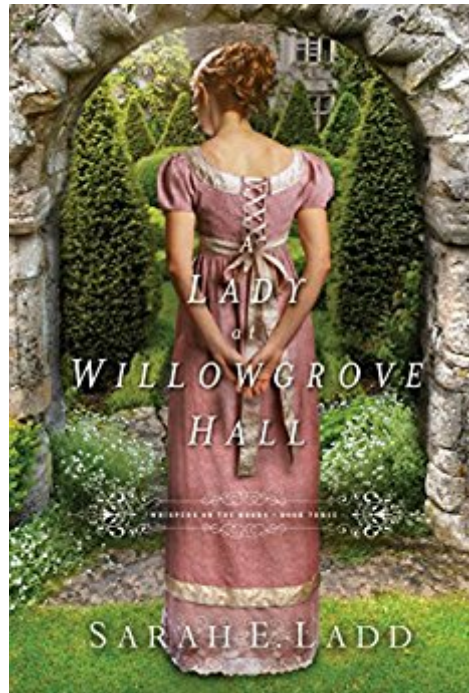




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A Lady At Willowgrove Hall (Whispers On The Moors Book 3)



Synopsis

Her secret cloaks her in isolation and loneliness. His secret traps him in a life that is not his own. Darbury, England, 1819 Cecily Faire carries the shame of her past wherever she treads, knowing one slip of the tongue could expose her disgrace. But soon after becoming a lady's companion at Willowgrove Hall, Cecily finds herself face-to-face with a man well-acquainted with the past she's desperately hidden for years. Nathaniel Stanton has a secret of his own—one that has haunted him for years and tied him to his father's position as steward of Willowgrove Hall. To protect his family, Nathaniel dares not breathe a word of the truth. But as long as the shadow looms over him, he'll never be free to find his own way in the world. He'll never be free to fall in love. When the secrets swirling within Willowgrove Hall come to light, Cecily and Nathaniel must confront a painful choice: Will they continue running from the past . . . or will they stand together and fight for a future without the suffocating weight of secrets long kept?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the second book of Sarah Ladd's that I have read and let me say I was not disappointed! The Regency period has to be one of my absolute favorites and this author does a fantastic job writing about that time period. Cecily Faire is disowned by her father for trying to sneak away in the night to marry the wealthy son and heir of her father's employer. She is left at Rosemeer (the school for girls from book 2 of this series) without any connection with her twin sister. 5 years later she is given the chance to become a lady's companion for an older Lady who is at the end of her life. As she arrives at Willowgrove Hall she meets the steward of the estate who has a secret he is trying to hide. They continue to have interactions and his mother and sisters continue to make her feel part of their family. The Lady (Mrs. Trent) of the estate encourages Cecily to have nothing to do with Nathaniel Stanton (the steward) and his family. Cecily also discovers that the nephew, Andrew Moreton, of Mrs. Trent was her long ago fiancé (sort of) whom she tried to elope with. With everyone carrying around secrets and guilt or pain from the past can they learn how to move forward and allow forgiveness to help heal them and allow a happy future for all? This was a great clean read. You do find out Cecily had a premarital relationship with Andrew thinking they were to wed soon but there is only a brief mention of it and no details. Hope you enjoy it as much as I did. Thanks Sarah Ladd for a great entertaining read that I didn't want to put down and couldn't wait to finish!!! Happy Reading!!!

Sarah Ladd brings The Whispers of the Moors series to a close with A Lady of Willowgrove Hall. You are introduced to the leading lady of this tale, Cecily Faire, on its initial pages. Cecily is attempting to run away with the young man who had taken away her innocence. Unfortunately, her father has learned of their plans. He intervenes and takes Cecily to the Rosemere School for Young Ladies instead! After Cecily has been at the school for five years, she is given the opportunity to work as a lady's companion at Willowgrove Hall. Cecily has no idea how her life will change when she enters this new world! Cecily meets Nathaniel Stanton, Willowgrove's young steward, as she is arriving to start her new job. You soon learn that both Nathaniel and Cecily have secrets they want to keep under cover. This is an interesting journey with Nathaniel and Cecily as they learn to trust each other and also trust their great God! <http://penlessreview.blogspot.com/>

I loved the series, and read into the wee hours of the morning. This author is on my top ten authors page, Fennella, Beaton Austin, well you get the idea..... whenever I see one of her books I grab it, (it always gets more expensive). I love her characters, the whole of them; good and bad and stupid or indifferent; they have foibles and character, sometimes good characters, and sometimes selfish and/or evil. In other words she is, by nature, a student of personalities, good and and indifferent.

And this gives her writings depth and interest. This series was wonderful and I truly love her writing.....I never tell anything that happens in a book, because so many do that; I don't want to read their synopsis of a tale, I want to know if it is a tale worth reading.

How lovely to read a story about characters whose pasts haunt them and yet they choose to move forward. Love lost and found. Family lost and restored. Well written characters with realistic issues that together they found the strength to work through.

I have enjoyed Sarah's novels, but this was my favorite in the series. Each can be read as stand alone novels. Set in the regency time period, this book is all about secrets. In a fast paced introduction, Cecily Faire is set to run away with her love only to be caught by her father. Abandoned by her father at a girl's school, she keeps her past indiscretions a secret. Once she takes a position as a lady's companion, her past collides with her present. Nathaniel Stanton has his own secrets. Serving as the steward for Willowgrove Hall, he must keep status as an illegitimate heir secret. When Cecily and Nathaniel meet, they feel a strong connection. Can they let go of the past and forge a future together? I found the characters, including the secondary ones, to be well developed and interesting. From old, bitter Mrs. Trent to the dressmaker Mrs. Massey, everyone had strong presence and point of view. The plot developed and moved quickly. This was a book I could not put down!

If you love Jane Austen, you'll love Sarah Ladd's Whispers on the Moors series. A Lady at Willowgrove Hall continues Ms. Ladd's lovely writing style, with Miss Cecily Faire starring opposite Mr. Nathaniel Stanton. Both have secrets they fear exposing--skeletons in their closets, we might say today. Each must learn to trust the other and be willing to share their secret in order to be free of the prison which secrecy requires. I quickly felt sympathy for Cecily, as her abusive father drags her off to a school for young ladies and leaves her there, with no further communication ever. And as her relationship with Nathaniel develops, I often imagined the story to be a different version of the Pride & Prejudice movie which starred Keira Knightley. Not that the stories were so similar but the writing style put me squarely in the atmosphere of the movie. Though I am not a huge fan of romance, I make a point to read Sarah Ladd's novels. I enjoy her style of writing, as well as the time period.

I've read all three in the series. Even though the plots are predictable, like being led through a

house that you know the layout of, the writer takes you gently by the hand beautifully describing all the nuances and leading you on an enjoyable journey.

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