



The Moonlit Garden

Corina Bomann , Alison Layland (Translator)

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Lilly Kaiser had come to terms with her solitary, uncomplicated life after becoming a young widow. So when a stranger delivers an old violin to her Berlin antiques shop and tells Lilly it belongs to her, she's completely bewildered. Why should she be the one to inherit such an exquisite instrument?

Together with her best friend, Ellen, and handsome musicologist Gabriel Thornton, Lilly sets out to explore the violin's legacy. From England to Italy to Indonesia, she follows its winding trail. Along the way, she learns of Rose Gallway, a beautiful woman of English and Sumatran descent who lived among Sumatra's lush gardens more than a hundred years earlier. A celebrated and sought-after musician, Rose once owned Lilly's violin and regularly played concerts for Sumatra's colonial elite—until, one day, she simply disappeared.

As Lilly unravels the mystery behind Rose's story—and uncovers other unexpected secrets—she'll come to see her own life in an entirely new light. And as each shared discovery brings her closer to Gabriel, her heart might finally break its long-held silence.

The Moonlit Garden Details

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From Reader Review The Moonlit Garden for online ebook

‘Cristina says

beautiful intriguing plot, alas badly written. really badly written. I had to make an effort to continue reading it. I wanted to know its ending so I continued. I dont know if it was the English translation or of the writing is also poor in German, but there were repetitions, redundancy in the paragraphs, repeting same concepts over and over, or words that kept on appearing/ often times the author thought of adding explainati0ns for simple acts, totally uneccessary. a pity because the story is captivating and it could have made a very good book.

Maygin at Not Quite a Literary Critique says

2.5 stars, rounded up because it didn't annoy me at any point and it was such an easy listen. This book is good for what it is. It's fairly predictable, but the mystery is enjoyable, though parts of it were fairly obvious. The story is a bit unbelievable and I'm not sure how all the busy people made so much time for a rather benign event, but if one looks past realities, it's a fine beach read. I was a bit disappointed this wasn't better since, though it was published by Amazon Crossing (which publishes books I tend to find poorly done), *The Moonlit Garden* was originally published in Germany and then translated and published by Amazon Crossing, this usually makes it a bettet book. This book wasn't awful but it wasn't well done either. A pretty middle of the pack book which I wouldn't recommend, but also wouldn't discourage someone from reading.

Elaine says

When antiques dealer Lilly is handed an antique, very unique violin and told that she is the rightful owner, her interest is piqued and her search to find out its origins will take her from Berlin to London to Sumatra in this story which is told in two timelines; 2011 and Lilly's search and turn of the twentieth century Sumatra where we meet Rose, the original owner of the violin.

I loved the parts of the story to do with Rose and Sumatra, they felt very colourful and the characters really came alive and I totally lost myself in these sections of the book. By contrast, however, the modern day sections just did not have the same charm or magic; the characters didn't feel so natural and it just didn't seem to flow as nicely. Most importantly though, Lilly's search was moved forward by a series of rather unlikely coincidences and indeed the whole story is concluded on another that just felt like one coincidence too many.

Having said that, it is an entertaining read that really kept my interest and is well worth picking up.

Inge says

Beetje slappe hap zonder diepgang, maar leest lekker weg als je zin hebt in een niemendalletje.

Indiana Josefina says

Was looking for a book with strong female characters, was not so pleased with what I found: two of the major characters lose so much of themselves because of falling in love, making it a freedom clipping experience and of total emotional and even practical dependence. Most of what women talk or think about are men... All in all Rose's character is the most complete of all. The settings of Sumatra, London, Italy, Hamburg and Berlin are quite nice, though.

Polly says

I got this book as a Kindle first selection in January and picked it from what I already thought was a pretty poor selection of books on offer for the month. The book tells the story of Lilly Kaiser, a German antique dealer and young widow. One day a mysterious old man comes to her shop and gives her a violin and tells her it is hers. She is intrigued and wants to find out why the man thinks it is hers and what is the history of the violin. This leads her on a trail to London, Italy and Sumatra to track down its origins. The story jumps between modern day and the first decade of the 20th century, intermingling Lilly's quest to find out the violin's history with the stories of two of its original owners. It had a lot of potential to be quite a good book. Originally written in German and translated to English, maybe something was just lost in translation. I found the writing to be unsophisticated, the dialogue between characters completely unbelievable and the story development predictable and full of cliches. I did read the book obsessively, but more just to get to the end so I could move on to something better quality.

