy names like Rose Lovegood that are trite. Carrington fits the traits of a strong independent women defending her right to provide for herself. Carrie is resourceful and fights for what she cares about while learning a lesson or two along the way. I enjoyed the visual aspects of the carousel factory and all of its inner workings as well. I highly recommend this book to all ages. I was introduced to this novel from my book club. It is our January 2018 choice. I hope you adore Carie and Joseph as much as I did :)

Alice says

Why did I wait forever and a day to read The Carousel Painter?! This book was FABULOUS! I l.o.v.e.d. it!!! The story was sweet, gripping, and well-paced; not super fast, but never did it lag. The characters were engaging and well developed, and the mystery was intriguing- if slightly predictable. The growth and charmingly unique setting made up for it. Judith Miller has a lovely and clear way with words, and I really enjoyed the German accent she gave Josef- it was adorable and totally grew on me! It made him a very sweet hero with a quiet strength, and a passion for hard work and truth. Carrington was a relatable and lovable heroine, and her slow-growing relationship with Josef was very well -and cleanly- done; I loved that she had to learn to unscramble his backwards sentences and reiterate what he said to make sure they were on the same page! Super cute. ;)

I highly recommend this shade-patched stroll through the sunny hub of Collinsford, Ohio- from social Fair Oaks to Carrie's rustic and friendly home in The Bottoms.

Barbara says

Judith Miller is an author I have encountered when she co-authors books with Tracy Peterson, but I have never tried one she wrote herself, and I'm very glad I did. The carousel factory and the work that goes on there is a wonderful, unique setting, and the other elements of clean romance, mystery, and the growing faith of the main characters make it hard to put down. Carrie's giggling got a tad bit annoying, but it also made her a real person with weaknesses and flaws. The outcome of the mystery was a little predictable, but not to the point I lost interest in it. I enjoyed the fact that both Carrington and Josef have a character trait that they try to help each other overcome. I highly recommend this book, and will personally read others by this author.

Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says

About this book:

“Carrie loves painting the beautiful carousel horses...but can she stand strong against the many who don't

Ann Gabhart says

Everybody has fond memories of perching on the beautiful horses on a carousel and going round and round. Reading this story was just as much fun. The characters were interesting and the background even more so. I enjoyed getting a glimpse into a carousel factory. Judith Miller has a way of transporting her readers into another era and then telling her story in page-turning fashion. A little history, a good dollop of romance and a side dressing of mystery made this story a good read.

Gale says

I purchased this book because it was on sale and the title drew me in. I am fascinated with carousels, so how could I not buy it? I really hesitated because I figured it would be another run-of-the-mill Christian romance novel. I was very wrong! This Christian novel has strong, realistic characters who experience real-life emotions. It has enough mystery to make it a page-turner, and I was fascinated by all the facts about a carousel factory. I was thrilled to read about the steps, time, effort, care, and artistry that go into forming carousel animals and carriages.

As an experienced artist and friend of the boss' daughter, Carrington Brouwer becomes the first woman to work in a busy carousel factory. I learned that in the 1890s a woman working in a factory must deal with the resentment of men who feel she has stolen a job that could go to another man, and women who are afraid she will steal their husbands. This fast-paced story gave me insight into how women were treated and expected to behave in America at this time.

Carrington's character is challenged as she faces resentments and accusations from others and all the feelings that come with dealing with people of vastly different personalities. In the midst of it all she has to face her own strengths and weaknesses. It is encouraging to find a strong woman character in a unique Christian novel.

Loraine says

SUMMARY: Carrie loves painting the beautiful carousel horses...but can she stand strong against the many who don't want her to keep the job?

When Carrington Brouwer receives the enviable job of painting carousel horses for a factory in Ohio, she believes her future is secure. But after an expensive necklace disappears from the home where she's been staying, she's caught up in a search for the truth that puts her entire livelihood--and her developing relationship with the factory manager--at risk. Can she lead police to the real culprit before she loses everything?

