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## The lighthouse keeper' s daughter summary

Hazel Gaynor's lighthouse keeper's daughter is a journey into the past . . . and, again, beyond the past. The story begins with pregnant and unmarried Mathilda Emerson, pregnant and unmarried, set sail from Ireland to America in 1938. An embarrassment to his family, he is sent to have his baby in the United States, give it up, and then return. Among his few possessions is a book Instructions to Light Keepers, which has been delivered through the family, with indications on how to care for a lighthouse. The value of which you wonder. Switch gears, and Gaynor brings the reader back to 1838, at Longstone Lighthouse, Northumberland, England, where 22-year-old Grace Darling has lived her entire life with her family. She has learned about the beacon and treasures of her time by helping her father take care of the structure. In his mind is the slight memory of George Emmerson, a young Scot who knew whose memory he cannot let go of, regardless of how hard he tries. Enter Sarah Dawson, a young widow with two young children, on a trip to visit her brother in Scotland. As the sky darkens, the seas become harsh, and the subsequent storm destroys the ship Sarah and her children are in. As Grace and her father, William, watch the horror unfold in front of them, they know it is now their responsibility to enter the storm and see if they can save anyone from the floating ship. Sarah's children do not survive, but Grace and William weather the storm and save the few survivors, including Sarah. Days after the event, when survivors have recovered and left the lighthouse, it doesn't take long for Grace's role in the rescue to make her way into the world. And life changes in the lighthouse. The quiet life Grace knew and flourished quickly changes to one of the tourists and fans asking for a lock of hair or a piece of her dress. Tourist boats clamor for the lighthouse looking for even a look at the woman who did a man's job. Meanwhile, going forward to 1938 and Mathilda has arrived in Rhode Island, where she will stay with a distant relative, Harriet Flaherty, until the baby arrives. Harriet is cold and unfriendly, but she has a duty to do so, which is why she brings Mathilda to her home. To Mathilda's surprise, she discovers that Harriet is a farce. And so an uncomfortable relationship develops, with unpublished secrets. In 1838, Grace is coming to terms with her celebrity as best she can, when she discovers that Sarah Dawson, the woman she rescued, is in fact George Emmerson's sister. And she hasn't forgotten her chance to meet with Grace Darling months earlier. She travels to Longstone Light to thank Grace for her efforts on behalf of her sister, and the feelings between the two are revived. But a romance it shouldn't be, since George is engaged to another, and Grace would never think of intruding on this sacred relationship. Until 1938, where Mathilda's relationship with Harriet begins to thaw, and soon there are secrets that rise to the Mathilda learns that Harriet lost a daughter several years earlier to drown and is a loss that weighs heavily on her. In family history, Mathilda is the great-granddaughter of Sarah, the woman who was rescued in 1838 by Grace Darling. In 1840, George Emmerson is married, his wife becomes pregnant, and loses his life in the delivery process. Within days, the baby also succumbs, and George is left alone. In 1938, Mathilda experienced childbirth, and soon learned another family secret . . . but at the expense of another death. Gaynor has woven a good story here as she travels back and forth in time to connect these women's lives. His mastery of the language is excellent, his ability to put the reader in history—experiencing tragedies and joys—together with the characters, is well done. If there is one thing that moves one away, it is their use of three first-person views, as well as two third-person POVs. It is often confusing and difficult to determine who is the mind we are in. Although first-person pov is extremely emotional and puts the reader in the character's mind, this story would have been done well in all third parties, thus avoiding a degree of confusion. That said, the story is well established, all tracks are tied to the end of the story, and it's a satisfying read. Some surprises in the family's history are a pleasant end to the story. IRISH TIMES AND USA TODAY BESTSELLER. FROM THE BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF THE GIRL WHO RETURNED HOME AND THE GIRL FROM THE SAVOY COMES A NOVEL. INSPIRED BY THE EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF A REMARKABLE YOUNG WOMAN. This exquisite and researched book (Gaynor) a light head and shoulders above the rest. - Sunday Independent 1838: Northumberland, England. Grace Darling enjoys her quiet island life at Longstone Lighthouse, in one with nature and wild sea breezes. But her loneliness is interrupted when she and her father rescue survivors from a shipwreck in a raging storm and Grace is celebrated throughout England, a heroine of her time. As his renown grows, so does his friendship with George Emmerson, an artist who visits the lighthouse. While George captures Grace with his brushes, in turn capturing his heart, but as accounts of his heroism rise, Grace wonders if he has the courage to endure the relentless glare of fame. 1938: Newport, Rhode Island. Nineteen-year-old Matilda Emmerson