Duane says

Just a good, all around, read. Some history, some mystery, some romance, a little intrigue, and a story that bounces between 1910 Sumatra and present day England and Germany. I have the feeling it would make a good movie. I listened to this on Audible; it was narrated by Justine Eyre who is one of my favorite narrators

Paromjit says

This is a story that encompasses romance, mystery and intrigue in the two stories that emerge. There are two stories set in different time spans linked by a old violin. I quickly got absorbed in the story which centres on Lilly Kaiser, a Berlin antiques dealer. The violin is delivered to Lilly by a strange man who tells her that it belongs to her. With Ellen and Gabriel, Lilly follows the trail of the violin to the mysterious Rose Galloway and her curious disappearance. What happened to her? Running alongside is the love story of Lilly that emerges. I was particularly caught up in Rose's story. I found this a good read for anyone looking for a entertaining story.

Selma says

Prije par dana sam pročitala knjigu Vrt na mjesecini. Ne mogu reći da je jedna od onih koje su me prikovale za sebe, ali tri noci sam uzivala u čitanju, zanimalo me čija je violina. Kraj mi se ne sviđa, baš je nekako izmaštan i nestvaran, pomalo čudan, ko pročita shvatit će zašto, a možda i ne? :D, U ovoj knjizi sve se vrti oko violine, njenog porijekla, i notnog zapisa koji je došao uz nju. Prepliće se prošlost i sadašnjost. U 2011. godini, vlasnici malene trgovine antikviteta u Berlinu, Lili, nepoznata starija osoba donosi violinu s rezbarijom ruže na pozadini i misteriozno nestane. Tu počinje potraga. Prva vlasnica violine bila je slavna violinistkinja sa početka 20. vijeka koja je iznenada nestala sa scene. Lili kreće u potragu i to će je odvesti preko Londona i Cremone pa do Sumatre gde otkriva stogodišnju tajnu koja će poremetiti njen vlastiti život. Stil pisanja, tema, i razrada likova me podsjetila na knjige od Katerine Webb, a neki su spominjali i Kate Morton ali to ne mogu potvrditi jer nisam ništa čitala od nje :) ali planiram dugo zeljeni Zaboravljeni vrt.

Amra Isovčić says

zanimljivo i vrlo zagonetno, uživam....

Eduardo says

The book is not boring (which is no easy feat), you'll be entertained, but that's about it. As memorable as those Hollywood romantic films that follow the same script over and over and over. You'll find all the stereotypes, the clichés, the bad dialogs, the predictability, and of course the happy ending. Easy to read, but not good writing. I wish the book had focused on Rose and spared me the ramblings of the adolescent-like main character waiting to be saved by prince charming.

Jo says

I think this was a highly rated ebook on Amazon because it was free. The plot had tremendous potential, but unfortunately did not deliver. Perhaps it was lost in the translation. The author or translator felt the need to tell every detail as if the reader had no ability to infer meaning and it became tiresome. I felt compelled to get out my red pen and edit, edit, edit. This book would, perhaps, have been better if it was half as long. During the droning on of detail, it was easy to figure out the plot outcome - and it was predictable for the most part. I liked the character Rose, but Lilly? Lilly needed to grow up.

Monica says

I got to page 85 before I just gave up. I try to follow the "100 - your age" rule to dropping books and I even gave it some extra pages, but I tap out.

The plot was interesting enough. I am still pretty curious as to where it would have gone but I could not stomach the quality of writing any longer. There is a reason "Show, don't tell!" is such a popular writing axiom. Everything about the characters is just plopped down in front of you, like you're too stupid to realize

that a character that keeps relating everything to spy novels... likes spy novels! Wow!

The dialogue is especially irritating. No one talks this way! Characters just tell each other who they are and what they are like, even if they've been friends for decades. If they aren't exchanging strange, alien-like approximations of sitcom, shiny happy white people dialogue, they're performing a monologue at each other. The plot just relies on too many coincidences, the characters aren't given any interesting development, and the emotional turns happen on a dime.

I can't read German so I can't tell you whether or not this is a poorly written and accurately translated book or whether its a good read let down by a language barrier.

Diane Lynn says

This book did not work for me. I never connected with nor felt anything for any of the characters. There was no depth to these people! Then the coincidences started piling up. I did manage to finish but can't recommend it.

Orlaya says

Amazing! Even though some encounters seemed a bit farfetched, this is a truly beautiful story of family, history, mysteries and secrets, and exotic lands. I highly recommend it!
