



Chasing the Butterfly

Jayme H. Mansfield

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From a vineyard in the south of France to the sophisticated city of Paris, Ella Moreau searches for the hope and love she lost as a young girl when her mother abandoned the family. Ella's journey is portrayed through a heartbroken child, a young woman's struggles during the tumultuous times surrounding World War II, and as a reflective adult.

Through a series of secret paintings, her art becomes the substitute for lost love—the metaphor of her life. But when her paintings are discovered, the intentions of those she loves are revealed.

Chasing the Butterfly Details

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Author : Jayme H. Mansfield

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From Reader Review Chasing the Butterfly for online ebook

Jackie says

This is the debut book for this author. I received an ARC from the Good Reads site. However, I would have bought it and any more by the author. The genre would be light Christian Fiction but also can be classified as Historical Fiction. The story line flowed so well that I read it in one sitting. The author's descriptions are very vivid in areas, staying with you for days. The only thing I was disappointed about was that the ending seemed abrupt and I would love to have seen some characters fleshed out a bit more. The story begins with Ella, a young girl, chasing after her mother who is leaving the family. As she grows older she begins to paint and learns to put all her fears and emotions into her work including her hidden love for her adopted brother Andre. Trouble with family members, friends and the war in France postpones her Paris debut. When she does go she is a huge success but is still not happy, even with a new boyfriend and friends. Health conditions of her father bring her home where she has to decide to stay or go back to Paris for her career. The suddenly her mother wants to come back in the picture. The intentions of others are not all for her good, but as she reflects on them the path to forgiveness opens for Ella.

Lisa Shamon says

it was a page turner. I couldn't put the book down. What a beautiful story! I loved the way Jayme wove the storyline and tied the characters together. She wrote in such a way that I could visualize the village in France and the vineyards and scenery that Ella painted. Such heartbreak and hope woven together.

Julia says

Chasing The Butterfly by Jayme Mansfield is a beautifully written novel dealing with the themes of love, love lost and forgiveness. It spans a period of just over twenty years beginning in 1929, and including the traumatic years of World War II.

Ella Moreau, born in America to an American Mum and a French Father, returns to Rousseau with her family, following the death of her Grandfather. Her father, Henri will take over the running of the family vineyard.

Ella Moreau is just seven years old when her mother leaves. It is a day that will shape the rest of Ella's life, as she is left with just her father and two brothers.

Ella deeply loved her mother and dreams of the day she will return. Her young life is scarred, and Ella releases her emotions by painting, following a bargain that Ella makes with God. Ella fears ever loving anything or anyone again, believing that she is incapable of love.

The novel takes the reader on a journey of discovery, written mainly through Ella's eyes, in the first person. As it skips chunks of time, the novel reads like a diary with important moments highlighted. For Ella to really live her life to the full, she needs to learn to trust God and to love again - but will she?

For a full life and a Godly life, forgiveness needs to be given. To find out to whom and why, you must read the novel.

Some novels end for the reader when the last word is read, but Chasing The Butterfly is so beautifully written, that its words remain, even though the novel is ended - it will leave the reader pondering over the twin themes of love and forgiveness - and I found that a feeling of peace and beauty remained in my soul.

Sally says

A novel that takes place in France, and is about an artist. Two of my favorite ingredients for a great read! Jayme's first novel, Chasing the Butterfly, draws you in and the characters and their life struggles make this one hard to put down. A captivating read about a very dysfunctional family that you just keep rooting for because you know in your heart (and Jayme's) that things will work out in the way they were meant to be. You definitely want to read this one!!

Erin Mikolic says

Chasing the Butterfly was a great debut novel by author Jayme Mansfield. Although this is not my normal genre, she made me want to keep reading. It was very well written and I would recommend Chasing the Butterfly.

Marian says

Very well written. A heartwarming story of letting go of the past.

Emma says

Chasing The Butterfly by Jayme Mansfield

From a vineyard in the south of France to the sophisticated city of Paris, Ella Moreau searches for the hope and love she lost as a young girl when her mother abandoned the family. Ella's journey is portrayed through a heartbroken child, a young woman's struggles during the tumultuous times surrounding World War II, and as a reflective adult. Through a series of secret paintings, her art becomes the substitute for lost love the visual metaphor of her life. But when her paintings are discovered, the intentions of those she loves are revealed.

