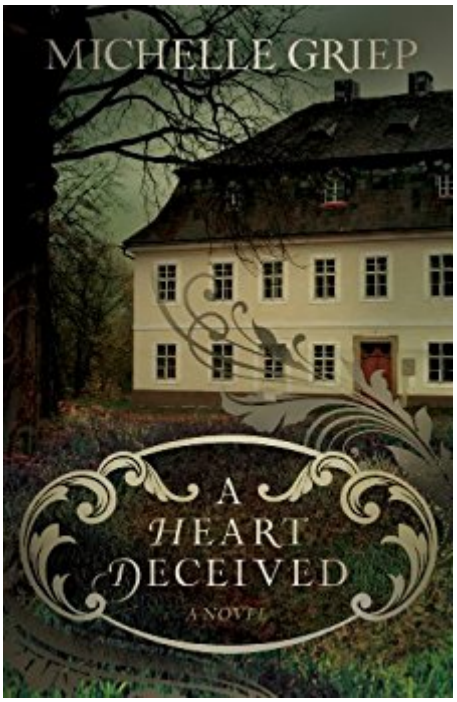
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A Heart Deceived: A Novel



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Synopsis

Miri Brayden teeters on a razor’s edge between placating and enraging her brother, whom she depends upon for support. Yet if his anger is unleashed, so is his madness. Miri must keep his descent into lunacy a secret, or he’ll be committed to an asylumÃ¢â ¬â •and she’ll be sent to the poorhouse. Ethan Goodwin has been on the run all of his lifeÃ¢â ¬â •from family, from the law ... from God. After a heart-changing encounter with the gritty Reverend John Newton, Ethan would like nothing more than to become a man of integrityÃ¢â ¬â •an impossible feat for an opium addict charged with murder. When Ethan shows up on Miri’s doorstep, her balancing act falls to pieces. Both Ethan and Miri are caught in a web of lies and deceitÃ¢â ¬â •fallacies that land Ethan in prison and Miri in the asylum with her brother. Only the truth will set them free.

Book Information

File Size: 2696 KB

Print Length: 392 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0781411017

Publisher: David C. Cook (June 20, 2013)

Publication Date: June 20, 2013

Sold by:Ã Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00CM0O3EA

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #100,602 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #212 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Romance > Gothic #258 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Religious & Inspirational > Historical #328 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Religious & Inspirational > Romance

Customer Reviews

Reading "A Heart Deceived" was like embarking on a treasure hunt; finding gems hidden deep within its pages, precious nuggets of truth and inspiration where least expected, and discovering

characters whose lasting value had been buried under layers of sediment after experiencing grotesque and unsavory experiences. When the lives of a redeemed reprobate and lovely sister of a deranged interim vicar coincide, a story erupts that exudes mystery, mayhem, and highly unlikely romance.It is 1795 in Bedfordshire, England and Miriall Brayden is hideously trapped in a rectory with her brother Roland, whose sanity is precariously hanging by a thread . Mourning the whereabouts of her younger brother, she is surprised one evening when a total stranger, sick and near death arrives at the back door, knowing her name and that of her missing brother. While innocently bestowing kindness, refuge and nourishment, Miri is inextricably drawn to the man, whose speech and mannerisms are that of a gentleman, but whose appearance is likened to someone who has lived a cruel existence on city streets."God works powerfully lad, but for the most part gradually and gently

I picked up this book because of the cover. It looked Gothic to me. And I was not disappointed. It was a very "dark" book. Lots of bad things happen to both the hero and heroine. The hero, an opium addict, is fleeing for his life since he killed a man (the heroine's younger brother) and owes lots of money to another evil man. Sick of mind and body, feverish, he meets the heroine, who hides him and secretly nurses him back to health. She is besets by problems: her older brother is becoming more mad and violent by the day, her younger brother is nowhere to be found, a lecherous suitor that her older brother has set her up to marry and the townspeople are leery of her, thinking her mad also. In steps the Rev. John Newton, with words of hope for our hero that reverberate at the oddest times through his mind throughout his trials, while the heroine also preaches faith to him. Then, everything falls further apart, the hero is through into Newgate jail for the murder of the younger brother while the heroine and her older brother are sent to an insane asylum. Their faith is tested in every chapter till I wonder how they can go on.This is a wonderful book with a thread of hope interwoven throughout the deep trials and tribulations. The main theme being that when all hope is lost, God is still there, trust Him though there seems to be no way possible. I would recommend this book for anyone who needs to remember God's faithfulness to us, even when we are not faithful.

I have reviewed many books. Some I have had to work at finding the positive to talk about. Not this book! I have read many romance novels set in England from the 1600's to the 1800's. This book was a delight to read, even if the feeling was a bit dark. I felt the authenticity of the setting. Women were so vulnerable and at the whim of their male guardians in this time period. You could definitely

feel Miri’s desperation as she strove to keep her brother’s instability a secret while trying to balance with her own survival and loneliness.What did I like most about this book? There were several things but at the top of the list is a tale well told. The characters were real to life. The slimy suitor, the mysterious pharmacist, the down and out Ethan who is hiding from his past - all believably real.Something I really liked was the British slang / name calling that Ms. Griep used. The terminology was very authentic and allowed the feelings to show without resorting to vulgar language. I applaud her successful - and colorful - language! I could hear the accents of the characters in my mind as they spoke.This story has a dark, Gothic feeling and yet is filled with hope and inspiration as characters fight for justice and mercy in the name of love. The story flowed well and the ending was rewarding.I would definitely recommend A Heart Deceived as a great book to read. I bought my ebook copy here after corresponding with the author. Thanks, Michelle Griep, for a wonderful story!!!

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