



The Antique Dealer's Daughter

Lorna Gray

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'An original, authentic period mystery that keeps you guessing, with a strong female protagonist' *Jane Hunt Book Reviews*

The Cotswolds, Summer, 1947

In the aftermath of war, Emily Sutton struggles to find her place in a world irrevocably changed by conflict. When she refuses to follow tradition and join her father's antiques business – or get married – her parents send her for an 'improving' stay with her spinster cousin in the Cotswolds. But Emily arrives to find her cousin's cottage empty and a criminal at work in the neighbourhood.

A deadly scandal still haunts this place – the death of John Langton, the rumour of his hoard of wartime spoils, leaving his older brother to bear the disgrace. Now, even as Emily begins to understand each man's true nature, the bright summer sky is darkened by a new attack. Someone is working hard to ensure that John's ghost will not be allowed to rest, with terrifying consequences...

The Antique Dealer's Daughter Details

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From Reader Review The Antique Dealer's Daughter for online ebook

LAVERNE SCOTT says

This book had an excellent story to tell, but it was a little hard plowing through all the extra verbiage to get to the story.

Nancy Roggen says

Plodding

I am an avid reader of historical fiction.

This book was a disappointment. The title was misleading and the plot was overly complicated for my taste with a predictable conclusion . I finished the book feeling let down.

Jean Hall says

I enjoyed reading this book and made me think more about how it must have been for people after the war was over trying to get back to a normal life.

K is for Cathy says

Emily is the antique dealer's daughter, who is the main character and the only thing that has to do with the title. This novel takes place in post WWII England. Teenage Emily spent the war in London too old to be evacuated and too young to help with the cause. With the war over, older Emily needs to find herself. Leaving her parents home to live with her spinster cousin in Cotswolds she arrives to find her cousin Phyllis in the hospital with a broken wrist after having had a bicycle accident. As walking on the way to her cousin's cottage she comes involved with the aftermath of a mugging. Add the mystery of vandalism, death and mysteries makes this story very intriguing. I did have to look up a bunch of British words and slang which was no trouble. I highly recommend.

Jane Hunt says

Steeped in historical detail and authentic characters you could undoubtedly find in post-war Britain, 'The Antique Dealer's Daughter' follows Emily's endeavours as she forges a life for herself in the rural idyll of the Cotswolds.

World War 2 changed lives and gave women chances and certain emancipation that would have happened

much more slowly without the impetus of the war. This story illustrates this and the frustration many women felt when they were expected to return to their post-war roles. The post-war era and life in the rural Cotswolds immerse the reader, but the slow pacing and length of the story sometimes negate the powerful messages both social and political and the depth of the characters.

It's not an easy read, there is perhaps a little too much historical detail and the characters' behaviour and attitudes, while realistic makes them hard to understand and empathise. The mystery and the danger the heroine finds herself in underlines the story but only seeing it from Emily's point of view reduces its impact; always being in her head is often confusing for the reader.

If you are a devotee of historical fiction in the 1940s, this is an absorbing read, but if you are more interested in solving the crimes and mystery, you may find it difficult to discover and keep the clues in your mind. The romance is gentle and rather lovely, entirely in keeping with the period.

I received a copy of this book from Harper Impulse via NetGalley in return for an honest review.

Wild Irish says

I absolutely love this author's works. Her stories are a bit like the older, well written, well-plotted, atmospheric gothic novels that were popular when I was a teenager, but that you rarely find very well-written nor with the same engrossing plots and gothic atmosphere from today's authors who even still attempt that type of romance. Gray's works remind me of those oldies and I absolutely love that about them.

Her heroines are very introspective and self-aware and we get to see the stories and events all through their eyes as they slowly figure out what is really going on and who can actually be trusted and believed and who can not. With a grandfather who came over to the U.S.A. from Wales I, also, love that her books take place in Wales and right around the very end of WWII, two genres that aren't all that common in romance novels, and are very historically accurate. It's very interesting, to me, to see the country and its people and attitudes through the author's excellent descriptions and dialogues so I feel like I am there.

That all being said, this one was a bit more confusing for me to keep track of or understand exactly what was happening at times, or how exactly the heroine and hero were realizing truths about each other as they were discussing things and events with each other, and how the actual truths about other certain characters were exactly realized by what was described as being said or done. The writing is a bit vague while being very descriptive if that makes any sense. I may just be a person who is slow to grasp things when worded differently than how I am used to hearing or speaking.

