



Paper Castles

Terri Lee

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In Savannah Georgia, the gardens aren't the only things keeping secrets.

"I want to know what goes on in your head," Adam said. "What do you think about? What are your dreams?"
"My dreams," Savannah said, picking up her spoon and stirring her coffee again. She stared into the swirling depths as if she could conjure up the specter of the girl who once had dreams to spare. "Funny thing is—I got everything I wanted."

Where do you go when you find out everything you wanted isn't what you need?

Savannah Palmerton picks up a brush and heads to an art class, desperate to find a piece of the girl she used to be, before the country club dances and the boring dinner party conversations. In 1963 the country is still playing in her innocence, but there are rumblings beneath the surface. The fabric of America is just beginning to fray around the edges. So it is in Savannah Palmerton's life.

Love, betrayal and family secrets create a lethal cocktail that has Savannah's world unraveling at her feet. Set against a southern backdrop of garden parties and civil rights marches, Paper Castles is a sultry mix of sweet-tea and murder. Sex and secrets.

Paper Castles is the best kind of love story. Where a woman must first learn to love herself.

Paper Castles Details

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Author : Terri Lee

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From Reader Review Paper Castles for online ebook

Juliet Aharoni says

Paper Castles is one of the best books I've ever read. And I've read thousands and thousands of novels. Terri Lee has the talent to make words bounce on the page and fall like sparkling diamonds.

The setting is just after President Kennedy's assassination where the people of the world are in shock.

The characters are all perfectly presented, even Roxanne, a very minor protagonist. Savannah, whose life has been filled with one tragedy after another, remains strong till the end. Neenie is always there to hug her and take away the agony when life becomes unbearable. When she dies, the reader is sure Savannah will crumble. She doesn't.

Terri Lee is a great writer who portrays characters that are both appealing and exciting.

Jennifer says

I received this book through the First Reads program.

A wonderful story of courage and hope while dealing with the stigma of mental illness, racism, and adultery in the 1960's. I was surprised at how much I enjoyed the book. It had the potential to be quite depressing considering the heavy topics, yet I found it to be just the opposite.

Rach Lawrence says

Review originally posted on Rach Lawrence Books.

I was provided a copy of Paper Castles by the author in exchange for an honest review. I am not compensated for my honest opinion.

4.5 Stars!

In 1963, Georgia Socialite Savannah Palmerton has what looks like the perfect life: a successful husband, two children, and a beautiful house. But looks can be deceiving. Secrets hide behind that perfect façade, secrets that are just waiting to be let into the light. With Savannah's marriage and family crumbling around her, she must search through the rubble for the woman beneath the garden parties and pretty dresses. She can't even begin to love anyone else until she learns to love herself.

Paper Castles is an expertly woven tale of lies, betrayal, and murder. I became immediately invested in the life of the main character, and I was hooked to the story right up until the end. The story is set in the midst of John F. Kennedy's assassination and the civil rights movement, and the historical details added a layer of

uniqueness. The author kept true to the time period in the characters' actions, clothing, and outside occurrences. It was a different world 50 years ago, and women didn't just divorce their husbands without becoming the talk of the town. Mental illness was a dirty little secret. Ms. Lee convinced me I was living in the 60s with the way her characters reacted.

The plot of the story was much more than just one genre. It was about family, finding yourself, finding romance when you thought life was over, and most of all it had suspense. The murder investigation was well executed, keeping me guessing until the end without unnecessary surprises.

The single reason for rating this book less than 5 stars is that it could use another pass by a proofreader. The errors were noticeable enough to catch my attention but thankfully not enough to draw me out of the story. With such a fantastic story and the wonderful talent with words Ms. Lee has, I hate to see it dragged down by incorrect punctuation.

I truly enjoyed this book and Ms. Lee's writing and look forward to reading more of her work.

Shy says

<https://versusthewriter.wordpress.com...>

A few chapters into the book, I feel like walking away from it. "Great, another cheating story," was what I thought. And cheating is not really my cup of tea. But as this is a book I was requested to review, I thought I should at least try to read half of it before telling the author this book is not for me.

But I was surprised. It's not what I judged it to be. Somewhere by the end of the chapter at 30 percent, Savannah had my respect and I was now set to see this book to its end. And things went even more unexpected after that. I am surprised by the turn of events. The issue of diversity and legalities was handled well by the author there was no way to not enjoy the story. The last time I enjoyed a 60s story like this one was when I read Danielle Stewart's *Flowers in the Snow*.

