

Always in my Heart

Ellie Dean

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As the Japanese begin their assault on Singapore, Sarah Fuller is forced to leave her parents and fiancé, Philip, behind. The long journey to England is fraught with danger, and Sarah and her sister Jane don't even know if their great-aunt is alive, let alone waiting for them.

They arrive in Cliffehaven, on the south coast of England, and here Sarah must find work to support them both. When the Women's Timber Corps takes over the local estate, Sarah enlists as a lumberjill.

But as time goes on and the news of events in Singapore worsen, Sarah fears she will never see Philip and her parents again...

Always in my Heart Details

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Author: Ellie Dean

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Leigh says

It's been a while since I visited Beach View Boarding House and it was nice to be back. This instalment is different but I loved it. Instead of yet another big city evacuee coming to stay we travel instead to Malaya shortly before the Japanese launched their attacks in the East. The Fuller family lives a pampered protected life, even if they are not quite up to the same level of the elite in society. Jock is the father and manager of a rubber plantation, Sybil his wife is seven months pregnant, Sarah the oldest daughter at nineteen helps her father in the plantation office and younger sister Jane seventeen suffered a head injury in a horse riding accident and is thought to have suffered brain damage as a result. Shortly before the Japanese begin bombing Singapore Sarah becomes engaged to Phillip a man who is much sought after by the wealthy young girls of society of which the Fullers don't really belong. When war is declared the Fuller family is torn apart. Sarah and Jane leave on a ship to England where they hope to find their great aunts. Their mother Sybil becomes ill with dengue fever and they are forced to leave her behind, as well as both Phillip and Jock who will help fight the Japanese. Back in England we catch up with Peggy and the rest of the gang. She has just given birth to a baby named Daisy and hates the enforced bed rest. Cordelia learns that her great nieces are being sent from Malaya to stay with her for their safety. The theatre that Jim works in is bombed leading to a few hilarious moments given where Jim was at the time of the bombing. Sadly though he and his brother receive their call up papers. After a rather rough journey Sarah and Jane arrive in England. Used to the tropics they are in for a big culture shock. But eventually they stumble their way to Beachview where they come across Ron and his new ferrets who are on the loose. They soon settle in. Jane proves that the doctors were wrong about her and her head injury. Gifted in math and with puzzles, and also with horses, she finds work at a dairy and doing bookkeeping, and is also offered an opportunity to help the war effort in another crucial way. Sarah finds work at the nearby estate taken over by the Timer Corps. There is the usual happenings in the house hold. Ron and his antics, Rita, her usual tomboy self, Fran looking forward to meeting the newly arrived Americans and Suzy who finds love with Anthony, Peggy's nephew. I liked that we learned more about Cordelia and her family as she is a big part of the series but always more in the background. I hope they will give Fran and Suzy their own books in this series. The series continues to improve with each book except for some minor points in the previous book. I loved the different setting in this book, especially since there was no predictable ending. With the war escalating in the East there was no way there would be a happy ending. However there was some resolution in the end, but there was enough loose ends to make me eager for the next book. What's wrong with Peggy? Will Jim and Frank be sent overseas? Will Jane take the job as a code breaker? What will become of Jock and Phillip will they survive? This series had better continue on until the end of the war. I want answers.

Pat Langhelt says

Loved this look forward to next book

Suzanne says

Mrs. Finch's nieces arrive in Beachcliff after a long and difficult trip from Malay. Their father tried to get them out before there was fighting but he was shocked at how fast everything happened. Leaving t::) their

sick pregnant mother behind, Sarah and Jane made it to Beachcliff only to learn that one aunt refused to open the door and the other address was just a bombed out shell. Sarah realized what a pampered life they had lived. Singapore fell and they had no idea if their father, mother, or Sarah's fiancee was still alive and because of the war the money their father sent never arrived.

Fi says

Another enjoyable 'Beach View' yarn - this time covering certain aspects of WW2 that I hadn't read about before: namely the work of 'lumberjills', plus a fascinating first (for me) insight into Churchill's secret auxiliary units

Gail Amendt says

This was another great installment in the series. It differed from the others a bit as we began the book following sisters Sarah and Jane living on a rubber plantation in Malaya, and learn about the invasion by the Japanese and the fall of Singapore. Sarah and Jane are part of a large evacuation and travel to England, where they have an elderly great aunt, none other than long time Beach View resident Cordelia Finch. We get to learn a bit about the delightful Mrs. Finch's past, and it's great that this peripheral character gets her time to shine. I did, however, dock a star for this part of the story, as I have a problem with the time line. It seems very unlikely that a woman who was in her seventies during WWII had a husband and brother who fought in the trenches during WWI. This is a small complaint, though, and did not diminish my enjoyment of the story. I look forward to the next installment, and hope to meet Sarah and Jane again in future books.

Carol B Davis says

lovely

I decided to re-read this book while waiting for the next book to come out this summer. It was just great.

Christina says

Loving every book in this collection can be read in order or as a single story

Kim says

I'm really enjoying this series by Ellie Dean and can't wait to see the next one published so that I can find out about the family in Singapore!

Joan M Erickson says

Great WWIi Story

The girls survived the trip to England from Malaya which was a miracle in itself. Their mother's survival was also a miracle. Wouldn't count on the men's coming through their trials well. Hope carried people through many years of despair. I remember well the end of the war on both fronts with relief my brothers survived.

Kim says

Well written and solid.

Jossie Marie Solheim says

I love all the beach view boarding house books, it's such a brilliant series. With lots of lovable characters that help guide you through a huge range of jobs and the everyday life of those living in war torn Britain battling to survive world war 2.

In this the 5 th book we also get a look at life beyond Britain, and how the war effected British citizens abroad. As always it was enthralling and heart capturing. I loved it! Definitely worth a read.

Diane Cunningham says

Another good book from Ellie following the lives of Peggy her family and friends. We meet extended family of Cordelia Finch who travel from Malaya to stay with Peggy. We see Peggy left holding the baby while her husband and his brother are called up. Ellie tells a great story and it's lovely to follow their lives through the series. Looking forward to the next book in the series.

Fran Mewse says

I really enjoyed this book and found it hard to put down. It was good to catch up with the residents of Cliffehaven. In my last review I said it would have been good to know what happened to these characters, this book fills the gap. It was enjoyable to read a war story set in a different place than London. Would recommend reading it.

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