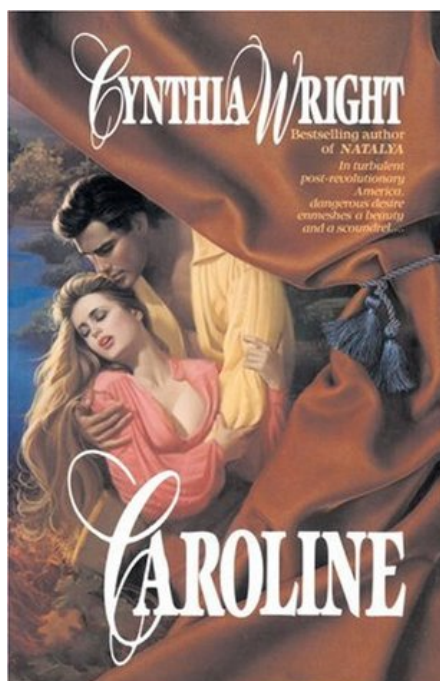




Caroline

Cynthia Wright

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The year is 1783, and rakish Alexandre Beauvisage is returning from the Revolutionary War when he discovers Caroline, unconscious in the Connecticut woods. Dressed as a boy, she has no memory of her past. Against his better judgment, he takes the lovely foundling with him to his home in Philadelphia and finds his life increasingly complicated as the fiery attraction between them builds and Caro's dangerous past reaches out to her.

CAROLINE is Cynthia Wright's unforgettable debut novel and is on keeper shelves worldwide. The story of a confirmed rake and an innocent, spirited young woman, it is filled with sensual romance, evocative history, memorable characters, and the joy of true love.

The Beauvisage Novels* and The Raveneau Novels intertwine, with some characters crossing over. Should you wish to read them in chronological order, this is the sequence:

1780 - SILVER STORM

1783- CAROLINE*

1789 - TOUCH THE SUN*

1793 - SPRING FIRES* (A Beauvisage/Raveneau Novel)

1814 - SURRENDER THE STARS

1814 - NATALYA*

1818 - SILVER SEA (A Raveneau/Beauvisage Novel)

1903 - TEMPEST

*Authors Note, January 2013 - This new, subtly revised version of CAROLINE addresses issues raised by some contemporary readers. CAROLINE was originally written & published in 1977, but times have changed. In this new edition, Alec is a more mature alpha hero and Caro is a stronger heroine. If you have read and loved CAROLINE in the past, I think you will love it even more now!.

Caroline Details

Date : Published August 8th 1994 by Ballantine Books (first published 1977)

ISBN : 9780345386694

Author : Cynthia Wright

Format : Paperback 336 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Historical Fiction

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From Reader Review Caroline for online ebook

Marilyn says

For me, this book was a big disappointment. There were a lot of GR people who remembered reading this fondly and were glad to see this reissued as an ebook. I found it very juvenile and amateurish. Possibly one of the reasons was that it was written in 1977 and reading styles/modes have moved on; it felt very dated. I tried to finish it but it was too much so I skipped ahead to the last two chapters and saved myself a lot of misspent reading time. The coincidences in the denouement were just too unbelievable even in the realm of fiction. To me, this book should be left behind where it no doubt belongs: in 1977.

Eileen says

I downloaded it for free from Amazon, because historical fiction is, together with fantasy, my favorite genre. It's an easy, uncomplicated, predictable and boring read. A book you take with you on holidays that you leave behind in your hotel room and never think about again.

The first part of the book was the hardest. Half way when Alec said for the billionth time "I'm sorry, I shouldn't have done that", I almost gave up, but the second half was better, at least some things were happening.

For example, suddenly the author remembered Caro's amnesia that she had not mentioned for many chapters and she had to tie up some other loose ends too.

She used very stereotype characters that didn't mature much. Besides the grand-mother nobody really interested me. Alec was just controlling and Caro couldn't do one second without him or she'd become totally depressed. Not very realistic.

