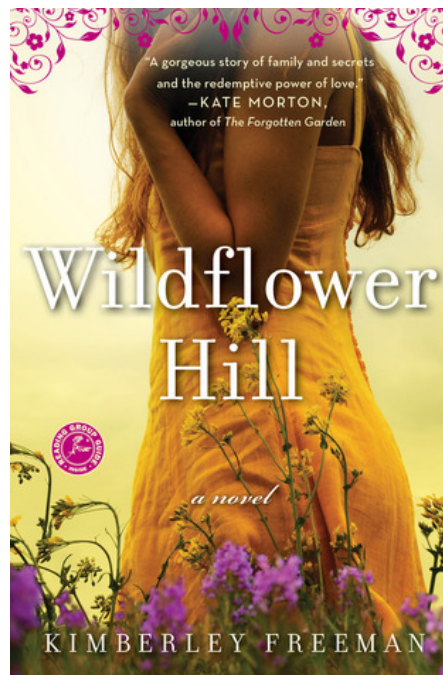




Wildflower Hill

Kimberley Freeman

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Forced to take her life in a new direction when an injury ends her ballet career, Emma returns to her home in Australia and learns that she has inherited an isolated sheep station from a late grandmother who would impart key lessons about love and motherhood.

Wildflower Hill Details

Date : Published August 23rd 2011 by Touchstone Books (first published 2010)

ISBN : 9781451623499

Author : Kimberley Freeman

Format : Paperback 524 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Romance, Cultural, Australia, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit

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From Reader Review Wildflower Hill for online ebook

Kate Forsyth says

A compelling and poignant family saga that parallels the story of Beattie Blaxland, a Scottish girl who emigrates to Australia in 1929, with the story of her granddaughter, Emma Blaxland-Hunter. Linking the generations is the old house, Wildflower Hill, in Tasmania. A love story, and a story about making the best of what life throws at you, this is a book where the pages just seem to turn themselves. I'd really recommend this to anyone who loves a heart-warming tale.

Peggy says

[I was so sad when Charlie died! Although Beattie really annoyed me at that point (and only that point): what is it with those white women who have good romantic or other relation

Caroline says

I didn't care for this book at all. The author did a poor job of making her story come to life. I just kept thinking to myself, "people don't act like this. People don't talk like this." Beatty was presented as though she were a victim of her society, but in actuality she was a victim of her own poor judgment and her inability to adapt to her circumstances. It was very hard to feel any sympathy for her.

Also, I was disappointed that I never felt a really strong sense of a time or place. At one point, kangaroos are mentioned and I wondered where kangaroos had come from, until I remembered the story was set in Australia. Freeman didn't do a good job of making me feel absorbed by the physical or cultural environment about which she was writing.

Heather says

I decided to read this book based on goodreads and amazon recommendations, I think because I had really liked Kate Morton's The Forgotten Garden. When it arrived I saw Morton had even written a blurb for the front cover so I was all excited for it. But then I read it and was really really disappointed. I felt like Morton's blurb should have read: Nice try but not as good as my book. The plot of this book is very similar to The Forgotten Garden (generations of women, family secrets, inheritances, Australia) but Freeman is not as good at portraying the characters and they all felt like stereotypes to me, especially the ballerina granddaughter. The plot of this book is also so painfully predictable that I almost laughed when every plot "twist" happened. Oh and it's over 500 pages long so it just goes on and on and you know exactly what is going to happen in the end. So learn from my mistakes, don't read this book, read The Forgotten Garden instead!

Jennie says

"Υπάρχουν δύο ε?δη γυναίκες στον κόσμο,Μπι?ιτι-αυτ?ς που κ?νουν προ?γματα και αυτ?ς που

υπομ?νουν πρ?γματα."

