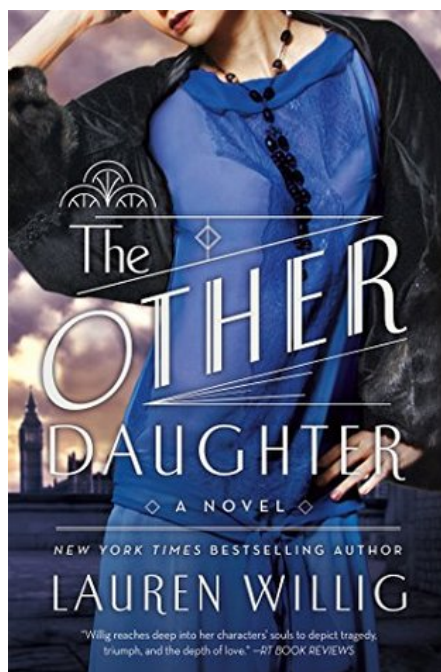




The Other Daughter

Lauren Willig

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Raised in a poor yet genteel household, Rachel Woodley is working in France as a governess when she receives news that her mother has died, suddenly. Grief-stricken, she returns to the small town in England where she was raised to clear out the cottage...and finds a cutting from a London society magazine, with a photograph of her supposedly deceased father dated all of three months before. He's an earl, respected and influential, and he is standing with another daughter-his legitimate daughter. Which makes Rachel...not legitimate. Everything she thought she knew about herself and her past-even her very name-is a lie.

Still reeling from the death of her mother, and furious at this betrayal, Rachel sets herself up in London under a new identity. There she insinuates herself into the party-going crowd of Bright Young Things, with a steely determination to unveil her father's perfidy and bring his-and her half-sister's-chaired world crashing down. Very soon, however, Rachel faces two unexpected snags: she finds she genuinely likes her half-sister, Olivia, whose situation isn't as simple it appears; and she might just be falling for her sister's fiancé...

From Lauren Willig, author of the *New York Times* bestselling novel *The Ashford Affair*, comes *The Other Daughter*, a page-turner full of deceit, passion, and revenge.

The Other Daughter Details

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From Reader Review The Other Daughter for online ebook

Angie says

First off, many thanks to St. Martin's Press for the ARC! Courtney made my dreams come true when she offered this huge Lauren Willig fan a copy! :)

This was a great book! It had secrets, intrigue, revenge-- you name it! There wasn't very much actual romance, and it was a clean read. It was also on the short side. I wanted to keep reading non stop and was sad to finish. The only reason I didn't give it 5 stars was the fact that it felt a little superficial, and could have been deeper if more had been written. I liked the ending but would have loved even more details about what was next!

The main character Rachel/Vera is likable and draws you into her tale. I liked her character a lot...and Simon's. I enjoyed all the secrets and what was ultimately revealed. Willig fans will not be disappointed!

Michelle says

[image error]

Tracy says

I was a bit skeptical of this book when I first started it. I didn't really agree with the main character's desire for revenge. Despite the great wrong done to her, I wished she'd be a bit more curious as to WHY it was done....and consider possibly she wasn't the only victim in this great tragedy.

Well, as things progress Rachel's eyes do open and I liked her more.

Around 80% or so a twist definitely occurs and then around 90% there are some more unexpected twists and turns...

In the end I was really happy with the story and all that happened. I loved the way the author ended it!

If you enjoy historical fiction, I would recommend this book.

Pamela says

Secrets and Lies...this is a raw, poignant story of a young woman discovering the truth of her family secrets. I liked the era, made me think of Hemingway and the Fitzgerald's, and I liked how Ms. Willig has shown the growth in Rachel/Vera. A few plot twists and intriguing characters make this an enjoyable read. If there had been more depth to the building of the relationship for the romantic aspect, this would be a 5 star rating.

Ian says

After her mother dies of influenza, Rachel stumbles upon a picture torn from the society pages of a magazine. It's of her father who she thought was dead together with his daughter — the eponymous other daughter. As an earl he has everything, wealth, status and respect. All things she lacks.

She forms an uneasy alliance with Simon, a gossip columnist who is a society insider and manages to insinuate herself into the bright young things of London in the 1920s. But as she sets her plan into motion to confront the father who abandoned her, everything starts crashing down around her.

The Other Daughter is good...occasionally it's brilliant but it still somehow managed to leave me feeling a little unsatisfied. The resolutions are painfully sparse and in some cases completely absent. You grow to love Olivia and Cece but they just disappear without so much as a 'by your leave'.

Overall, it's worth the effort but those few missteps tarnished an otherwise great book.

Nidofito says

Worthy of a reread.