The story could have been told so much better, it absolutely lacks in execution, but it was her debut and that explains a lot. I didn't totally hate it, but I've read way better books in this genre and in comparing it's just not good. I decided that I'm not going to read the sequels and I don't recommend the book. My actual rating is 1,5 stars.

Freda says

This is the first in the Beauvisage family instalments. The way Cynthia Wright writes indicates how well she has researched her background to her stories. She draws you in either because you know of the time in which she has set her story or you have no knowledge and you want to find out what it was like back then. Her characters are well-rounded and you get involved with their lives whatever they are doing. I find it hard to put Cynthia's books down and they keep me awake way past the time I should be asleep but they are so good to read. I cannot recommend this author highly enough. It is a shame I can only give 5 stars for her endeavours because she deserves so much more.

carol says

Been a long time since I read a straightforward historical romance, albeit one with a mystery running through it. And I enjoyed it, it made a pleasant change.

Sort of book you can read in public too :)

Andre Beauvisage, French/American secret agent/soldier on the side of George Washington during the American Revolution is returning from the war where, of course, the US are victorious. He has also a notorious rake, love 'em and leave 'em reputation, which in the 1780's was seriously frowned upon. Andre finds a young, beautiful woman with severe amnesia and they call her Caroline...Caro for short. He introduces her to his family and friends as a dead friend's daughter, to which, she is now his ward, in his care and protection, until marriage.

The writer's knowledge of the era, places, the society, manners and etiquette is sound. Her knowledge of homes and furniture of that era, of fashion in particular, is excellent.

Throughout there's not only a reluctant on off romance, but the mystery of who Caro really is, and why a particularly nasty individual is after her hand in marriage.

I quite liked most of the characters, Grandmere, especially.

Few minor typos and one niggle...it finished in just the wrong place, just as I wanted to know her reaction to what Andre was about to tell her. Grrr! Yes, I can use my imagination, but reading how Cynthia would have put it even better.

If you like Victoria Holt/Georgette Heyer and their ilk, you will love this writer too.

Border 4/5 stars from me.

Katrina Passick Lumsden says

This is my second book by Cynthia Wright, and I'm a little disturbed at the idea of what she considered the ideal man.

Alec is paternalistic, condescending, possessive, controlling, jealous...you know the drill. He's one of those alpha heroes that says things along the lines of, "You shouldn't have worn that dress because now I can't stop myself".

He's a harmful stereotype. But he's not the only one. Oh, no. Luckily for the hapless reader, Caro is just as bad. She's petulant, childish, and idiotically rebellious. She's the kind of girl who balks at being told to be quiet, stamping her feet and sputtering with indignation, and gets everyone killed by giving away their position. The quintessential TSTL heroine who, of course, lives happily ever after with the overbearing misogynist of her dreams.

Gag me.

Carol Storm says

A proud young nation's blazing birth -- a high-spirited young woman's innocent desires!

Cynthia Wright brought something unique and wonderful to Seventies historical romance. While Rosemary Rogers depicted savage, cynical heroes who often brutalized and humiliated the heroine, Cynthia Wright created fierce but protectively masculine heroes who were both teasing and tender.

When I think of CAROLINE, I remember so many little scenes where Alec and Caroline simply enjoy each other in a playful way. Like the breakfast scene where she's running to tell him something important and he wisecracks, "were you just attacked by an egg?" And she responds by pushing at his bare chest to get his attention! Scenes like that underline how right they are as a couple even when the steaming hot passion is momentarily forgotten.

Oh, but don't forget the hot scenes either! I remember one night in the garden where they quarrel, and Alec kisses her, and when Caroline reels away from him in outrage her furious gasps actually seem to echo off the stone walls of the garden! Those subtle details are what make the difference between a good romance writer and a very, very great one.

Cynthia Wright is a great one -- one of the all time greats. It's so good to know her books are still out there to enjoy!