Αχ...να βιβλ?ο, το οπο?ο με ?κανε να κλ?ψω,να θυμ?σω,να μπω ουσιαστικ? μ?σα στην ιστορ?α και να πω "?!χι!" ? "Μην το κ?νεις αυτ?!" και ?λλα τ?τοια. Δεν ?μουν καθ?λου σ?γουρη τι βαθμολογ?α ?πρεπε να του δ?σω. 3 αστερ?κια επειδ? με ?κανε να στεναχωρηθ? και να συγκινηθ? τ?σο πολ? (ε?μαι και κ?πως ευσυγκ?νητος ?νθρωπος,τρομ?ρα μου! :() ? 5 επειδ? ?ντως ε?ναι τ?σο καλ?, ?τσι ?στε να σου με?νει στη μν?μη, ?ταν θα το ξαναδε?ς να πεις "Αχ, αυτ? το βιβλ?ο π?σο με συγκ?νησε!" (και εξ?λλου δεν π?ει π?σω και απ? μερι?ς υπ?θεσης,χαρακτ?ρων κλπ.).

Θ?λω να πω τ?σα πολλ? για αυτ? το βιβλ?ο. Φοβ?μαι ?μως ?τι αν το κ?νω θα προδ?σω πολλ?, οπ?τε θα αρκεστ? στα εξ?ς: Οι ζω?ς δυο δυναμικ?ν γυναικ?ν που προσπ?θησαν μ?σα απ? κ?πο, προσπ?θεια και αρκετ? λ?θη να τα καταφ?ρουν, να εξελιχθ?ν και τ?λος να βι?σουν την ευτυχ?α, σε διαφορετικ?ς εποχ?ς η καθεμ?α.

?μως αυτ? το βιβλ?ο δεν ε?ναι απλ?ς οι ιστορ?ες δυο γυναικ?ν που απλ?ς προσπαθ?ν να ζ?σουν την ζω? τους και να ξεπερ?σουν τα εμπ?δια που εμφαν?ζονται στο δρ?μο τους. Αναφ?ρονται πολλ? περισσ?τερα πρ?γματα μ?σα ?πως κοινωνικ? στερε?τυπα της εποχ?ς της Μπ?ιτι (που δυστυχ?ς αυτ? καθ?ρισαν την ζω? της :() , προκαταλ?ψεις κλπ. ...

(view spoiler)

Nikoleta says

Δυναμικ?ς γυνά?κες που τα κ?νουν μπ?χαλο σε αλλοτιν?ς και ?χι μ?νο, εποχ?ς. Μυστ?ριο, π?θη, μυστικ?... Μου ?ρεσε πολ?.

Maria says

Συν?θως τα βιβλ?α που περιγρ?φουν δυο ζω?ς, μ?α στο παρ?ν και μ?α στο παρελθ?ν τα βαρι?μαι και με κουρ?ζουν. Στο συγκεκριμ?νο δεν ?παθα τ?ποτα απο τα δ?ο. δι?βαζα γρ?γορα για να φτ?σω στην ιστορ?α ? της μ?ας ? της ?λλης πρωταγων?στριας. Η ιστορ?α β?βαια της Μπ?ιτι μου ?ρεσε και με τρ?βηξε περισσ?τερο, θα?μασα το κουρ?γιο της, την αυτοθυσ?α της και ?νιωσα να συμπ?σχω μάζ? της σε ?λα της τα προβλ?ματα.

MomToKippy says

I would give this 3.5 stars overall but 4 for Beattie's story. This is a dual time period story where the historical portion is much more endearing than the contemporary story. In fact, I felt that the modern story really contributed very little to the overall impact of the heart wrenching saga of Beattie's life and struggles. In this case, the author did not really use it to its best advantage in discovering the past. It seemed to be just

part of the popular formula for dual time period fiction. It would be a better book if the 1929 story were more detailed and the contemporary story removed entirely. The period switches felt disjointed to me. Possibly because of this it took me about 150 pages to get really interested in the story.

Anyway, Beattie's story was beautiful and tragic. The advice that helps motivates her in several dire situations was memorable. "There are 2 kinds of women, those who do things and those who have things done to them." I do wish she had not had so many things "done to her." It was a bit sad and some she was not able to overcome. The story lines with her daughter and Charlie were agonizing. I would prefer to have some happier resolutions to the story but that's just me.

The Tasmania setting was fascinating and the characters in that time period were vividly drawn. One easily identified with their love, hate and quirkiness. I could see that portion of the story would make quite a good movie.

Stacie Vaughan says

Wildflower Hill is at the top of my list for favourite books of the year and I would even say I consider it one of my favourite books of all time. It was absolutely wonderful. It's the kind of the book that leaves a lasting impression. I finished it a couple weeks ago and I am still thinking about it.