REVIEW: This book combines history, mystery, and romance into one excellent bundle. I love the unique premise of the heroine taking on a job in a man's world where she is not wanted by her fellow workers or their wives. Carrie is a strong, independent woman who learns to follow God's direction and will for her life and to stand up for herself. Josef is such a sweet, gentle man who still has to fight to control his temper when he sees injustice occurring. The slow developing romance between them is well written. I loved learning more

about how carousel animals are created and you can definitely tell the author did her research. The touch of mystery, secondary characters elements of faith all helped build this into a really great read.

FAVORITE QUOTES: "It doesn't seem right that good people should suffer does it?" Nope. But this here's what the preacher calls a fallen world. When Adam and Eve sinned, evil came into the world. Kinda turned things upside down and makes it hard for us to understand when good people get hurt. But the devil's out there prowlin' around, doing his best to cause pain and confusion."

"To be young and untroubled is a gift we don't appreciate until it's gone."

"Ain't none of us perfect, but bein' a Christian means you always try to do the right thing, no matter what. An' ask God to help you."

"I wanted to become a person who didn't envy others. After all life wasn't a competition, it was a personal journey--"

Margaret Metz says

You know, God has a way of weaving every aspect of our lives together in ways we would never expect. I just had a long conversation about about how people read these romances in order to escape the every day troubles they face and yet... let me be transparent with you once again... this book captured me in a way I had never thought possible.

It's not the first time it's happened. I think Stepping Heavenward by Elizabeth Prentiss was the first one that spoke to me where I was at and encouraged me to move forward ~ in the fictional realm. I still like to read it every so often.

What Judith Miller has done in this book is create a character, Carrington (Carrie), who isn't without faith but doubts why God would put good people through such hard trials and not rescue them. She doubts her strength to endure those trials and wonders why her prayers to change both her circumstances and her person have not been answered.

As someone who battles chronic pain, whose husband was laid off through no fault of his own, and who sees so many of her friends and family going through the same thing... I have to admit some of the same questions have come to my mind. What Carrie learns is that just as God loves us unconditionally, we can't base our love for Him on what He does or doesn't do. His plans may not always seem to be what we would pick and things may look pretty grim. Even their worst punishment - death - is really a reward for those who love God. We get to be with Him. We just need to keep trusting, keep believing, and not let them steal that one thing from us that really matters ~ our faith.

Despite my mini-sermon, this is a nice romance with interesting characters. This author also does a wonderful job of not painting them as perfect cut outs with no dimension. As I noted, Carrie struggles with her faith and is prone to giggles when nervous. Our hero, Josef, has a temper problem ~ and a very cute German accent. He is touchy about it though. lol Carrie's best friend, Augusta, can't stand up to her mother and is prone to judging people by their social status. Then you've got the woman running a boarding house who can't cook.

In the middle of all of this there is a small mystery to be solved about missing jewelry. The romance and development of Carrie's character are the most important parts of this story though (in my opinion). It was an entertaining story with a wonderful message and a very touching romance. I also think that the story can offer a lot to people who are struggling with all that's going on right now ~ in a fun, non-threatening way.

Hallie Szott says

3.5

Cassandra says

Ah, a breath of fresh air compared to a lot of the other historical fiction titles I've read this year. The story was unique, the characters were interesting, and the "conversion scene" wasn't there! The main character learned about God in a natural, realistic fashion rather than a sudden light bulb moment.

I can't give the book four stars, as it's not something I would own or reread. Other reviewers noted that the giggling was annoying. I believe Miller was trying to give the main character a unique trait but it was rather annoying to hear about her uncontrollable giggling. Still, this book was a nice change from the majority of Christian historical fiction.

M— says

This really wasn't a bad book, but I never would have touched it if I had known it was Christian lit. My rating is mostly contingent on my feelings for that genre, and I suspect that people who like reading Christian lit would very much enjoy reading this book.