Gretchen says

I just finished this book for about the dozenth time and I remember why I love Cynthia Wright's novels so much. She writes with humor and passion and romance. But not in a way I view most historical romances, too cheesy or over-the-top.

I love Caro and Alec's relationship as well as the historical side of the book. It's the way you want your own relationship to be. Real AND romantic.

Off to read the next books in the series, yes, again, for about the dozenth time.

Eileen Dandashi says

Audiobook Review:

This book, I understand is the debut novel from one of my favored authors, Cynthia Wright. I'm reading through the series. Hopefully, I'll be listening to the narrated version of each book.

Caroline, otherwise known as Caro, was a sweet, innocent woman who had hit her head on a tree while riding through the wood. When she woke she knew not who she was. She only knew the handsome man kneeling next to her had to be the most handsome man she had ever seen. I could not put this listen down. I'm so happy I have Bluetooth earphones!

Alexander was returning home from a long war – eight years of it, where, though dearly paid for, his country was free of tyranny. He had lost many friends and must now try to pick up the pieces of his life. Very much a rogue with rakish ways he had lots of redeeming qualities, although keeping his hands off Caro was not one of them. To Alec, she had a face of an angel. She drew him to her, with all her beauty, sweetness and sensual innocence. He had to do the right thing by her – he couldn't leave her alone in the wood, so he would deliver her to his family in Philadelphia and be on his merry way.

I enjoyed how the author wove a passionate love story into the events of this historic period with humor and an abundance of emotional scenes.

Each scene entices the read to question the future of Caro—she is so innocent and trusting. The plot thickens, complicating any ideas Alexander had getting his life back together without getting further tangled with Caro. Needless to say, although well-meaning, Alec did not manage to do the right thing. Or did he?

We learn bits and pieces about Caroline, as she becomes aware of them herself. She knew she should be anxious about her future, who she was, why she was dressed as a boy with only a few articles packed lying beside her in the forest. Yet, she wasn't. Alexander gave her a sense of security and amazingly she trusted him.

There was quite a bit of suspense later in the book, keeping me listening and HAVING to KNOW. I so enjoyed this read and highly recommend Cynthia Wright's writing and her books in narration. Her world is touchable — from the magic of her pen!

Stacey says

CAROLINE is Cynthia Wright's first book, originally published in 1977. I have read it many times, in the original book form, in the mid-1980s and later in ebook form. This is where the Beauvisage saga begins* and is the second book in the Rakes and Rebels series. Set in post-Revolutionary War Connecticut, Alec Beauvisage is heading home from the war when he finds a young woman who has lost her memory. To try and figure out who this mysterious girl is, Alec brings her home as his ward. As a renowned rake, Alec tries hard to resist Caroline's charms, but Caro is feisty and is not afraid to stand up for herself.

Ms. Wright does an outstanding job of weaving the history of the time, with famous figures showing up as secondary characters. I loved Alex and Caro's dinner with Alexander Hamilton. He even mentions Aaron Burr living around the corner. (On a re-read, my inner HAMILTON fan-girl gave many cheers.) Far from detracting to the story, these historical mentions add flavor and provide context for the action.

To me, CAROLINE is the one book in the Rakes and Rebels series that has the strongest “bodice ripper” feel. While it is not my favorite of the series, I always enjoy reading it. I feel it somehow reads slightly differently than Wright's later books. I know that Wright is very sensitive to the fact that parts in the story read very differently to the modern reader as opposed to the reader from the 1970s/1980s. With that in mind, CAROLINE has been edited at least twice to tweak the story, making it more to the taste of the modern reader.

I would recommend CAROLINE to lovers of historical romance and for all of those HAMILTON fans, this is the first of several of Cynthia Wright's romances set during the late-1700s. Here you will find another perspective of life and love in early America.

*Now there is a prequel, HEART OF FRAGILE STARS, which tells the story of how Alec's parents met. Amusingly, Alec tells Caro a very brief version of his parents' courtship, which is then expanded upon in the prequel.