I think of one of the reasons why Wildflower Hill really touched me was the rich characters especially Beattie. I fell in love with her strength and kindness. I envied how she dealt so courageously with all the difficult situations life threw her in and she never once stopped to feel sorry for herself. This woman endured SO MUCH heartache that I was literally sobbing and even thinking back and imagining myself in the situation she was in, makes me misty eyed.

This book brought out so many emotions in me and to me, that's a sign of a good book. I love books that can make me feel for the characters and be in the moment with them rather than just reading and observing. I felt anger towards Beattie's parents for abandoning her, and was furious with Beattie's "husband" and his wife. I don't want to give the story away so I want to be careful what I say.

The story goes back and forth between the present day with Emma, the ballerina and back to the 1920s and 30s to her grandmother, Beattie's time. It's perfectly woven though so you don't feel like its jumping back and forth. I think Kimberley Freeman did an amazing job intertwining the two generations and developing the family history that becomes so important to Emma in the present day.

I also really enjoyed the scenes in the Tasmanian countryside. Wildflower Hill appears to be a breathtaking location and I was taken away with all the vivid description of the countryside.

This book is a "must-read". I'm going to read it again because I loved it that much.

Vera says

Πρ?κειται για ?να απ? τα απ? τα καλ?τερα βιβλ?α που ?χω διαβ?σει. Υπ?ροχο βιβλ?ο, σε ταξιδε?ει στην ιστορ?α μιας οικογ?νειας με καταπληκτικ? τρ?πο. Διαβ?ζεται με πολ? ενδιαφ?ρον!

Lyndz says

I actually finished this last week but didn't have time to write a review.

What an amazing book! There was more than one night where I stayed up way past my bedtime to read it. I really enjoyed it.

I fully intend on looking for some more books by this author, I liked it that much.

If you are a historical fiction buff you should not miss this one.

5 stars!!

Thank you goodreads & Touchstone for the free copy of the book and opportunity to read it. I received this book for free through goodreads first reads program, but that in no way influenced this review.

Victoria says

J'ai toujours peur que les histoires de ce genre soient trop "gnangnan", trop pleines de bons sentiments. Celle-ci, comme toutes les autres, l'est en quelque sorte, on y retrouve encore des histoires de secrets de famille et d'amour, mais je l'ai trouvée particulièrement prenante et émouvante (j'ai eu les larmes aux yeux à plusieurs reprises, et le cœur qui battait aussi). Les personnes sont très très attachants, l'intrigue pleine de rebondissements, et le destin de Beattie tout à fait incroyable. Une lecture que je recommande volontiers pour les vacances !

Dena Pardi says

I liked the story, but found it to only be so-so. The writing was really predictable and during portions of the story that could have been really gripping the author just gave it away. She stunted a lot of the climax and as a result I can't say the book was great, though I was deeply interested in Beattie's character.

I thought the story of Emma was sweet and didn't mind the back and forth of generations but felt it watered down/weakened the story. I was so much more interested in Beattie that I would have rather met Emma towards the end of the story, then lacing her in between. I didn't find that she added a lot of value to the book, except when she delivered the letter, which I'm super pissed we didn't get to read the reaction!!! That was a huge component of the story that could have left you on an emotional up swing or down, either way it wouldn't leave you with the feeling of missing one of the bigger pieces.

Jenny Q says

This is a moving story of a woman's triumph over adversity, and the lessons she passes along to her granddaughter. Beattie Blaxland is an amazing character. When the story begins she's nineteen with dreams of becoming a fashion designer. Instead she ends up pregnant and homeless--but not defeated. She's smart, compassionate, hardworking, self-sacrificing, and she stands up for what she believes in. She's not perfect,

but she's tough as nails and knows an opportunity when she sees one. She does whatever it takes to provide for her daughter, tackling poverty and bigotry, and the conventions that have long held women back in small-town Australia during the depression and World War II.

