



The Girl with the Green Eyes

Betty Neels

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Unlike her two sisters, Lucy was happier at home—if only she could find Mr. Right to share it with! But when she had almost given up her search for such a man, the eminent pediatrician William Thurloe came into her life. Attractive and dynamic, he was the answer to her dreams. But why would he be interested in her when the glamorous Fiona made it clear she was also available? Originally published in 1991.

The Girl with the Green Eyes Details

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From Reader Review The Girl with the Green Eyes for online ebook

Clare says

This book I liked but not as much as her others, I couldn't really see the chemistry between the h Lucy and H William and I thought he spent most of the time with the ow Fiona than with Lucy despite him falling in love with her, I would have liked to have seen him woo Lucy.

I did like the explanation he gave her towards the end that Fiona meant nothing to him and was all about having fun and taking her out whenever he got bored but all I could think was he must have been bored all the time considering the amount of time he spent with her lol and I wished Lucy did actually try and move on but she spent most of the time plotting ways in how to marry him but I did like near the end when he got a taste of his own medicine when he got falsely told that she was going to marry another man despite himself proposing to her beforehand.

I liked Lucy but she was always putting herself down and I thought she was a little on the stalker side lol and I found her family condescending especially about the orphanage where she worked at, I liked the ending especially where Fiona causes mischief but like all the others she wasn't very clever, the ending wasn't that satisfactory as it ended too quickly, I would have liked to have read about them going to her family and reading about their reactions but I'm happy that we did see Fiona's reaction when she realised that no matter what William would never marry her.

Janet says

Marvelous. The heroine, Lucy, was not a doormat, she had flashing green eyes and the rich *not Dutch* pediatrician was delightful. A rather oblivious family but not cruelly so ... the housekeeper Alice was a stand-in mother. A couple from an earlier book -- I thinking -- appear but I'm not sure: I'll have to track down the couple*. A lovely story. **The Secret Pool*

Figlet says

One of the few Betty Neels' titles that I have never read before. It's so delightful that even after 20 years I can still find new books of hers to discover.

This was also delightful and maybe in my top five BN's.

Patricia schmit says

Not Much More Than Green Eyes

Through most of this story, I really didn't like Miss Green Eyes. While recognizing that she was a nice person, I simply couldn't care what she would be doing in the next chapter.

LaTara says

Let me preface my review by saying that I love Betty Neel's books. I don't mind they are old fashioned romances in fact that really warms my heart that in a time where romance is pretty flashy (still good but flashy) the nostalgia and simplicity of her books are heartwarming.

Now for the actual review. It wasn't a bad book. Don't let the 2 stars fool you. Overall the book wasn't bad, but to me the issues outweighed the good.

Issue One: Sensible heroine doesn't act sensibly.

When it came to her relationship with the good doctor Lucy did a lot of things off the fly. She lied and she just was flighty but her character was sensible and reliable. This was completely at odds and kept me from trying to empathize with her.

Issue Two: Everyone disliked Fiona but she got her way almost til the very end.

WTF...seriously...W...T...F.... I appreciate that sometimes circumstances being what they are...this can happen...but it was a pretty last slide kinda move and not something I was expecting from Betty Neels in this book. I was a bit disappointed in how that mess all went down. [To clarify: I think that it could have been done-a last minute save...and BN has done it well in other books but it didn't work out for The Girl With the Green Eyes....just didn't]

Issue Three: I really wanted her family to see that she wasn't a failure.

Can someone acknowledge her talents please???? Someone other than the doctor. Please??? This isn't really an issue as much as a pet peeve. It was like the heroine was treated as if she were stupid when she really wasn't.

Issue Four: Where is the chemistry???

I don't know about anyone else but I found the doctor's insistence at taking Fiona out (aka the girl everyone hated) whilst deciding to MARRY Lucy in pretty bad taste. Or even when his feelings changed...that's when you set that heifa excuse me when you set Fiona straight good doctor.

Issue Five: Random declaration of love at the end.

See issue four: no chemistry and all of a sudden he loves her back. I mean -ok so that's not entirely true...we see evidence of his feelings but he was very very very very closemouthed about it. The kiss was cute though. (and it happened closer to the end...so not kosher)

But I loved: Lucy's sensibility.

The way the doctor was very much alpha male.

The very sweet letter that he wrote to her.

The way he took care of her.

Her bumbling encounters with him. (NOT the second guessing and self deprecating thoughts afterward) and Alice...

***I added another star because I really do like this book and I find myself reading it over and over again. Even with my issues with it.

Kat says

So, this book and I had a complicated relationship. To begin with, my friends and I have a trashy romance novel book circle, where we often give each other books where the heroine has our name or, in this case, green eyes like mine -- the more ridiculously terrible or terribly ridiculous, the better.