I like how the author pictured the black issues. And I loved Neenie's character so much. Each character was also developed well that you can feel where each of them was coming from. That said, I can't even fault Angela for feeling the way she did.

Technically speaking, I like the writer's style. Every event goes smoothly. I don't know if this is her first book but I can tell that the author did a magnificent job at it.

All in all, I have a great time reading this story. I was even a bit emotional at some point and the romance aspect was well blended too. I will be looking forward for more of this author's work in the future.

Katherine says

In trying to cover too many struggles in the life of the " heroine " or anyway , main character, Savannah Palmerton, the author produced a book in which everything is very superficial. The paper castles of the title refers to the homes of the rich (castles) which from the outside looking in house happy families, well-

adjusted and loving. But, it can be assumed from the travails of this pampered, protected almost 40 year old, they actually are made not of sturdy brick but rather of fragile paper. They hide lies and secrets and scandals and sadness. None of which seemed particularly surprising to me. The fact that all of this is hidden rather than aired in public also is not a surprise but, in this day and age of public self-revelation, may be perceived as unhealthy if not downright shameful in itself.

The time of the story is the 60's, 1963 to be precise. I graduated from college then at 20, so Savannah might have been an older sister or cousin. In my family we would have known she was an alcoholic and pill popper with an adulterous husband. We would not have bandied it about either but someone would have been urging her to pull herself together and get a life. Other than enrolling in a Community College art course she doesn't appear to do anything with herself. She doesn't take care of the house, she has a housekeeper/nanny/surrogate mother for that. She doesn't appear to have too much to do with her kids and she sure doesn't do much about standing up for herself in her marriage. She's kind of a shallow basket case with whom I could not relate. I did stick with the book, though, hoping that the point was that she would become stronger and say enough is enough and become more than a one dimensional character--but alas, it did not happen. Her husband is gotten rid of fairly easily--as a plot point--and it sets the tenor for the rest of the book. Mental illness seems to run in the family, but does it? And if it exists at all in the family, how was it handled? At the end of the book it seems finding a new man, going to the ocean and dropping alcohol and pills takes care of everything. While there were several "I didn't see that coming" moments in the story which kept me pushing on, there was just no meat on the bones. Everything, dalliances, mental illness, alienation from family members, alcoholism--all glossed over and superficial. Fortunately, it was a fast read or I would have tossed it aside. I must admit, the personal thank you note from the author was a first and touched me but though Terri Lee sounds like a nice lady, not sure I'll seek out any other of her books. This was a GoodReads Giveaway in exchange for an unbiased review.

NFLS says

It's 1960s, around Kennedy's assassination. Savannah, a socialite in Savannah Georgia is arrested, allegedly murdering her husband, who cheated on her for many years. This book divulges Savannah's fear and struggles as she faces her family, her children, her social standing and allegation. This book feels real to me, I can feel Savannah's dread feeling as proof by proof and witness by witness presented by the DA. My heart is broken reading how her daughter turns against her violently, as much as accusing her mother as a killer.

One thing I don't understand: is the "F" word usage common around that time?

Anita Lock says

Savannah Palmerton returns to her Georgian alma mater to take an art class. An affair quickly brews between Savannah and her instructor. But before it gets hot and heavy, Savannah brings the relationship to a halt. Savannah is a troubled woman, especially since her marriage is on the rocks. An unusual string of events unfolds between Savannah and her husband, Price, including a heated argument. The next thing Savannah knows, Price has been murdered and she is earmarked as his alleged killer. Tension rises when Phil Hannigan, an attorney, is willing to take on Savannah's case but demands transparency from her, which means that she will have to expose her family's well-kept secrets. Amid trying moments and other tragedies, Savannah is pleasantly surprised when a new opportunity for romance awaits her.

Lee's latest is an unexpected romance amid a murder mystery. Set during the early 1960s, Lee's attention-grabbing narrative offers a glimpse into a disturbing time in U.S. history and its stifling societal mores. Aside from the oppressive stigma placed upon females in a male-dominated society, Lee sheds light on the Civil Rights movement (i.e., segregation, protesting) and President John F. Kennedy's assassination. While balancing her plot with history and weaving in the stark contrasts between white female and male roles among the wealthy, Lee also gives an idea of life for black woman. In the case of Neenie, Savannah's long-time nanny, blending in with society is more complicated because of her mixed (white/black) background. Lee mixes her above-mentioned concepts with other various literary tools, which keeps her narrative fresh and constantly flowing. Such elements include engaging dialogue lightly sprinkled with tongue-in-cheek and sarcastic comments, elusive character traits, and red herrings, to name a few. High on the element list is her incorporation of romance by building sexual tension between her characters. Paper Castles is nothing less than a gripping read that carries wide reader appeal.