In the present day, Beattie's granddaughter Emma comes home to Australia after an exalted, whirlwind career as a prima ballerina ends abruptly due to an injury. Emma and Beattie are two very different women. Beattie's early life was one of struggle and uncertainty; Emma's was one of privilege and status. But Emma has to learn how to live without dancing and without a purpose, how to make friends, how to take care of herself. She's very surprised to discover that her grandmother left her an old farm estate, Wildflower Hill in Tasmania, and she goes there intending to prepare it for sale. But the house is full of boxes of Beattie's personal belongings--letters, photos, mementos--and as Emma goes through them she begins to discover who her grandmother really was and how much Wildflower Hill meant to her. Along the way she learns a lot about her own capabilities and what's truly important in life.

I was utterly absorbed in this story from start to finish. The writing is lovely, the characterization is rich, the pacing is perfect, the narrative switches between Beattie in the past and Emma in the present in all the right places; I laughed, I cried, I got angry--and I never wanted it to end. But end it did, and it was one of the most satisfying, fitting, and perfect endings I've seen in a long time. Loved it!

Helene Jeppesen says

This story wasn't as impressive as I had hoped it would be, but it was still good. It deals with family secrets which are slowly revealed to the reader as we follow two women from two different eras. Furthermore, one of them lives in Tasmania, Australia and the other one on the other side of the world, in London.

I love stories that deal with people, relationships and multiple perspectives, however this one at times became too sweet and convenient for my taste. I think that if you've read a fair amount of books like these, this one won't surprise you a bit. You see where things are going, and in the end I was cringing my toes at all the morals that were put out in the open.

I still maintain that this was a good and entertaining story; it just didn't impress me in the way I was hoping for, but I'm still glad I read it and got the story behind Beattie and Emma.

Book of Secrets says

Wildflower Hill is a poignant tale of two women living in different decades but whose lives are strongly intertwined. I dearly loved this book! The story of Beattie and her granddaughter Emma was completely absorbing. Beattie was a Scottish immigrant who moved to Tasmania, Australia, at the start of the Great Depression. Someone had told her once that "there are two types of women in the world...those who do things, and those who have things done to them." As a poor, unwed mother, she kept that thought in the forefront of her mind as she struggled against poverty and prejudice. Against insurmountable odds, she became the owner of a prosperous sheep farm in rural Tasmania, though it was not without great hardship and heartache.

Set in 2009, Emma's story is effortlessly woven in with Beattie's. Emma is a prima ballerina in London. Proud of her success as a dancer, she didn't realize how it had totally consumed her life until a knee injury put an end to her career. Left with no other options, she returns home to Sydney. Emma is told that she has inherited a farm in Tasmania that her grandmother ran in the 1930s. Beattie had not been there for many years and used the place for storage, so Emma decides to head south to clean out the place in order to sell it.

Upon arrival Emma finds boxes and boxes full of Beattie's old possessions, including letters, photos and business records. As Emma sorts through everything, she slowly uncovers family secrets buried for decades.

I have not been moved by a book quite so much in a very long time. I really enjoyed the author's writing style, including the rich descriptions of the settings. It was easy to picture myself there too. Wildflower Hill stirred up many emotions for me - heartache, joy, anger, and frustration. Ultimately it is a very inspirational story about the power of perseverance and realizing what is truly important in life. Both Beattie and Emma were strong female characters written in a way that I felt like I was sharing their experiences with them. I loved how important parts of the story were told through old-fashioned letters. The last letter written by Beattie that Emma finds had me sobbing. The ending was bittersweet and very satisfying. I would highly recommend Wildflower Hill to fans of women's fiction. It is a story that will stay with me for a long time. ♥

Disclosure: I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Georgette Ioannitca says