But me? No. Carrie is just so passive. She wanders to a new country by an act of invitation. She ventures into employment by another invitation. She roams over to a new place to live by suggestion. Her plan to avoid making waves at work is to avoid human interaction. She responds to a budding romance with pleasure at every new step her suitor makes, but she never initiates any advancement herself. She waits patiently to be cleared of criminal charges and only ambles in to attempts to clear her name *by direct request of the investigating detective*. Even the one instance where she did willfully reject someone's suggestion, she was taken to task for it and meekly went back and followed suggestion. ARGH.

This book had been part of the June giveaway of LibraryThing's Early Reviewers program, where the title and publisher's description caught my interest. Granted, now that I know this book is Christian lit., a courtesy search of the publisher Bethany House would have taught me it was a Christian press. But I was interested enough in the premise of the book at the time that when I didn't win a copy through the ER program, I added it to my BookMooch wishlist and was able to snag an ARC anyway.

I did love reading Miller's descriptions of the carousels and how the carousels were created, which is why this book is getting as high as a two-star rating. Unfortunately, that aspect was pretty much discarded at the mid-way point of this novel, which is also about when the romance picks up, the silly mystery plotline appears, Carrie starts pondering church sermons, and my interest bottoms out like the flatline of a heart

monitor.

Some other reviews of this book mention how annoying Carrie's giggling was. I can't say that I noticed this myself as I read the book, but I did get in the habit, very early on, of skipping any paragraphs with a variant of the word *giggle* in them. It worked for me.

Amy says

I loved the premise of this book, and it was a fast, lighthearted read that held my interest... barely. As I often find in 1st POV, the plot felt flat and the pace dragged at times because there was much forced "telling." I don't particularly mind that the mystery was predictable, but the way it was rushed to a speedy conclusion left much to be desired. I also didn't completely buy the romance between Carrie and Josef -- whose dialogue was wildly inconsistent and often came across as more Swedish than German. Several plot points and characters also just appeared and disappeared for no believable reason. Overall, the unique premise was enough to keep me going, but now that I'm finished, I rather feel I just wasted a day reading this.

Jeannette Garcia says

This book was well written. I was interested in the idea behind the story; however, I found that the actual plot lacked substance. It seemed a bit rushed about halfway through the book. The author spent a great deal writing scenes in the carousel factory and less time developing a solid plot. I figured that the romance would happen between Josef and Carrie, however, I was surprised at how brief their romance was. I can't even recall when they actually fell in love. Although this wouldn't be among my favorite books, I'm not upset that I took the time to read it. I probably wouldn't recommend it to my friends who are looking for something specific in a Christian historical romance.

Cathleen says

Mix the sweet promise of a carousel factory with the spunk of a heroine who must make her own way, and you might think the end result would be a heartwarming story perfect for moments of escape. Unfortunately, you would be wrong. All the elements are just a little off: the romance is flat, the characters are uncomplicated, and the mystery never is. I can't understand why authors continue to create "good" protagonists who are beset by large numbers of simultaneous trials just to have circumstances miraculously reverse in time for a happy-ever-after.

I'm not a complete cynic. What I found most disappointing is that I was ready for a sweet, light, uplifting story. I wanted it to be better. I wish it had been.

Jeanette Blackson says

I am a huge fan of Tracie Peterson and have read all her books thus far...so I was looking for a new author to pick up to keep me busy reading. After reading the Broadmoor Legacy Series (co-authored by Tracie Peterson and Judith Miller) I decided to try a book by Miller. I had heard good things about Miller's newest

book...and I was not disappointed. Since Miller co-authored her first few books with Peterson they have a very similar writing style.

The Carousel Painter was a fantastic book! Set in the late 19th century in Boston, Miller captures the essence of a spunky young lady, Carrington Brouwer. Carrie grew up in Paris under the care of her artist father, until his untimely death. With no inheritance Carrie is forced to move back to America where her only friend, Augusta Galloway (one of her father's art students) lives with her mother and father. Mr. Galloway helps Carrie find a job in his carousel factory as a painter. Working in an all male factory to make ends meet, she is faced with a new life in Boston that brings about a handful of challenges. Josef Kaestner, factory manager and her only ally when jewelry is found missing from the Galloway mansion...becomes more than a friend and ally in a funny and entertaining twist of events.