What a wonderful book to come back from a long audiobook hiatus.

Just a heads up, there was one scene right at the beginning that made me cry. I *rarely* cry. But this scene is about mothers and with Nicola's narration it absolutely kills you, so I suggest listening to the book :)

The Other Daughter is an exciting page-turner. From the get-go I knew I was going to love Rachel's character. Instead of being cold or snotty with her prim and proper personality, Rachel is incredibly warm and caring. With the news of her mother's illness, she becomes part of a life-changing experience that makes her more mature while uncovering many juicy secrets.

'20s London setting is written marvellously, the dialogue snappy with just the right amount of naivety-on-purpose on the girls' parts and braggart personalities of the guys.

Setting the revenge plot aside (which you will love) with its surprising depths and twists, what I enjoyed most were the layers to the characters. Forget Simon, listening to Olivia's character was a roller coaster. I loved the feeling of being completely in-tune with Rachel's feelings with regards to Olivia which went everywhere from hate, indifference, envy, jealousy, pity and grudging admiration. (The star of the show is still Rachel followed by Simon)

However, despite being able to keep a steady momentum throughout the book with nary a draggy section, one of the reasons *The Other Daughter* didn't get five stars was because I thought the last 25% was a little too-heavy on plot development. The second reason was the romance: for me, the shift a little jarring, the male character too hostile/sarcastic initially to become the passionate lover at the end, even within context.

Willig does love her kaleidoscopes though.

Christina says

After a successful divergence from her Napoleonic spy romances of the Pink Carnation series with the post-Edwardian "The Ashford Affair" and "That Summer" novels, New York Times bestselling author Lauren Willig again embarks on another stand-alone narrative with "The Other Daughter".

Rachel Woodley, a governess working in France, learns her mother has died. As if that isn't enough, she soon discovers her supposedly dead father is not only alive and well but is an influential earl...and head of prominent family! Everything Rachel has ever known is now topsy-turvy and all she feels is betrayal.

After meeting with an old time friend to demand some answers, she meets Simon, one of London's young elite. And for unknown reasons, he undertakes Rachel's cause, setting her up in a swanky London apartment, with a wardrobe fitting her glamorous, mysterious new identity. But to what end? Blackmail? Revenge? Curiosity? As Rachel falls in with this rich, party-going crowd, she meets cousins she never knew existed as well as her sister and father. (Like always, it was fun seeing the name Vaughn! Even if it was hyphenated with another.) But her plans are upset when she discovers she might actually like this half-sister.

As in other Willig stand-alone novels...once I started reading "The Other Daughter" I could not put it down until I reached its wholly satisfying conclusion. Willig's lush, likeable characters and layered historical aspects, touches of mystery, and a dash of romance will keep you mulling over the storyline and other intrinsic detailing long after you've inhaled that satisfying last page. This is a MustRead...if only to pacify your anticipation for the conclusion of Willig's Pink Carnation series.

*I received an advanced reader copy from St. Martins Press in exchange for my fair & honest review.

Lyuda says

What an enjoyable read this was! Its competent intelligent writing reminded me of Susanna Kearsley's work. The story maybe a little light on romance but it's fully compensated by a very engaging plot (I had hard time walking away from reading and consumed the story almost in one setting) , beautiful characterization, and setting that sparkled with authenticity. I felt transported to this deceptively care-free, neurotic time known as the Roaring Twenties. Numerous secondary characters didn't destruct from the plot but, quite opposite, enhanced the narrative. They brought additional wrinkle, extra layer of depth to make the story complete.

When we first met the heroine, Rachel Woodley , she is working in France as a governess. A news of her widowed mother illness quickly sent her back home to a small town in England. But she was too late, her mother died of influenza. Rachel lost her only living relative besides her cousin in Oxford. Or, so she thought, until clearing out the cottage she finds a cutting from a London society magazine, with a photograph of her supposedly deceased father dated all of three month before. He's an earl, respected and influential, and he is standing with another daughter-his legitimate daughter. Everything Rachel thought she knew about herself and her past turned into lie. Seeking confirmation of what she found, Rachel travels to Oxford to see her cousin. There, in her cousin's office, she encounters Simon Montfort, a member of an old aristocratic family and a gossip column writer. With his aid, Rachel infiltrates the ranks of the Bright Young Things in order to accost her wayward father. But things rarely go as planned..

The twists and turns of the book made it hard to put down. Rachel is such a gem! She is funny, intelligent, bold and endearing. The interactions between her and Simon were so enhancing. The witty repartee and tension between the two was fascinating.

This is a standalone book but I hope the author writes a sequel. I could think of at least two characters whose

stories I would love to read.