arrives in the United States in disgrace, sent from her home in Ireland to stay with Harriet Flaherty, a reclusive relative and keeper of the Rose Island lighthouse. When a discarded and half-finished portrait opens a window into Matilda's past, she sets out to discover the connection between a Victorian heroine and her own family. As a deadly hurricane approaches, two women, who live a century apart, will always be bound by their acts of courage and love. Inspired by real events, The lighthouse keeper's daughter is a novel that explores how our past shapes our present, and what it really means to be brave. International Editions UK Pocket IRE/UK/ANZ For Me, there's nothing like a well-written, inspiring historical fiction. It can and does move you into a realm where you are placed inside a character, a place where for a while you live as they lived, a place where you feel a sense of kinship, belonging, or of joining what is good, courageous and noble. That's what the book, the lighthouse keeper's daughter did for me. A book that inspires one is a treasure and this book written so beautifully about a young woman named Grace To me, there is nothing like a well-written, inspiring historical fiction. It can and does move you into a realm where you are placed inside a character, a place where for a while you live as they lived, a place where you feel a sense of kinship, belonging, or of joining what is good, courageous and noble. That's what the book, the lighthouse keeper's daughter did for me. A book that inspires one is a treasure and this book written so beautifully about a young woman named Grace Darling, who said of her bravery the next Call me a heroine, but I don't deserve this type of praise. I'm just an ordinary young woman who did her duty. Grace lived inside and for the lighthouse in Northumberland, England. Longstone Lighthouse was his family's home, his place of solitude, a place that was often tumultuous based on waves and weather and a place where Grace during a terrible storm ventured with her beloved father to save who they could from a shipwrecked ship. She, a Victorian-era girl, became famous for her bravery, a fame she shunned for all she loved and wanted was her place at the lighthouse. In 1938, a young woman, Matilda Emerson, recently pregnant and un married is sent to America to shame, to live with a relative, Harriet, who maintains a lighthouse in Rhode Island. Matilda is expected to give up her baby and return to Ireland, but the discovery of a half-finished portrait of Grace puts her on a journey of discovery and self-awarement. Weaving these two stories together, Mrs. Gaynor, created a story that gave voice not only to the women who kept these lighthouses, but also to those who over time have shown courage, fortitude and a belief in their innate abilities. It was a love story mother, love of time and place, love for the place of one in the world. Nice language like the following... I know that for all my shortcomings and imperfections, I have loved my children with the passion of a storm and that, in the end is all we can hope for. The friendliness of the staff and the friendliness of the staff. As a mother, I couldn't agree more.... If you have not read this book, you must especially if you are a mother, caregiver, believer in the strength of women, and a guide of these children entrusted to your care. I strongly recommend this book for your passion, and their respect for women who were heroes although they never thought they were. Thanks go out to my local library to have a copy of this beautiful book. My reviews can also be seen here: The tragedy of war leaves its remains on people long after the war has ceased. A World War II novel always put the spotlight on all lives lost, lands destroyed, and people who stayed behind. In the book News of Our Loved Ones, this tragedy is explored as we are introduced to the Delasalle family and the trauma to which they were exposed while living in Normandy during the war. The village where the family resided was overtaken by the Nazis. They witness the terrors of war, their Jewish neighbors being taken away, and their lives change every day as they tried to adjust to the occupation in the hope that soon rescue and relief would come to them. They can live long enough with the bombings that take place almost daily to witness the liberation of their country and their people. The story moves to years later when Geneviève, sister of one of the characters and wife of an American musician, returns to France every summer. She carries her feelings in times of war and as her daughter, Polly learns more about the times of war, feels that she can begin to understand a mother who has always seemed distant from her. Links to the past are what drives you and we often see how these affect the same person you ultimately become. Told through the exchange of periods of time, this story is moving slowly and brings the devastation that war brings to families. Sometimes this turning back and forth between generations made it a little difficult to follow the stage for me. However, this book was wonderfully written and again advanced the desolation and ravages that war winds bring to families. They, these winds, never leave, but rust through lives leaving behind loss and ruin. Thanks to Abigail DeWitt, Harper Books and Edelweiss for a copy of this book. reviews can also be viewed here: .... more Page 2 2

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