Reviewed by Anita Lock

Originally posted on San Francisco Book Review

♥?♥?Sofia♥?♥? says

Hmmm? The best I can do is a 2.5*. It took a while for me to get invested in this story and the characters felt slightly 'shallow', rather two dimensional at times. saying that the first half of the book was much more finely nuanced than the second half; the courtroom section felt rushed and I didn't buy the aptly tied-up-with-a-bow conclusion. Not complete waste of reading time but....

Bianca says

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

This was my first time reading this author and definitely not my last. She writes with such honesty and grace. I was enthralled with the storyline, smitten by the characters, and was absolutely lost in the words.

“But moments couldn’t be caught. Wisps of laughter, precious seconds when the heart strained against the chest wall, overflowing with emotion-they were gone in an instant.”

It’s 1963. Socialite, Savannah Palmerton has it all. The husband, the kids, and the house. But on the inside? There’s a storm brewing deep within. Her tumultuous and failing marriage has taken its toll on her. She’s lost the strong woman she once was. She decides to take an art class. Painting is something she loves, and believes it will bring a piece of her back. She has no idea that that action would forever change the trajectory of her life.

“Why were you so reckless with our love? Do you know we’re about to lose everything?”

Once tragedy strikes, Savannah’s world begins to unravel. The façade and good wife routine is coming to the surface. For everyone to see. Family lies and secrets are revealed and its as ugly as it is heartbreaking. Savannah questions her love and loyalty. Hers is also questioned and challenged. Despite the heartache and darkness, she finds love. In a place she least expects. One that rises through the ashes. A love reserved only for her. But this love? It’s one that may compromise everything. But isn’t love always worth that risk?

“But if you bare your soul to me, I just might be able to save it.”

There is scene that absolutely moved me to tears. TEARS. I was totally in my feelings. Without going into too much detail, this scene involved Savannah’s nanny/maid, Neenie. As I mentioned before this story takes place in the 1960s. A time of discrimination and narrow minded-ness in our country. While the author brilliantly and so effortlessly captured this heartbreaking injustice, she also reminded us of the beauty and grace in the human spirit. Even at that time. That there were people ready to stand up for what’s right. That love always conquered fear. And just how much a good deed means to someone who was always taught they were a no one. This scene (and many others) have truly solidified her as not only a talented author, but a writer that can truly allow the readers to become part of a story she has masterfully crafted.

“After a storm is when you find the best treasures.”

Can we please talk about the writing? With its highly refined prose, the storyline takes twists and turns the reader never sees coming. It’s a perfect balance of romance and suspense. A story of a woman where life continues to throw situations that make her question everything about her, until she realizes that to love truly and deeply, she must first love herself. This gripping and poignant story is one that I read in one sitting. It was impossible to put down. The author’s voice in this story is unparalleled as she weaves a story with characters that you become emotionally invested in. All their highs and their lows. Her character development is genuine and fascinating, where no matter how big or small, they all play a vital part of this addicting story.

“I want to be the one to save you.”

“Then save me.”

Paper Castles is a mesmerizing and spellbinding story that immediately captivates the reader. It also challenges the reader. This isn’t the normal cookie cutter contemporary romance. Her talent shines in her ability to connect the reader to a story that takes place over 50 years ago. A very different world compared to today. The depth of emotions in this story are felt from beginning to end. I would call this book a game changer for me as it has left a mark on my heart that I will never forget. My love for this story and its characters is palpable. This extraordinary tale left me breathless as I was totally engrossed in this story of love, betrayal, loyalty, secrets, and murder. This compelling story placed me IN to the 1960s. My heart was broken, I fell in love, and I simply lived.

Erin Fenske says

I was lucky enough to receive an ARC, and I am so glad I was able to! Terri Lee gave the world ANOTHER wonderful novel! Throughout the entire reading experience I kept visually picturing each and every character and scene, like a movie was playing in my mind while I read each sentence. So many different emotions will be felt during this read, so be prepared! I for one, enjoyed every last bit of it! Do I recommend this book? You bet I do!