Elyse says

A surprise Joyful Read!

From start to finish I enjoyed the storytelling!

This novel has everything I enjoy in a fiction novel ...

From loss, grief, poverty, and a discovered secret.....an adventure story takes on a life of its own.

Engaging, charming, mysterious, a little mischievous, and a little romantic....

Lauren Willig has written a wonderful 'curl-up-and-snuggle' escape read. One or two sittings and the end has come before you've realized it.

Watch Rachel transform... starting with a vengeful fantasy of a newspaper headline which would say..., "Earl's Abandon Daughter Seeks Justice"

A cousin, a name change, a chaperone, (or, shall we say, " a business venture"), a father, a half sister, a fiancé, love, betrayal, twists and turns, some tender sensitive moments, humor,

All in the wonderful seductive era of the 1920's.

Think nightclub parties, cocktails, and cigarettes!

This was a time in England - after WW1-- when the mood of the country saw great change ...

and it was no different for the characters in "The Other Sister".

The hedonistic lifestyle along with genuine forgiveness.. (letting go of bitterness), makes this a very satisfying read!

Jody McGrath says

I wavered between a 3 and a 4. I read the book in one sitting, it was good. But it won't stand out in my mind a week from now. Everything seemed too easy for the heroine. She was a governess, who found out she was the illegitimate daughter of an earl. She decided she was going to become a part of the Bright Young Things and get access to him so she could confront him. Seconds later, she meets filthy rich Simon, who has an agenda of his own and fronts the money for the whole thing. He has never met her before. He puts her up in his mom's flat, introduces her to the right people...blah blah blah.

It would be like if all of a sudden I decided that I was going to hang out with celebrities, and I turn a corner and Johnny Depp is there and says, "Yeah, I'll help you."

You must be prepared to suspend your disbelief!

snowplum says

I've read a few other books by Lauren Willig (all from the Pink Carnation series) and I found them mildly

likeable but often felt like they were trying too hard -- wanting to be smarter, wanting to be a little bit more feminist and adventurous, or a little more romantic than they could ultimately sustain. I would say *The Other Daughter* is a massive step forward for Ms Willig, especially in crafting characters. And, oddly, though the plot in this novel becomes twice as intricate as any of the *Pink Carnation* books, it reads as far more elegant and well constructed. The story reaches a *Comedy of Errors* level of mistaken assumptions, lies, and twists that strain credulity, yet it's entirely satisfying how it plays out. It feels like Willig found the one safe path through a maze where disaster might have pounced at any corner, and it's a pretty impressive feat.

If you're wondering whether this is a romance novel, I would say the answer is no, though you might someday find it on a shelf with historical romances. It does have a happy ending that includes falling in love, but most of the novel is not about the couple. There are a lot of interesting historical details -- some that even made me look up the facts to see if Willig really knew what she was talking about (for example I had no idea rayon existed a hundred years ago; I would have guessed it was invented much more recently). There are also no sex scenes whatsoever, so it is very definitely not *that sort* of romance novel. More importantly, there are some pleasingly complex and surprising characters who make this feel much more substantial than what you probably think of as a romance novel.

Most of all, there is an undercurrent of darkness through most of this book that doesn't read like a typical romance. The main character, Rachel, discovers that she is illegitimate only when her mother dies in Rachel's 27th year. She thought her father to be a botanist, deceased over two decades earlier. But apparently he's an Earl, alive, and has a family living in comfort and ignorance of her existence (while Rachel and her mother barely had money for food and lodging). Confusion, curiosity, and anger war with each other, and we see that Rachel wants to do *something* in the pursuit of justice, but isn't sure what exactly she wants to do or is really capable of doing. She creates an alter ego, Vera, to venture into London and insert herself in the Earl's family's social circles, and all the while vacillates about what she really wants to do when she has the opportunity. Only when she meets the Earl and he demonstrates absolutely no interest in her or recognition of the daughter that he abandoned does she dedicate herself to revenge. And then there are a series of reveals and plot twists that show almost everyone in the story to be surprising in some way -- many of them better than they seem, and a few, surprisingly worse.

I found Rachel to be sympathetic and usually intelligent. She finds a partner in schemes in the enigmatic Simon, and the two of them have some very witty, occasionally bitter, and very occasionally sweet conversations. She thinks she knows the limitations of how much she can trust him, yet she is confounded multiple times by the truth about him when additional layers are exposed. Their relationship is fascinating, and I would have liked even more detail about it and more gradual revelations for each of them about what they're capable of feeling and doing. The weakness of the book is in Rachel's repeatedly going through the process of thinking she probably can't really trust Simon because he has his own agenda but deciding that she's going to keep working with him anyway. I feel like we got three or four variations of her beginning to have questions about him, making a halfhearted effort to get answers, not getting answers, and deciding she doesn't *need* the answers and going on just as she was. A little too much treading water for a book that isn't very long.

