



# Deep Summer

*Gwen Bristow*

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## **Deep Summer** Gwen Bristow

Not long before the American Revolution, Judith Sheramy, a Puritan girl from New England, rode a flatboat down the Mississippi River with her family. On the river she met an adventurer, Philip Larne -- cavalier and slave smuggler.

The story of Judith and Philip is one of struggle - the passionate struggle of their stormy marriage, their struggle from jungle cabin to plantation mansion, and the struggle or revolution. Two abiding passions held them together - their love and their dream of an empire in the Louisiana jungle. When their triumph came it was bitter, menaced always by the hatred of both whites and blacks.

## **Deep Summer Details**

Date : Published December 1947 by Pocket Books (Mm) (first published January 1st 1937)

ISBN :

Author : Gwen Bristow

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## From Reader Review Deep Summer for online ebook

### Misfit says

This is a wonderful tale of two families settling into Louisiana while it was still a wilderness, carving out their homes, crops, subsequent plantations and family dynasties, along with their dependence on slaves to maintain those plantations.

The author has a nice way of making you feel and see the realities of life in the south, including the bugs and the oppressive heat. It was wonderful learning about the early settlers in Louisiana, up to its entrance into the US as a territory. Prior to that, sometimes they were governed by the French, sometimes by the Spanish, etc.

Well worth taking the time to read, this is the start of Bristow's Plantation Trilogy, the next being during the time of the Civil War. While the price of the used book is more than a bit over the top for me, I readily found it at my local library.

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### Tweety says

Where to begin.

I know that when I pick up a book by Gwen Bristow, I'm bound to enjoy it. I haven't yet read a book of hers I didn't like. This was no exception, but I'll admit it isn't my favorite.

Each character is so completely human that I found myself cringing when they'd make choices that wouldn't turn out well. And when they made good ones it just seemed to fit their characters. Philip, the hero never claimed to be good, he was a pirate and for much of his life a delinquent. Although I liked him, I just never fully warmed up to him and his illegal ways. And that kind of tarnished my enjoyment of the heroine, Judith who was Puritan and while not agreeing with his ways, still went along with them. (Not that she could stop him)

But characters aside, the plot was great. I'd never read a book set during/before the American Revolution that didn't go into the war so much as the Luisiana purchase and what life was like for the settlers of Luisiana. It was a painless way to learn the history, as it should be.

I can only imagine what it must have been like for Judith to go from New Hampshire's cold climate to Luisiana's muggy-buggy one. If I'd been in her shoes during the beginning what with the ants, dirt floor, hot weather and a husband who forgot to get the essentials when he went out and came home with fripperies instead, I'd have been a walking bomb. It's really rather surprising how well she took everything. Other than one big outburst during the worst of it she was calm as a 1950s housewife.

We see Luisiana through its first rough years, years when it begins to boom and through its several owners. Judith and Philip live through all the tough spots, both with themselves, their family and their land. I particularly like how they acted when they had children so much like themselves...

**PG-13** This is really hard to rate. But for thematic events I'll just put it at this. I don't mean to imply that this book was graphic or even detailed. (Bristow's books never are, that I've seen) Just that two characters are adulterous, (not together) and there was some swearing do mainly by a Spanish girl. Bs, Ds and Hs. Some name calling like sl\*t and so forth.

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### **Susan Gabel says**

This series is very good. I read it years ago and still remember them. I introduced my daughter to them and she loves them also. I would recommend them if you enjoy reading about a family and following them through the years.

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### **Meg says**

This is the type of book that sucks me in from the first page. It has everything I love in a book. History of a place I know little about (Louisiana) human endurance, complex family relationships, and love. It was written in the 1930's and told of the building up of a Louisiana plantation in the late 1700's. I am not sure if it is because of when it was written, or because the author was trying to be true to the time that the story took place, but the story was told by the white people and only the white people. The slaves had no voice in this story. I found parts of it hard to read from the perspective of a woman who lives in our day and age. It seemed very biased and one sided, yet of course that is what plantation life was. So...as much as I was sucked in, I think if it was written today, it would have been done with more sensitivity. I would have liked it more if it had been. There are 2 more books in the trilogy, and I am curious to read them to see how things change. They take place during the Civil War and just after the war. Plantation life will never be the same.

