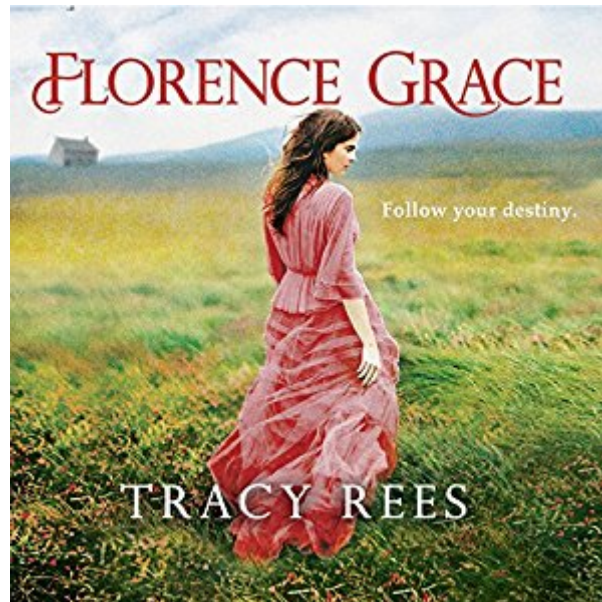




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Florence Grace



Synopsis

Florrie Buckley is an orphan living on the wind-blasted moors of Cornwall. It's a hard existence, but Florrie is content; she runs wild in the mysterious landscape. She thinks her destiny is set in stone. But when Florrie is 14, she inherits a never-imagined secret. She is related to a wealthy and notorious London family: the Graces. Overnight Florrie's life changes, and she moves from country to city, from poverty to wealth. Cut off from everyone she has ever known, Florrie struggles to adapt while learning the rules of a strange new world. And then she must try to fathom her destructive pull towards the enigmatic and troubled Turlington Grace, a man with many dark secrets of his own.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Not as good as her first book Amy Snow. This book was so depressing and it didn't have enough happy moments to save it.

great book love it

I was somewhat torn on how to review this particular book. Let me begin by saying the audio book narrator was fabulous and the book was actually a lot longer than I had expected. The beginning and end of the book were wonderful. It was the middle of the book I had some issues with. The story follows Florrie Buckley, a young girl from the wild moors of Cornwall being raised by her grandmother. She is a special girl with a strong intuition that is taught by a London born school

teacher and the local wise woman. Before her grandmother dies, Flory learns her mother comes from a powerful London family, called the Graces, that disowned her when she married a low-born Cornish man. Florrie is then sent to live with the Graces. In London, Flory meets her extended family members. The Graces are obsessed with power and status and to that end are not easy on Flory as she transitions from Florrie Buckley to Florence Grace. Some of their actions are downright cruel. She is close with her cousin Sanderson and feels a very close kinship with her other cousin Turlington. Turlington is the heir to the family, but is also the black sheep that is disowned on a regular basis. Florrie is miserable in London until she meets two people - Rebecca, the daughter of the local cheese shop owner, and Jacob, an orphan boy Florrie becomes friends with. These two people, along with Turlington, become the sole sources of comfort in her life. There is love won and lost, and the rediscovery of who she is and what she wants out of her life. I'm not going to put any spoilers in here. However, my biggest issue with the book was Florrie's relationship with a man that is no good for her. Like her friends point out, there is no way she can be with him. When she is with him, she is so torn by her feelings she loses sight of who she is and has become. Most of the middle of the book I was regularly annoyed with her for her actions with the man. Unfortunately, it's nothing I haven't seen with actual women and men who are bad for them. That being said, it's still annoying. This book is written as a historical fiction and follows the dynamics and societal rules of the day, but primarily focuses on Florrie and her emotions. You don't see the flashy balls or the verbal battling that is so interesting in Jane Austen and the Brontë sisters novels. Additionally, the vocabulary, phrasing, and topics are definitely not the same as if it was written in the time period. I was going to give the book three marks, but I feel like this is a book I'd read again. It has some sage advice and some very interesting parts. It also teaches lessons about being true to yourself and admitting what you really want in life. It awakens ideas of what some people will do in order to achieve power. For people who enjoy drama, this is a great book. Those who don't enjoy drama may not like this. A good way to recommend it is if you like *Emma* and *Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen, you'll probably like this book.

I don't read very much historical fiction, I often find it quite similar and drawn out but *Florence Grace* was a captivating read with many plot twists and an ending that I certainly didn't see coming. Florrie Buckley is a Cornish orphan and quite the wild-child running free on the moors. Early in the novel a life-changing secret is revealed to her which completely changes her life and she is whisked away to London to live the high-life and to learn how to be a lady. The book flows beautifully as Florrie changes into Florence Grace, falls in love and

becomes the lady her new family wish her to be. This novel doesn't feel as long as it is, it doesn't follow a typical formula and it is delightfully written. Florrie's relationships are so well written and each of the characters are so well formed that they can be perfectly pictured. From her Grace family patriarch Hawker to her childhood Nan in Cornwall each character has been very carefully thought out and described to ensure the reader is fully committed to each person in Florrie's life. Florrie is a resourceful and clever young woman and it is this which keeps her sane throughout some very difficult times. She never gives up hope of finding happiness even when life appears completely hopeless. There are times when you feel her utter despair and can only hope she will find a way through, the only times I felt she may fall foul of her bad luck was when it came to her tumultuous love for Turlington Grace. Florence Grace is a heartwarming book, and is beautifully written. A huge thanks to Tracy Rees and Quercus for the ARC via Quercus Summer so that I could read and honestly review this book.

When I was recently offered the opportunity to read and review this title, despite never having read the authors previous novel, it sounded interesting so I jumped at the opportunity. So I have now discovered another writer of historical romantic fiction that I can turn to when I am in the mood for this genre. The heroine of the novel is a spirited young Cornish girl who one day finds herself unexpectedly part of a wealthy London family and she is thrown into a complete change of lifestyle. Not an easy or happy transition for her, but true to character Florence survives, to find out how you will just have to read for yourself. An enjoyable relaxing read that left me feeling contented, just what I needed. Recommended to anyone that enjoys finding a story to lose themselves in away from the stresses of the modern world.

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