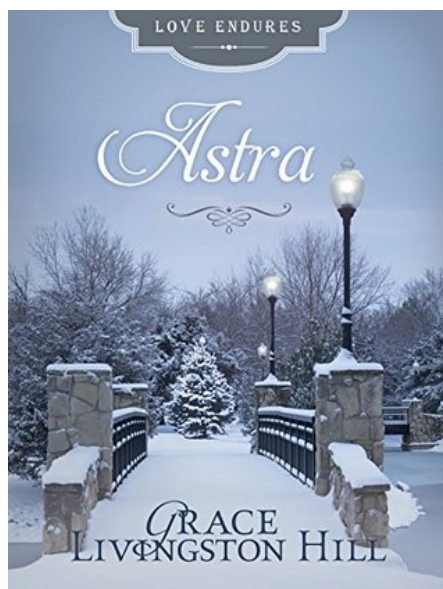




Astra

Grace Livingston Hill

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After two years with her only living relative, Astra Everson is ready to return to the town of her childhood and live on her own. But she finds it necessary to sneak away from her cousin's control while the family is away. A chance encounter on the train brings Charles Cameron into her life just in time for Christmas. He helps her get reestablished in town, but he lacks the faith that is so important to Astra. Up against scheming sisters and unscrupulous cousins, can Charles and Astra see their way to a future together?

Astra Details

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From Reader Review Astra for online ebook

Sara says

I was on a Grace Livingston Hill kick a while back and read several of her novels. They are always quaint and old-fashioned, sometimes a little preachy, but almost always a nice relaxing read.

Anna says

I sometimes crave a sweet gentle romance, and when I do I can almost always depend on Grace Livingston Hill. This book hit the spot nicely. It does finish up a bit quickly, but otherwise had many strong elements. The girl does not have to depend on the guy to pull her out of all her difficulties, the bad guys are not wholly given over to evil, and the children are neither angels nor devils. This is not always the case in Mrs Hill's work but I prefer it this way.

Melissa says

Astra Everson, a twenty year-old orphan, has been living with her cousin's family for two years. She has barely been able to put up with their modern ways and the trickery and lies of Clytie, the cousin her age.

Finally, when all but she are on vacation, she decides to leave. She finds to her horror that her money has been stolen, but she sells some things to get money for her trip.

On the train back to her hometown, Astra's secretarial skills are called upon to help a dying man with his last business. The young man who asks for help, Charles Cameron, is impressed by her skill and the prayer she says for the old man on his deathbed.

With some business yet to be concluded, Astra and Charles meet again after the man dies.

Their acquaintance grows into friendship, and friendship into love.

At Christmastime, Charles asks Astra to care for his sister's children as she is away on vacation.

The night ends beautifully. But there are obstacles—a young woman wearing a mink coat and Astra's greedy cousin. . . .

This story is entertaining but average. Strange as it may seem, our family doesn't celebrate Christmas for reasons of faith and principal, so reading of Christmas was not so pleasant for me. (Of which I can say of any novel about Christmas.) I don't like how Charles' salvation, also, was not spoken of much, and it didn't clearly say that he had been saved. Again, as in most of Mrs. Hill's novels, the story is too focused on emotional romance and the main characters are perfectly good looking. . . . But there are some good points to the book as well. I liked the picturesque description of Handel's Messiah.

Connie says

Pretty typical GLH novel, and I love it. Delightfully predictable and lots of Christian dialog. I would call this one of her more romantic and less preachy, but considering it's GLH that's really not saying much. I always love her characters.

Hannah says

This is a very sweet story of a young lady who has had enough of her conniving relatives' mistreatment and goes out on her own, choosing uncertainty over bondage. The story covers the people she meets along the way, good and bad. Of course there is a handsome young man, and I particularly enjoyed his nieces and nephew.

The one thing I object to is one spot where Astra tells the nephew "God is ashamed of you" when he is rude to someone (justifiably). I will never agree with using God as a disciplinary measure, because it can foster a wrong opinion of God. If she had instead said something like "God will be proud if you can forgive her and apologize for your rudeness" it might have settled better.

Deblin5pagmail.com says

For His Glory

Another good book of faith in God and family heritage. Choosing to live a life serving God and trusting God to work out the difficulties when major changes need to be made. I enjoyed the two main characters and the developing relationship.

Kristine Hansen says

This is the first book I ever read by Grace Livingston Hill. The copy is an old book that belonged to my aunt, still inscribed with her name, from the time when she was a teenager. That makes this not only a book to value because of story told within the pages, but also one to value for the history of the volume. I wonder why this was the only book she saved from her youth, and what she thought of it. Of course it's many years too late now to ask.

As for the story itself....

I love Astra as she's another example of a girl who isn't about to be bossed around. Having lived with her aunt and uncle, she's reached her breaking point. Her young cousin has been stealing from her, and she'd entirely not value within the household. So she ups and leaves while they take a trip without her, going to the city to start a new life on her own.

I like these stories about heroines facing something so huge a change as running away, starting over without any finances at all (though that's quickly resolved) and then finding love - only after they've already gotten themselves on their feet, proving they don't always need rescue. Only...sometimes. Like when evil uncles plot against them.

This was a fun story to read, with a lot of depth and complexity. Astra was a great character, and our hero is just heroic enough. Add in the precious faith element there is to all the GLH novels and you have a story that

is extremely satisfying to read. I've read this book a half dozen times, and I never tire of it. Definitely a favorite!

Kerri says

I really like a lot of these Grace Livingston Hill books. They are a pleasure to read. I didn't enjoy this one as much as others I have read, but it was still nice.

The best thing about the romances by GLH are the sweet parts about homemaking, hospitality, and family life. There is less of that in this book, so I wasn't as interested.

Basically, the main character is rewarded for her helpfulness in different situations. The good qualities of the heroine are contrasted with the qualities of the bad characters. The extremes are almost funny, though they are not meant to be.

Sometimes I have to smile at the old-fashioned notions in these books, but in some ways they are no worse than some of the more modern historical-fiction Christian romances of today...filled with silliness but still enjoyable to read.

Tatorstevie says

A tad but cheesy, but a good, wholesome romance novel.

Joleen says

After her father died, Astra went to live with her married cousin and her teenage daughter. Her cousin loved her but her cousin's husband was iffy, and the spoiled teenage daughter took advantage of Astra's generosity as often as she could, even to the point of theft.

Having already decided to move out of her cousin's house, there was difficulty getting money together to make the trip because her cousin's bratty daughter had stolen all her money, just before the family left for vacation in California.

On the trip back to her hometown, an odd incident happens where she is called upon to be a stenographer for a gentleman who is dying on the train, helping him put his last desires on paper. This event begins a relationship she hadn't expected.

I liked book but it ran along quite slowly for so long and then all of a sudden towards the end there was just a quick culmination. Suddenly there's declarations of love, when just a few days ago Astra thought she and Charles Cameron were just strangers getting to know each other.

There were a few loose ends that weren't explained very well. Did her cousin's spoiled daughter ever get found out regarding the theft? Her cousin's husband was caught doing something illegal, but it all happened so quickly, and you don't really find out anything that happens to him, nor the impact on her cousin's family. There were other things that weren't explained very well, but it was still pretty good book.