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### **Karen says**

I liked this quite a bit; it's an interesting look at the very beginnings of plantation life (first indigo plantations; later sugar and cotton) in Louisiana. There is a lot about the slave trade and slavery which is uncomfortable to read now, but which I'm sure is pretty accurate. This is the start of a three-volume family saga, and it's interesting to follow the fates of the several different families in the book, who are from quite different social classes.

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### **nettebuecherkiste says**

Die 15-jährige Judith aus Connecticut ist mit ihren Eltern und ihrem Bruder auf einem Boot in Louisiana unterwegs, um sich dort niederzulassen und ein neues Leben auf der eigenen Plantage zu beginnen. Unterwegs begegnen sie dem etwas zwielichtigen Philipp, in den sich Judith prompt verliebt. Kaum am Ziel angekommen, brennt sie mit ihm durch. Philipp hat wie Judiths Vater Land von der englischen Krone für Verdienste im Krieg bekommen. Auch er gründet eine Indigo-Plantage. Wie wird Judiths Leben dort aussehen?

Die Geschichte des jungen Paares und des Aufbaus ihrer Plantage fesselt vom ersten Moment an. Die ganzen

Widrigkeiten, die sie in Louisiana erwarten, Krankheit, Ungeziefer, mörderische Hitze, durchleben und durchleiden wir mit ihnen. Die Charaktere sind sympathisch, auch wenn Judiths anfängliche Naivität manchmal schon zum Haareraufen ist. Doch sie ist zu Beginn des Buchs ja auch erst 15. Sie wird einige Prüfungen durchmachen und daran reifen. Die politischen Hintergründe, die Unabhängigkeit der Vereinigten Staaten, der mehrfache Besitzwechsel des Landes Louisianas, der Beginn der Plantagenwirtschaft, Gelbfieberepidemien, all das bildet ein wunderbares Panorama, vor dem die Familiengeschichte wunderbar und anschaulich erzählt wird. Besonders interessant fand ich auch, dass auf den Plantagen zunächst Indigo angebaut wurde, bis man durch technische Errungenschaften auf Zuckerrohr und Baumwolle umstieg. Auch dies wird sehr anschaulich geschildert. Ein Thema ist natürlich auch die Sklaverei, die für die Protagonisten des Buchs einfach selbstverständlich war, uns aber natürlich abstößt. Die Familie behandelt ihre Sklaven sehr gut, an einem Beispiel wird jedoch deutlich, wie gnadenlos ausgeliefert diese ihren Besitzern waren. Auch thematisiert wird das Leben der armen weißen Bevölkerung, die eben keine Plantage ihr Eigen nennen können. Etwas irritierend ist die – halt nun mal 50 Jahre alte – Übersetzung, es wird teilweise sehr wörtlich übersetzt, außerdem wird wirklich alles eingedeutscht. Neuorleans! Pennsylvanien! Der Schreibstil ist jedoch sehr gefällig und liest sich hervorragend.

Kurzum eine runde, fesselnde Familiensaga, die den Leser völlig in ihren Bann zieht. Ich freue mich schon auf die beiden folgenden Teile.

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### **Ariana says**

Had some corny parts, but the story got better as it went on and actually became interesting.

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### **Christa says**

I am torn between 'liked it' and 'really liked it'. Great read for anyone interested in the old south and new orleans. The portrayal and address of slavery is a bit off putting. this book was written in 1937 and there is a liberal use of the "n" word. Otherwise, it is a good story. Felt that parts of it were a bit rushed. Starts off with good character development but towards the end there are some holes. I liked it well enough to put the next installment on hold at the library.

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### **Lori says**

Originally published in 1946, this novel is the embodiment of classic southern historical fiction! Suffice to say, I LOVE IT!!! Well developed characters and a fast paced storyline... I really didn't want it to end!!! But I'm happy to say I get to enjoy two more books in this trilogy... I recommend to every historical fiction fan!!!

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### **Emma says**

I was led into a false sense of security, snuggling down for a couple of hours reading to finish this book, and in fact finished in 5 minutes because 20% of the kindle count was the beginning of the next in series. Grr..