Adrwe Symonds says

When a book sweeps you away, it's hard to come back to dry land. I've just been to Savannah GA and it was

1963. Savannah Palmerton is living the life she was expected to live. The soul has gone out of her marriage, her children are teenagers who no longer need the constant attention of their Mommy and she is left wondering: "Is this all there is?" Along comes Adam, a handsome, charismatic, talented young artist who's teaching an art class at the local college. A casual flirtation leads her down a path that has her questioning everything. Then her life takes a crazy turn and her entire world comes unglued. As she struggles to find her way back, she becomes the woman she was meant to be. The backdrop of the story is filled with just the right amount of historical detail to remind you that Savannah Palmerton is a woman of her time as well as a woman ahead of her time. I'm so glad I found her. I see from some of the other reviews that the gorgeous writing is a recurring theme, so I'll add my agreement right here. It's nothing short of joy to fall into a book and fall in love.

Nimi says

Savannah got everything she wanted in life, only to realise with time that she had desired all the wrong things.

Now trapped in the life of a socialite, with a husband of seventeen years, who couldn't care less about her, she is trying to re-discover herself.

With a murder in the family that Savannah is suspected of, everything takes on a different hue.

This is life's way re-arranging Savannah's life.

As the book starts, Savannah is searching for her old, confident self through painting, having lost it over the years in a marriage that has lost not just love, but even a semblance of care.

"She'd come to this classroom looking for a way to paint herself out of the picture she'd spent the last seventeen years creating. Hoping she could draw a new life and find the courage to step inside it."

Terri Lee's play with words fascinated me from the very first page. She has an interesting way of describing things.

Terri Lee's Paper Castles is a love story, but not an obvious one. No 'Girl meets Boy, fall in love and live happily ever after' here.

The author keeps you, the reader guessing. You are just not sure how this tale of love and pain, murder and mystery will end.

I have to say that much as I like the story, it is the author's style of writing that is a delicious icing on the cake which I enjoyed.

Detailed review with more quotes from the book on my blog - <http://goo.gl/IDzwul>

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Tiana says

I saw Suanne Laqueur's name and I clicked and grabbed this book straight away. But as I was reading, I

knew this book couldn't have been created and written by Suanne. I found this book disappointing, it couldn't hold my interest. The writing style wasn't bad, but there was nothing special about this. I haven't even finished this book yet, but I can't see myself doing so any time soon. When you start skimming paragraphs and then pages, I think it means I may as well close it altogether and move on.

Gail Choate says

This is the kind of novel that I can really get into. Ms. Lee has managed to weave an intoxicating blend of romantic intrigue, the turbulence of the 1960s South, public scandal, and courtroom drama into one seriously riveting tale. Her characters are intricately fleshed out and believable, reacting to the chaos around them in the ways their individual personalities would demand.

This would leave me triumphant one moment and then aghast the next, laughing, and then even shedding a tear. Ms. Lee has certainly done her homework with regards to the era this was set and also to the legalities faced. These alone could make or break a novel and fortunately, for Ms. Lee AND for us, they make this tome a truly memorable and enjoyable experience. Well done, Ms. Lee!!! Eagerly awaiting your next!

Jessyca Garcia says

The book "Paper Castles" by Terri Lee was a reminder that money cannot buy happiness. The story starts off in 1963. Savannah Palmerton is a rich socialite who has an unhappy marriage. When a murder occurs in her family, Savannah is the prime suspect. She tries to hold it together while her family is being torn apart and dark secrets start to reveal themselves. Her only hope is that her lawyer, Phil Hannigan, can save her from a life in jail.

There were things I really liked about "Paper Castles" and there were a couple things I disliked. The thing I liked the most was the character of Nettie. Everyone needs a Nettie in their lives. She was a loving mother-like figure when Savannah needed her the most. She also spoke words of wisdom. My personal favorite was:

"Child, you've been trying to drown your sorrows for some time now. And the problem with that plan is, you can't drown sorrows. They're good swimmers. They're gonna float back up to the top and be bobbing right where you left them last night."

I also liked that Lee threw in some history throughout her story. Such as the assassination of the President Kennedy and how it affected people. The things I disliked about the story was that Savannah prided herself on being a mother, and was hurt when her daughter accused her of being a murderer. This obviously affected Savannah, yet the reunion at the end of the book was barely touched on. I also felt the ending was rather rushed. However I liked the surprise that occurred in the courtroom. After finishing the book I was left with unanswered questions.

Just like in the South, this story is slow to start moving. But once it started it was hard to put down. This story is not so much a murder mystery as much as it is Savannah is learning to heal and to forgive those in her past that hurt her. Despite the few things I did not like about the book, I still enjoyed reading it. I absolutely loved the southern feel and sweet tea in this book.

*I reviewed this book for Readers' Favorite