Perhaps it is the different way people spoke back then and in another country from the United States, too, why I struggled with it at times, but that was my only complaint-- the confusion about what was actually being alluded to or what was happening as events played out. I would eventually just keep reading instead of trying to go back and reread sentences trying to figure out what I read that was alluded to but not said outright for clarity and, instead, wait for it to fall together hopefully in the next few sentences or paragraph. It's the kind of book where a reread will provide as much enjoyment, if not more, because of the slight ambiguity of trying to piece things together in the mystery on the first read.

So while I understand others' reviews complaining of the confusion, overall, I still really enjoyed TADD and have it on my worth re-reading shelf (along with her previous two books with her first, "In the Shadow of

Winter" being my favorite) and cannot wait to see what Gray's next book brings. It's not a high-action romance and it is clean, but was still kept my interest with a good-hearted, strong-without-realizing-she-was heroine, a strong but supportive, sexy hero, intriguing mystery, and interesting and not-so-common locale and time in history for a romance.

Nicola Short says

I received this arc from NetGallery in exchange for a honest review, opinions expressed in this review are completely my own.

"The Antique Dealer's Daughter" was a book I so look forward to reading, just from the title alone. Also, having lived in the Cotswolds, this book was made for me to read.

I am sorry to say, I could not get into the book at all. Right from the first pages of the book, I was.... bored and confused which turned into disappointment. I just could not follow the story line!

Just too much endless, descriptive and unnecessary information.

I will read more books by Lorna Gray and do recommend this book to others, it just wasn't my cup of tea?????

Carol Perreault says

Interesting story of a young woman trying to find her place in the world after WW2, and not follow in her father's line of work. She travels to stay with a cousin in the country, and stuff happens...

Ellen says

I have a mixed reaction to this book. I loved the two main characters, Emily Sutton and Richard Langton, as well as the story of life post World War II. However, the early chapters were exceptionally wordy, and dialogue was more reflective of the 1800's than post war. There were many twists and turns to figuring out who was good and who was evil, which kept me reading.

Ashley says

First, I'd like to thank Netgalley, Harper Impulse, and Lorna Gray (the author) for allowing me to have this ARC.

I was very excited to be given this opportunity to read the Antique Dealer's Daughter, but unfortunately did find some dissapointments as well.

The story: Emily is a young woman trying to find her way in a post WW2 London. She doesn't have an interest in continuing her father's business and fashions herself as a pacifist. She longs for being her own person in a world that is still very much Male oriented. Not really understanding or knowing what to do with their daughter, her parents suggest her to go and live with her cousin (who's considered a spinster, since she is unmarried and independent). Upon arriving to Cotswolds, she finds her cousin isnt home...and she also

discovers an older man who has been beat on the head. She realizes that there are still horrid things around during what should be peacetime. She soon becomes involved in the Manor (owned by the Langton family) when she enters the empty home and answers the phone. She meets Captain Richard Langton, who is trying to schedule someone to pick up his father, the Colonel. She tells Richard about Mr. Winstone getting hit on the head and Richard puts her in charge of some duties to prepare for his father's arrival (while the housekeeper is out). While there to make lunch for the Colonel, she interrupts a burglary and is hit on the head with her own case. She soon realizes she is being sought out by this man. Soon, mysteries and secrets around the Langton family begin to unravel.

The good: The story was historically accurate and I felt like I was in Cotswold during the hot summer. I liked the historic touches throughout the book, which helped bring out the time period. I liked that Emily's character was made into a stronger feminine character during a post WW2 world.

The not-so-good: The story was quite descriptive, almost to a fault. I sometimes got lost in all the back and forth between characters, which made the book hard to follow at times. I wanted so badly to love this book, but unfortunately I had a hard time fully getting into the story due to everything happening between the characters and sometimes the unclearness between them.

Betsy says

this book needs an editor to pare it down by 40 -50%. I read daily; about 1 to 3 books a week and have never read something this incoherent. this book was infuriating. Sentences are jumbled and nonsensical. I found myself rereading page after page to decipher what the action or dialogue was about. Loathed the characters because they dithered and behaved stupidly. midway the writing cleaned up a bit but OMG... the denouement! 15 pages of gibberish! took forever to figure out who was on the room and what they were doing. And this was the high action portion of the book.

Reading needn't be this difficult. i read the whole thing because it became a puzzle. could not figure out what the crime was or who the bad or good guys were. took forever to get through.
