



Lovers All Untrue

Norah Lofts

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Lovers All Untrue Details

Date : Published January 1st 1971 by Coronet (first published 1970)

ISBN : 9780340162163

Author : Norah Lofts

Format : Paperback 224 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Gothic, Fiction, Romance, Gothic Romance

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From Reader Review Lovers All Untrue for online ebook

Bethany says

Based in part on the trial of Madeleine Smith, Lovers All Untrue is a moody page-turner, with a rather abrupt ending that is (pick one) unsettling, ambiguous, surprising. A quick read.

Margareth8537 says

Have much preferred other Norah Lofts books. Didn't get very involved in this and prefer her books on earlier periods

Elize says

But what a disappointing ending!

D. says

Look into giving this as Christmas gift

Dichotomy Girl says

When I reached the end, I had to go back and search for other parts, because I'm convinced that I missed something!

Bea Alden says

A very creepy story about a Victorian family with a nasty, domineering father. I love the way the author combines everyday domestic images with the horror developing in the background.

Mary says

A carefully detailed portrait of Victorian England serves as the background for this ultimately tragic story of two young women taking their first eager and awkward steps towards adulthood. For the Draper sisters; headstrong Marion and her more docile-natured sister Ellen, living under their father's thumb has reached nearly intolerable levels. Their father is a strict disciplinarian, a controlling, domineering man who seeks only to stifle his daughters youthful exuberance and incipient passions.

From the inevitable conflict that is created by such strong personalities living under the same roof, arises feelings of frustration and bitterness. The struggles of a young woman who is trying to escape an impossible situation by finding love, quickly deteriorate to the point of no return. What should be easy and natural in the life of a young, passionate girl, however, is not, and her circumstances go from bad to worse.

I must say that I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. I found myself completely swept away by this story. In my opinion, this is typical Norah Lofts fare - a superbly-crafted plot and intriguing story; filled with well-developed and believable characters, and realistically suspenseful gothic atmosphere. I give this book an A+!

Jayden Grantham says

Got confused a few times and very disappointed with the blunt tragic ending.

Philip says

Norah Lofts had a long career as a historical novelist, during which she diversified with novels of mystery/suspense/occult under the pseudonym Peter Curtis such as *THE DEVIL'S OWN* (1960) which was published in 1960 and was nominated for an Edgar Award - it was filmed by Hammer Films in 1966 as *THE WITCHES* starring Joan Fontaine (in her last theatrical film) and was republished under Lofts' name as *THE LITTLE WAX DOLL* in 1970, the same year that *LOVERS ALL UNTRUE* was published.

Although I've encountered Lofts' books many times over the years, and even, I think, perhaps read one or two back in the 1970s, only recently did I discover that *LOVERS ALL UNTRUE* was inspired by the notorious "Not Proven" case of Madeleine Smith - I recently re-watched David Lean's 1950 film about the case, *MADELEINE*, which is considered 'minor' Lean but is actually quite underrated, and this reawakened my interest in the Smith case - of course I couldn't find a copy anywhere (Lofts died in 1983, few of her books are left in print in the US and have pretty much disappeared from the shelves of used bookstores as well) but found that it's still in my public library's system (I must drive the librarians at other branches crazy with my on-line requests for books to be sent to my local branch, making them head off into the stacks for vintage books and authors that they've probably never heard of!).

4/07: Lofts follows the basic Madeleine Smith story up to a point, and then diverges from history to provide her own (and very different) fate for her Smith character, herein called "Marion Draper." The setting of the story is England rather than Scotland, and the time period, though never specified, is almost certainly late-Victorian (water-closets did not appear in England until after 1870 and are mentioned several times), and the novel provides some interesting glimpses into the social customs and mores of the time.

Linda says

A tyrannical father stifles his daughters' romances.

Susan says

This is one of those British Victorian era books that has a little romance and suspense. I only picked this one up because I needed a quick read, and it was. It was about a domineering father, who you loved to hate, and his daughters. It was a little slow to get going, but picked up towards the middle. I didn't like the ending at all - I thought it was weird. I just barely give this one three stars -- 2.5 would be more like it. Off it goes into my discard pile.

Wendopolis says

I've read this many, many times. Enjoyable and disturbing at the same time. Def a fave.