Wonderful story about Ella Moreau and her family.

will Ella Moreau find the hope and love she lost as a young girl when her mother abandoned the family?

why didn't Ella's Mama believe she saw something wonderful on their family's voyage?

what are the secrets that could tear the Moreau family apart?

Did Ella Moreau find the hope and love she lost as a young girl when her mother abandoned the family?

who is your favorite character in this story?

And why?

Chasing The Butterfly by Jayme Mansfield is a wonderful well written 5 stars book.

I highly recommend reading Chasing The Butterfly by Jayme Mansfield.

I am looking forward to reading more books by Jayme Mansfield.

this book is the authors debut novel.

I was given a PDF form of the book to read from Lighthouse Publishing of the Carolina's in exchange for an honest review.

Inderpreet Uppal says

Listening to #ChasingTheButterfly AudioBook I got a good glimpse into the French countryside, the vineyards and Paris. As I heard Chasing The Butterfly I enjoyed the book a bit differently as this is the first audio book I heard. Ella is a sweet, talented young girl, an artist, an excellent painter who faces the loss of her mother while quite young. She does not understand the reason her mother has walked out leaving their family. Heartbroken, she put her heart and soul into her paintings. As she grows into a kind, genteel lady her art is discovered making her work much sought after.

The story is her journey as she learns to overcome the disappointment and lies. She finds love when she least expects it and overcomes heartbreak. The story is of faith in God and oneself.

This is the first audio book I listened to and I have a mixed reaction to it. First the good things – I liked the book. I liked the story and the way it progresses. The narrator kept the flow going and ensured each character had a distinct voice making it easy to follow. The thing I disliked was the French accent – it was good in most places but sometimes it became so heavy that I had a tough time understanding what the characters were saying especially the men.

Though I did not read the book even though I had it but I was tempted to. I heard the book over a few weeks and in spite of the breaks, the audio immediately got me back to the book just like reading.

The story is a well paced and more than a love story, it is a tale of faith, family and of love that endures. The father-daughter relationship is beautifully explored as is the love of God that binds them. He may be invisible but if you have faith all things are possible. The love she finds and how Andre supports her makes for a heartwarming read. I have been reading quite a few books of #ChrisFic and I find the way authors link the story and its twists and upheavals to god's handiwork quite a change to read.

The book has depth, a strong storyline and lots of beauty. The beautiful paintings, the emotions and finally the faith that unites against greed and conniving makes for a peaceful read. It was just so calming to read this book. This could be a true story based during the World War II it reflects the fears, angst and sad war casualties. The book is a very realistic representation of that time. Yet it also brings out the goodness and charm of those times – when neighbours looked out for each other and your word meant everything.

Chasing The Butterfly is a word to read or heard to savour and enjoy at leisure as the author paints with her words and not just the paintings that Ella does.

(I received an audiobook from Lighthouse Publishing of the Carolinas, the review is my own unbiased opinion.)

Roxanne says

What a powerful Captivating read! It has all the elements of a great novel.

1. Historical God-centered fiction set in south France on a family-owned vineyard
2. Written from the viewpoint of the main character young Ella in 1929 to a young adult in 1960

3. Well-written realistic subject matter that follows not only Ella but her family and beaus. I never looked back in the novel to see what I had missed. Every word written built on the previous words. All of the characters had their unique personalities. They made some good and some bad choices along the way, just like us ... And the readers gets to see how God works it out for his glory.

4. What more can I say? A lot. This book is thought provoking, creative, artsy, romantic, tragic, wonderful, a book I could not put down, a book I will "pickup" and read again. Did I tell you that this book is the authors debut novel?

Anyway this is my opinion, BUY the book. I was graciously given a PDF form of the book to read from Lighthouse Publishing of the Carolina's in exchange for my opinion. I hope I will be blessed to read more of this author's works.

Loweva says

Heartwarming

Heartwarming and thought provoking. Forgiveness and loving. Dysfunctional family dynamics. Believable characters. All the above and so much more. Enjoyed.

