



The Royal Lacemaker

Linda Finlay

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At only seventeen years old, Lily Rose scratches out a meager living as a lace maker in Devon, responsible for her siblings following the death of their parents.

But opportunity beckons. Hundreds of miles away, in London, Queen Victoria is preparing for her wedding. She will wear the most exquisite wedding dress in history, bearing the famous Honiton lace. When Lily is asked to be one of the select few to work on this top-secret commission it is the answer to her prayers.

Lily quickly makes an impression, both as an expert seamstress and a natural leader of the women working day and night to ensure their families' survival. But there are others who want to see Lily fail, including Squire Clinsden who issues her with a terrible ultimatum - work for him, and be subject to his unwanted advances, or lose the family home.

Torn between her duty and her dreams of a better life, Lily must remember where she came from or risk losing those most important to her.

The Royal Lacemaker Details

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Author : Linda Finlay

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From Reader Review The Royal Lacemaker for online ebook

Tracey says

This was a gentle story which in places I found to be a bit slow. It did however keep my interest and I got more drawn into the story the more I read. I have a love for historical fiction, and this book took me to a different area and a different subject matter. Making lace for Queen Victoria's wedding gown in a small Devonshire village is defiantly different from the usual tales of hardship set in London or Liverpool. I would read more books by this author.

Alana Muir says

(Disclosure: I received a copy of this book for free as a first reads giveaway.) I liked this book. It isn't going to go down as one of the great novels of all-time, but it is a good story with likable characters. What attracted me to this story in the first place is that even though it is historical, it isn't really a historical romance. There is a romantic sub-plot, but the main story is more of a coming of age story about a young woman holding her own and gaining respect and success in her professional life, even when her family is against her. She doesn't succeed because she is pretty. She succeeds because she is smart and she works hard. I don't know if this is being marketed as a YA title, but I would heartily recommend it to younger readers.

The only part that I wasn't crazy about was the ending. It seems to just kind of end, without truly wrapping up some of the plot lines. I would have liked to see what happens with Lily working for the Squire's wife, and her own wedding, and her relationship with her aunt which was kind of left hanging. Maybe planning for sequels? In any case, it was still worth reading, and if there are sequels, I look forward to them.

Laura says

I really enjoyed reading this book it was an easy read but still had the drama and excitement that every good book should have.

If I'm honest it did take me a couple of chapters in to really get into the story but once I got over that I couldn't put it down and found myself finishing it in no time at all.

The story was full of twists and turns from the onset and throughout which I thought was a really good attribute to the story and made it a real page turner. Especially about three quarters of the way through the story there was a real bombshell that was dropped on Lily and not only did it change Lily's life but also changed the story in some parts completely.

Even though there was a lot of drama and excitement throughout the book it also had its fair share of romance, friendship and in some parts humour which gave it that light heartedness.

All the characters during the story are very strong and play a big part not only in the story but also in Lily's life, whether that be the love of her life Tom, Mrs Bodney Lily's employer, Aunt Elizabeth or the very slimy Squire Clinsden who tries with all his power to make poor Lily's life a living hell.

As I said at the beginning I really enjoyed reading this book and I highly recommend that you give it a read and also maybe some of Linda Finlay's other work as I definitely will be reading more of her work

Thelma MacDonald says

Excellent well written historical story

Jenny L says

This was probably a 2 1/2 stars. It was fine - an easy, untaxing read. Not terribly exciting, nothing much happened! But fairly typical of the genre (not sure what that would be however...). You can tell from the cover the sort of story you are going to get. Pleasant, but doubtful I will be seeking out any more from Linda Finlay.

Tracey says

A really lovely read!

Alison says

Probably should really be 2.5, but I'm rounding down for the repetitive nature of some of the descriptions. Not the kind of book I would normally pick up (was lent it) so was pleasantly surprised by enjoying most of it. The pace was good and though the supporting characters were rather sketchily drawn they didn't interfere too much with the running of the plot to an (unsurprisingly) happy ending.