<https://georgette60.blogspot.gr/2017/...>

?να βιβλ?ο που αφ?νει θετικ? εντ?πωση και εξακολουθε?ς να το σκ?φτεσαι και μετ?πειτα,πρ?γμα που σημα?νει ?τι σου δημιουργε? πολλ? συναισθ?ματα.Οι χαρακτ?ρες των ηρ?ων ε?ναι τ?σο ζωντανο? και ενδιαφ?ροντες που τους νι?θεις μ?σα σου αντ? να ε?σαι απλ? παρατηρητ?ς.Μ?α ιστορ?α με αφηγηματικ?ς εναλλαγ?ς στον χρ?νο (παρελθ?ν - σ?μερα και σαφ?ς υπερτερε? το παρελθ?ν)?που η συγγραφ?ας συνδ?ει τις δ?ο γενι?ς εκπληκτικ? αναπτ?σσοντας συγχρ?νως την πλοκ? της οικογ?νειας που ε?ναι γεμ?τη ανατροπ?ς.Ζωνταν?ς οι περιγραφ?ς και ειδικ? της υπα?θρου με ?ντονα χρ?ματα ζωγραφισμ?νες.Γρ?γορο,ευκολοδι?βαστο,ατμοσφαιρικ? και απολαυστικ? βιβλ?ο.Μ?α ιστορ?α αγ?πης,καρδι?ς,ισχυρ? και συγκινητικ? και με μ?α ?ντονη μ?χη εν?ντια στην ταλαιπωρ?α της γυνα?κας αντιμετωπ?ζοντας δυσκολ?ες και δοκιμασ?ες.EMMA - MIPETTY δ?ο ηρω?δες με διαφορετικο?ς χαρακτ?ρες.Απ?στευτη η μο?ρα της Μπ?ττυς που με την επιμον? ,την εξυπν?δα,την συμπ?νοια,την εργασ?α,την αυτοθυσ?α της και παρ'?λο τις αντιξο?τητες,τις δι?φορες προκαταλ?ψεις,την φτ?χεια,τον ρατσισμ? και τον φανατισμ? που επικρατο?σαν δεν πτο?θηκε,αλλ? ?ντεξε και υπερασπ?στηκε αυτ? που π?στευε.Απ? την ?λλη η ?μμα μ?α υποτονικ?,εγωπαθ?ς,συμβιβασμ?νη και γυνα?κα καρι?ρας κατορθ?νει να αλλ?ξει τρ?πο ζω?ς και σκ?ψεις.

Shruti says

I picked up this book because it was supposed to be like a Kate Morton novel. I guess it sort of was, but not quite up to par. It had the same general plot set up as Morton's novels do: a young relative investigating/discovering family secrets alternated with the family in question's life. Even the time frame was the same: present day + world war era. Unfortunately, the similarities ended there as far as I was concerned. The historical pieces read like someone who did some research and lacked the genuineness that I've come to love with Morton's novels. There was little detail, and it just didn't manage to keep my attention. The first half of the book was significantly more bearable than the second half. Also, the book felt more like a chick lit novel than a Morton novel. Boring, predictable, and altogether generic.

Perihan says

"?ki çe?it kad?n vard?r:

Bir ?eyler yapanlar ve kendine bir ?eyler yap?lanlar..."

Kitab? severek okudum. Bence kendi tarz? içinde gayet ba?ar?l? bir kurgusu vard?.

Bir kad?n?n türlü zorluklara kar?? verdi?i büyük mücadeesi bence okunmaya de?er...

"Çok üzgünüm. A?lamak istememi?tim."

"Göz ya?lar? hiçbir zaman bizden izin almaz."

"?imdi ne yapaca??z?" diye sordu Charlie.

"Bütün dünyay? unutup birbirimizi sevece?iz." diye yan?tlad? Beattie

Anna says

Rating: 3.5 stars

From the blurb and reviews, I though *Wildflower Hill* would be a proper dual-timeline story. You know the sort: someone discovers a letter or photo relating to an elderly relative which hints at a tantalising long-lost secret. The story then takes two paths: the quest for the truth in the present and the slow revelation of it in the past, with the two stories being poignantly entwined. I love books like this.

However, this one actually reads far more like a rags-to-riches saga full of determination and heartbreak. This isn't a bad thing, far from it; I also love sagas and quickly became engrossed in Beattie's heart-wrenching tale of love and loss. The problem for me was that this saga kept being interrupted by a present-day story which had no bearing on the past, no place in the book. Yes, long-lost letters and photos were found, but this happened half way through, by which time the past was emotionally gripping and had no need for Emma's present. It's natural in a dual-timeline for the present to be the secondary story to the past, but they're normally closely linked and have a poetic fluidity between them. I didn't feel any of that here.

Beattie's tale of passion and sacrifice broke my heart and made me cry. If this book had been a straightforward saga it would have been as easy 4 or 4.5 stars. Emma's tale of self-absorbed whining bored me silly, so much so that I ended up skimming her sections; 1.5 stars at best. If only the two parts had a relevance, a connection, a poignancy. Or if only it has just been Beattie's haunting story....