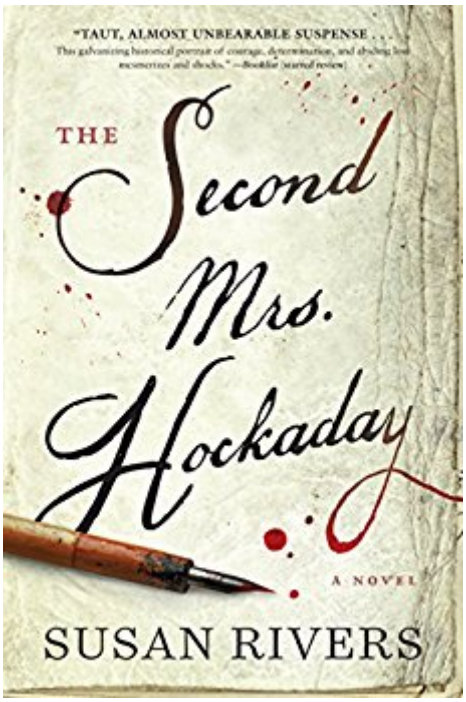
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The Second Mrs. Hockaday: A Novel



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Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Å“TAUT, ALMOST UNBEARABLE SUSPENSE . . . This galvanizing historical portrait of courage, determination, and abiding love mesmerizes and shocks.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Booklist (starred review)Ã¢â ¬Å“All I had known for certain when I came around the hen house that first evening in July and saw my husband trudging into the yard after lifetimes spent away from us, a borrowed bag in his hand and the shadow of grief on his face, was that he had to be protected at all costs from knowing what had happened in his absence. I did not believe he could survive it.Ã¢â ¬Â• When Major Gryffth Hockaday is called to the front lines of the Civil War, his new bride is left to care for her husbandÃ¢â ¬â„¢s three-hundred-acre farm and infant son. Placidia, a mere teenager herself living far from her family and completely unprepared to run a farm or raise a child, must endure the darkest days of the war on her own. By the time Major Hockaday returns two years later, Placidia is bound for jail, accused of having borne a child in his absence and murdering it. What really transpired in the two years he was away? Inspired by a true incident, this saga conjures the era with uncanny immediacy. Amid the desperation of wartime, Placidia sees the social order of her Southern homeland unravel as her views on race and family are transformed. A love story, a story of racial divide, and a story of the South as it fell in the war, The Second Mrs. Hockaday reveals how that generation--and the next--began to see their world anew.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Oh! What a wonderful book! I could not put it down. The Second Mrs. Hockaday was about a seventeen year old girl who marries an older man and has two days with him before he is called back to fight for the South in the Civil War. His young wife, Placidia, is left alone with a few slaves to care for her infant stepson and manage Major Hockaday's 300 acre farm. The story is told primarily through diary entries and correspondances between Placidia and her cousin.Near the beginning, we learn that Placidia has been arrested for a crime. We don't know what has happened. Through the various letters, we learn what she has been through in trying to maintain her home, and the terrible trials she has suffered. The book is mezmerizing. The language of the era and of the time rings completely true, and is both entertaining and enlightening. This is a book which will stay with me for a long time. I highly recommend it.

Was disappointed to find it so slow and plodding,seemed forever to reach the end. Was an o.k. Read but not sure I would pass it on.

interesting book, but I personally do not like to read an entire book written by diary or letters thru out, and jumping around many years..it got somewhat confusing at times without going back and re-reading .

Excellent!

The way the book was written was a little confusing to me. I am still left with a lot of questions.

I loved this book. Can't wait till Susan Rivers writes another one. Beautifully written and intriguing.

Suspenseful and engaging. If you love history, romance and mysteries, you will enjoy this book.

fabulous read and very interesting. Loved the history and romance.

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