Nola Arganbright says

Spell Binding

I have always enjoyed Cynthia Wright's books and this is no exception. The writing is excellent and the story flows easily. Wonderful well developed characters and fact informed background. A true joy to read?

Angela Delgado says

Wow, alpha hero to the max.... Be forewarned: unless you like your heroes controlling, paternalistic, mercurial, and infuriating, and your heroines vacillating, childish, and amnesiacs, this isn't the book for you. Caroline is sadly dated. Alec exudes waves of possessive vibes, so even while he's enjoying an affair with another woman, he interferes with any interest Caro shows in anyone else; meanwhile, she's not able to become very interested because of the massive depression that hits her any time she's without him. He takes advantage of her while she's in a very vulnerable place, then treats her like the most stereotypical succubus/temptress who's trying to manipulate and control him.

Honestly, if it weren't for the publication date, I'd have thought this was another Twilight fanfic that made it through the publishing house. You could swap out the names, and it would fit perfectly.

Char ? Denae says

I probably didn't really read this in 1977, I was still in 'Jr. High' but I'm not sure exactly when I read it so I put the release date. I do know that it was one of my favorite books and though it was a bit 'rapey', I won't read any rewritten 'PC' electronic versions. I don't think books should be altered because of changing times. I think that readers should take into consideration that these books were written at a time when that was the trend and judge the book by the story, not the style.

Misfit says

This is your standard amnesia plot set in Colonial America (I think it's after the war, but don't quote me). Girl loses memory and is 'rescued' by handsome, wealthy hero. Lots of descriptions of food, parties and clothes and **SEX**, but not much else happens until time for the final wrap-up and HEA. I see some reviewers complaining the hero is a bit of a jerk, but the introduction to the Kindle version I read said something about special author's cut, so perhaps this has been revised and the old school elements toned down. Who knows, but certainly not worth the effort unless one is in the mood for some brain candy reading.

Lady Wesley says

Sorry to say that this one did not engage me enough for me to finish it.

Regan Walker says

4 and 1/2 Stars - Great Beginning to the Beauvisage Series!

Cynthia Wright begins her Beauvisage series with a great post Revolutionary War tale of intrigue and romance. And this new eBook version has lots of improvements. It's well written with a clever plot and the history will bring the period alive. I highly recommend it.

It is 1783 and Alexandre Beauvisage, erstwhile spy/scout for America, is on his way home to Philadelphia, happy the Peace Treaty has been signed in Paris, when he stumbles upon a young woman in the Connecticut woods dressed as a boy. Obviously suffering from a blow on the head, she has lost her memory and takes the name "Caroline" because it appeals to her. Alec decides to do the noble thing and take the girl to his home to help her but it seems he cannot keep his hands from her. Though it seems quite clear she is an innocent, Alec, a womanizer, takes her innocence then tells her it won't happen again and she'll find a nice young man who will never know. (Alec is definitely not an honorable man.) In Philadelphia, Alec announces to all Caro is his ward. Caro falls in love with Alec's family--and with him--but he continues to enjoy his mistress and holding Caro at a distance.

I liked Wright's attention to historical detail and her incorporation of real historical figures in American history (like George Washington and many others). She brought the period after the Revolutionary War to life and made me feel like I was living in Philadelphia in the 18th century. I also liked her secondary characters, Alec's family members in particular, and his mother who was priceless.

Should you want to read more, here is the list of books in the Beauvisage series (I have a combined review on the bundled product):

CAROLINE
TOUCH THE SUN
SPRING FIRES
NATALYA

If you like reading a series in time order, as I do, here are the books in both of Wright's intertwined Raveneau and Beauvisage series in chronological order:

1780 - SILVER STORM
1783 - CAROLINE
1789 - TOUCH THE SUN
1793 - SPRING FIRES
1814 - SURRENDER THE STARS
1814 - NATALYA
1818 - SILVER SEA (originally BARBADOS)
1903 - TEMPEST (to be released in 2012)