On top of everything, while pretending to be Vera and spending time with the "fast" crowd, Rachel gets swept up in a lot of their activities and experiences a genuine compromise of her initial soul and self. This isn't just the same old story where the naive good girl has a handsome and popular Pygmalion to transform her, but then despite having sudden access to a different lifestyle, she retains all of her pure, honorable, angelic ideals and attitudes. Rachel is a smart and sensitive person, but she ends up partying and lying and using people in a combination of escapism and alleged intent to serve her scheme that I find well done because it realistically depicts a person's blurred lines. Of course there's a happy ending where her core values do turn out to be "good" ones... but Rachel is not a Disney Cinderella. She's a much more complex person.

I think for this to be a great novel, there would need to be a little bit more time building the central romantic relationship, and some more significant action taken in the pursuit of revenge. Rachel's excuse for not simply exposing the Earl's actions at the outset seems flimsy, so much so that it reads like an authorial contrivance to force a longer story instead of as a defining truth of Rachel's character. Rachel ultimately turns out to be a likeable, thoughtful person, and I suppose I can accept that she was never capable of bringing Armageddon down if innocent people would have been hurt along with guilty ones. But the book would be a lot more interesting if she at least occasionally spun out a detailed, specific scheme in her own head so that we could see what she was capable of thinking of doing or wanting to do, even if she wasn't ultimately a person who would *do* something drastic and destructive. That could have made for a much more sophisticated character portrait.

I also wouldn't mind slightly less of a feeling that the author is obviously capitalizing on the recent resurgence in interest in the Jazz Age due to Gatsby, making sure you know about the dresses and the parties and the gossip and the cigarette holders, and all those trappings of the glamour of that period. But as a novel that is consciously tapping into a trend, *The Other Daughter* has a little extra something that makes it compelling, and that has to do with finding such a clever balance between romantic wish fulfillment and a more nuanced approach to characters' motivations and their multifaceted, periodically conflicting desires. This is a better-than-average weekend/vacation/beach read, and I feel confident that if you're sifting through reviews because you're pretty sure you wanted to read it but just wanted a little more info, *The Other Daughter* will end up being a book you enjoy.

As what may be a sign that I am ascending the ranks of Net Galley reviewers, they allowed me to enjoy a complimentary copy of the probable best seller which is *The Other Daughter* in return for my honest review. Thanks, guys!

Lady Vigilante (Feifei) says

4 stars!

I enjoyed this historical read. My only complaint is that the romance was very weak. I wish I could elaborate more but I'm in a serious book reviewing funk so I'll get back to this one later.

ARC provided by [St. Martin's Press](#) via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Jennifer says

Personally, I don't prefer historical fiction. I'll choose another genre over it at pretty much every opportunity unless it has been *strongly* recommended or I just don't have anything else to read, the latter being the case with *The Other Daughter*. That being said, it didn't take me long at all to know I was going to devour this book. I loved it ♥

Lauren Willig created an amazing storyline and characters for this standalone novel. This story offers family secrets, deceit, revenge, false identities, mystery, 1920's London...*The Other Daughter* definitely kept a fast and fun pace, and I was thoroughly engaged from start to finish.

So why not five roaring stars? Unfortunately, I was a bit underwhelmed by the secrets I learned at the end (but I was on cloud freakin' nine so I could have been expecting too much). Also, I personally needed more romance when the plot called for it near the end. These characters are passionate to their core - it's obvious through their character building - but again, I felt it was a bit underwhelming in comparison to the anticipation I felt. It just left me a tiny bit disappointed. But it's all good. Remember, I'm still a newbie when it comes to historical fiction so this might not be an issue with other readers.

Regardless of these minor moments at the end, I just couldn't dismiss my overall reaction to this novel. I so enjoyed this book and let me add that the audio version is outstanding in my opinion. I'd highly recommend it. Four stars is still pretty damn good in my book and I will **definitely** be reading more of this author! Check it out!

My favorite quote:

"We're all liars my sweet. Some of us are simply better at it than others."

Kacey says

It's so try-hard with its premise, and yet does nothing interesting with it. And the "banter" is just terrible. Terrible! I finished it, so that's it's only virtue, really.

Holly says

I think it would take a lot for me not to like a Lauren Willig novel. I love historical books, this one set in early 1920's England, one of my favorite periods. Add in family secrets, lies, snarky humor, and just a dash of love, well, you pretty much have my attention.