Nadine Keels says

In *Chasing the Butterfly*, debut fiction author Jayme H. Mansfield brings out wonderfully realized imagery and emotion as well as a cast of flawed people, Mansfield's deft style causing the reader to view this story chiefly set in France as its heroine Ella Moreau would: as if through the eyes of an artist.

The effects of Ella's mother's abandonment of the Moreau family, the tragedy of World War II, and the pleasures and pains of Ella's growth as a young woman and a gifted painter come through, at times, enigmatically, but effortlessly on the whole. Mansfield weaves together the complexities of human relationships, of love and loss, confusion and hope, as well as the oppression of guilt and the power of forgiveness.

On a minor note, I suspect that Remy's theme might have had a more definite impact if a little more time was given to his character before the war instead of mainly after it. Also, as something I find in many novels, it's a bit strange when pronouns for God are sometimes capitalized, sometimes not, unless the inconsistency is intentionally included to reflect characters' different perceptions of Him, which I didn't particularly see to be the case in this novel.

This poignant story culminates into an almost impossibly beautiful finish and an affirmation of tried love's capacity, and I wouldn't at all mind reading more from this author in the future. *Brava!*

I received a free copy of this book, for which I give my honest review, through Goodreads First Reads.

Phyllis Freeman says

Inspirational books often portray families with a sweet Christian Mother; not so in this book. Mansfield

portrays a Mother who hasn't really grown up herself. Her husband decided to move the family to France. They would work the vineyard, make wine and the children would have the small village experience. Mama, Marie Moreau, didn't want to be there and one day she packed a bag, bought herself a ticket and returned to America. I must admit to my strong emotions while reading certain parts of the book as this Mother betrayed her children by disappearing.

Little Ella Moreau's Papa was a dreamer but he was a great Father, even taking another boy into the family as his own.

Mansfield reveals the heart of a young girl (Ella) as she grows into a woman. Painting became Ella's escape. She eventually was recognized for her work but the child suffered numerous losses, which affected her faith in God and in people.

There are many facets to the story; family betrayal, fear of Hitler's advances in Europe, moral failures, and forgiveness. A romance is woven into the story line too.

The author paints beautiful landscapes and family images with her words. Loved the book and might choose to read it again.

Thanks Lighthouse Publishing of the Carolinas for my Kindle version of the book for my honest review. So well written, Mansfield took me to the scenes until I wanted to be on that field with Ella chasing butterflies.

Gabrielle Taylor says

So eloquently written!! The author masterfully transports the reader from your favorite reading nook to the South of France. While in the South of France, the story of a family's happy times and sad times are told in such a way that we see the power of forgiveness in those relationships that are worthy of second chances, no matter how much time has passed, and we witness those transgressions that loving humans are not always able to look past. Such an enjoyable read!

Susie Stein says

Set in the wine country of France and Paris, with the backdrop of WW11, this beautifully descriptive story follows Ella and her family through a childhood tragedy of abandonment, an unexpected death, and secrets that could tear the Moreau family apart.

An unexpected reunion, and secrets revealed through hidden paintings, brings the story full circle, with love, loss, and forgiveness which will let the family move on.

Jayme has crafted a spellbinding, and thought provoking story, that will stay with you long after you've read the last page...

Lynn says

I received this book from Goodreads giveaways.

Chasing the Butterfly is a beautiful and very well-crafted novel by Jayme Mansfield.

Set within a cast of flawed characters both in New York and France, Ella Moreau grows up thinking she has been the cause for the many losses in her life, starting with her mother's abandonment when she is just 5. Only through her paintings is she able to really experience the beauty of her world and reconcile herself to the life she feels she might have had if her mother had not deserted her family. This story carries Ella from childhood through to adult life, complete with hardship not only for herself but also for her entire family, as she becomes a well-respected and in-demand painter, and ultimately allows herself forgiveness and opens her heart to love and fully live life once again. What a beautiful reminder for all of us of the importance of keeping God as the focus of our lives, and the amazing grace He can and will show each of us if we trust in Him. Such a unique and well-crafted story of family, loss, acceptance, forgiveness, and redemption.

Thank you for the opportunity to read this wonderful debut novel!