Jennifer Merville says

I received this book as part of Good Reads First Reads

This is a story , historical fiction, of a young woman called Lily Rose
She is a lacemaker and is commissioned as part of a team to make the lace for Queen Victoria's wedding dress. She is a poor girl and this job secretly is her perfect job - and could lead to a better job. She works hard to impress but there are those who want to see her downfall and Lily Rose must choose - her job or her family

A good story with good characters - the lifespan of the story doesn't take long - about 6 months - but it fills the time the author wanted to tell - I don't think it could have been expanded any more

Prestoni says

When I started this book I thought I was about to read a thinly veiled Mills and Boon-esque romance novel, and quickly flung it aside. But with a lack of other books to read, went back to it and I am glad I did. Whilst the naive attitude of the main character was at times grating, not to mention the expectations of the village squire toward her, it was worth getting to the end of this book. Not earth shatteringly life changing but a satisfying way to while a day or two away on holiday.

India M says

This was a lovely book - it was a simple story of a working-class girl in Victorian England, overcoming adversity and becoming more self-confident. It wasn't particularly ground-breaking or thought-provoking, but then it wasn't meant to be (not that that's a bad thing!) It contained quite a few clichés, as well as 2D characters (Molly, the bitch-who-inexplicably-hates-the-main-character, anyone?) yet that didn't detract from the book's overall enjoyability. The writing flowed well, and although it started a little slowly, it soon sped up.

An uplifting, light read that didn't require much effort but yielded pleasant results // 3.5 stars.

Carol Dobson says

A gentle tale of fishing and lace-making folk by the Lyme Bay coast of East Devon in 1839. Enjoyed the historical detail of the lace industry and aspects of local life, such as the dreaded owlers who frequented the footpaths at night. Well written and researched.

Georgia says

[when in Honiton and hears the other girls talking about a country bumpkin and feels sorry for her whoever she is without realising that she is the country bumpkin (hide spoiler)]

Rachel says

This was the first 'saga' genre book I have read not set within wartime. Although I enjoyed this book I couldn't help but feel frustrated with the ending. The author kept me guessing as to who Lily would end up together with and didn't warm to the character Tom at all for some reason and at one point really wanted her to end up with the merchant! When this wasn't the case I really wanted Lily to find herself and not conform to the social norms of the time by marrying young. The ending therefore for me was weak and spoiled all the drama and development built within the rest of the book.

Joan says

A lovely satisfying story set in the early 19th Century in East Devon. The story of Lily Rose, a young girl who becomes one of the best lace makers in Devon. I enjoyed the story particularly as I had lived in the area for quite a few years and I was also lucky enough to be able to learn to make the Honiton lace featured in the book.

Catalina says

I received a copy of this book for free as a first reads giveaway.

I enjoy historical fiction very much, and this book was lovely. I have enjoyed reading the story of Lily Rose and seeing her transformation and development. Lily is a poor peasant girl, orphan, with a lot of responsibility on her shoulders, from an early age. When she is commissioned to work on the lace for Queen Victoria's wedding dress she feels special and extremely lucky. The story only lasts six months, while the lace is completed, but it's full of action and turn of events. When she starts working for Miss Bodney, she is a shy, quiet and gullible young girl, however she quickly learns that not everyone is as kind-hearted and compassionate as she wanted to believe. At the end of a novel she is a much stronger woman, who everyone is expecting to achieve a lot in life.

There are other interesting characters in the book, that help or put stumble blocks in Lily's way. Tom, is her betrothed, a kind man, with strong principles, who feels very protective towards Lily, but also allows his jealousy and insecurity to get between them. Aunt Elizabeth is another person who for a few short moments mistrusts Lily's sincerity, but who in fact has her best interests at heart and wants to help as much as her means allow her to. The Squire and his wife are two opposing characters. One is determined to get what he wants at all costs, regardless who gets hurt in the process, while the other is a charitable soul who wants to help the poor.

This was a great book and I am looking forward to the sequel. There must be a second book as there are too many loose ends.