Anyway, absolutely loved this. I've read the Calico palace too and really enjoyed that too. I love the writing, written In The 1940s and 50s, these books have aged well. Timing wise, I guess this is just a bit before or about the same time frame as the beginning of Gone with the wind. Please correct me if I'm wrong! I learned a lot I didn't know before: about the Louisiana purchase, some background context of the culture mix around New Orleans, about the industrialisation of farming methods. I'm looking forward to discovering the span of this trilogy, although I suspect it's really just one long book, it would make Gone with the Wind look like a flimsy pamphlet instead of the doorstep it is, were it to be only one volume!

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### **Coco says**

Tolle Südstaatengeschichte. Freu mich sehr auf die weiteren Teile.

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### **Shin Mon Thway says**

If you are a fan of American civil war novels as me, you won't regret reading this one. Beautifully written and I can't help myself but admire the beauty and the bravery of southern women.

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### **Kate Quinn says**

Deep Summer is the first of Gwen Bristow's Plantation Trilogy, which centers around a Louisiana plantation and the family who runs it. Judith is a Puritan girl on the boat to the Louisiana frontier with her strait-laced family, and she startles herself by eloping with a handsome and penniless aristocrat named Philip who is determined to start his own dynasty in the raw and rough Delta country. The book chronicles Philip and Judith's life from early love through poverty, children, riches, betrayal, forgiveness, and old age - and along the way hits a few historical events like the Louisiana Purchase. The description of the bugs alone may have you vowing never to visit Louisiana, but the book's fascination is in its portrait of a marriage. Philip and Judith are a happy couple, but that happiness is won through work, through arguments over Christmas gifts, through agonizing family rifts and quiet moments in bed. And Bristow's clear prose is just the setting for such a jewel.

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### **``Laurie Henderson says**

My Goodreads friend Anne, suggested this older book and I'm so thankful that she did. Somehow I had never gotten around to reading any of Gwen Bristow's book but I will be making up for lost time now.

The Puritan Sheramy family travel by flatboat from Connecticut to Louisiana after Mark Sheramy receives a grant of land there. Judith Sheramy, his 16 year old daughter secretly falls in love with a fellow traveler, Phillip Larne and they elope soon after their arrival in LA.

Phillip Larne, a rather ne'er do well, Rhett Butler type, from S.C. owns the property next to the Sheramy family. I found the trials and tribulations each family experienced while trying to clear and cultivate the Louisiana forests fascinating reading. The author is from Louisiana and brings all the beauties of that state to

life.

The characters are all well developed and complex and I soon became invested in all of them. Life is not easy for both of the pioneering families and I was enthralled as they met each difficulty with character and grace.

I'm looking forward to reading the sequel *The Handsome Road* and many other books by this talented author of historical fiction.

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## **Mela says**

This book has two big advantages:

1) It is a good historical fiction.

There are many facts and important happenings. I have known nothing about Louisiana (maybe a little about contemporary New Orleans). I am also surprised how complex was the history of USA. For years, for me it was something like: Indians > Columbus > first English colonies > the American War of Independence > the American Civil War plus fight with Indians, problems with racism. And of course the myth of the wild west. Thanks to such novels I learn the true history of USA. They inspire me to search more information and so I know a bit more and more with each next book.

Louisiana in this book is memorable. The big plantations, indigo, cotton, cane, hot summer, big spaces. Of course there were slaves, illnesses, poverty too. But first of all there was a hard work and pride of self. I can't judge how good Bristow caught a reality of those days and people but for me it is real and interesting world.

2) The narration is very smooth and fast.

I was never bored. I would even say that sometimes I would rather that the story slowed a little. For example, in the beginning it was slower and I liked it more than the later tempo. But, I suppose, it had to be that to put almost forty years on two hundred pages.

What would I like to change in this book?

It is hard to explain. For me the story of Judith, Philip, their children and relatives wasn't so much engaging as it could be. I know Bristow's other books and I know she could write more complex story. There were here a few touching fragments, but I think that Bristow was focused more on the historical background and the general atmosphere of those times than on the fictional characters.

So, for me it is a good historical fiction, by which you will not be bored. But it lacks a little in a human complexity. Those times were a great opportunity for showing this complexity.

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