Unfortunately, I mostly just found this book boring -- excruciatingly so, to the point where I could only read a couple of pages at a time, and eventually started making snarky comments in the margins because it was the only way I could stand to read it. The characters are incredibly dull and the world is populated by robots rather than real people. The writing is bland, and apparently missed the whole "show, don't tell" boat. It also feels old fashioned, but not in a charming way, like *Pushing Daisies* or *Damsels in Distress*, but a creepy, *Stepford* way. I finally started to make up ways to explain why the heroine was so utterly boring and the hero so darn creepy.

My first explanation was that Lucy was mildly mentally retarded. This would explain why her parents preferred that she stay home and help them plan parties and such, why she had to fight to get a job, and why no one seemed terribly surprised that she had never gone to college. It also explains why William felt so creepy -- not only was he making decisions for Lucy without her input (e.g. ordering for her at restaurants), but he was also hitting on a mentally retarded woman a good decade his junior. Creep.

Then I realized that this didn't work, because the entire world in which this book takes place is completely warped. Although it was written in 1991 and presumably meant to be contemporary, everyone has a household staff, the friends' live-in nanny only gets 4 hours off a week, and measles is apparently a common childhood illness instead of a public health emergency. Which...no, just no. Accordingly, my second way to make the book more interesting was that it had started out as a tie-in novel to *The Stepford Wives*. At least it explained William.

[Sidenote: I have a Masters degree in infectious disease epidemiology, and I can tell you that is not the case now, but as I was born in 1987, I checked with my mother, a former hospital administrator, just to be sure, and she confirmed what I thought.

I will, however, credit the author with knowing the symptoms of legionnaire's disease, and that it is only transmitted from a point source, not person to person. However, an outbreak among children would be extremely unusual -- it is far more common among seniors, smokers, and the immunocompromised. I suspect she wanted a disease that was serious, but that her protagonists would not be in danger from, and that wouldn't be gross to deal with.]

But a funny thing happened as I sped through the last bit of the book on a high from some truly excellent coffee and beignets: I started to like Lucy, just a little. She showed some actual personality, even if it was in the form of passive-aggressive bitchiness, and the fact that she had actually fought to get her job and keep it, even with her family being such jerks about it, became a lot more impressive after her family began to play a more prominent role. William became even more of a controlling, infantilizing jerk, and if Fiona were a male villain she would have had a Snidely Whiplash mustache to twirl, but it became clear to me that Lucy was a perfectly normal young woman who had been trampled into a doormat. So what if she'd used her only ration of "freaking do something" to get that orphanage job before the book started? At least she'd done it! I found myself hoping that after she was fired at the end, she would tell her family to go to Hell, move to

Scotland, and start over. Unfortunately, she used her new ration of "freaking do something" to chase after William. What a waste.

For most of this evening, I have been nursing some sincere anger with the author, but then I looked her up on Wikipedia. It turns out that Ms. Neels was born in 1909 and didn't start writing until 1969, though she continued until her death in 2001. So really, the entire world was probably telling her for most of her life that this was how the world should be. Maybe she really wanted to be a doctor, but writing fiction in this most maligned of genres was all she could reasonably spend her ration of rebellion on.

So, now, if you have made it to the end of this review, I ask that you take a moment to thank everyone who has worked and continues to work to ensure that the world portrayed by Betty Neels is no longer a reality, and never will be again. This book may be an absolutely awful piece of writing, but it has opened my eyes to how very lucky I am, and that is always a good thing.

Just, uh, fellow terrible-romance-novel-circle members? Please, please, please confirm that I would never be this much of a doormat, even if I had been born in 1909? The thought kind of makes me want to scream in terror.

Shilpa says

A good read only for someone who is a fan of sweet romantic novels by Betty Neels.

The simplicity of the characters would make you long for the time when Life was simple. The heroine, Lucy was typically Betty Neels, pure of heart and simple of looks and easily ignorable but sweet enough to be treasured by the main character William for her manners, patience and behaviour towards kids. Sweet romance, but stretched too much without content.

Have read better from Betty Neels and would definitely love to read more from her collection :)

Teri-K says

I started reading this at the library and was enjoying it a lot, except then I put it down and took so long to get back to it that I had to back up two chapters just to remember what was going on and who these people were. So I guess that makes it a typically pleasant Neels books but not especially memorable for either characters or plot.

Clearwater Public Library Staff Picks says

I will always give every Betty Neel book I read 5 stars (unless more are offered!). These are simple love stories, no gore, no graphic sex. Just Romance. They are very sweet and formulaic, so you know what you are getting with each one, but that still does not ruin it for me. She changes them just enough to keep them interesting. Her heroes are usually Dutch and I have learned a lot about Holland reading them! Her heroines change, but they are usually strong, intelligent and independent women. I recommend these stories for anyone who likes to read before bed and who likes to have sweet dreams!

Owen Creed says

Look elsewhere for hot passionate clinches between characters, Neels writes a beautiful and refined love story. Okay so I mostly kept her books on hand in case my mother ever asked to see what I was reading when I was younger, so she wouldn't scold me for reading 'trash'. But in this story I must say Neels' Lucy was very much me back then, stuck at home and considered to have no potential by her family, yet in the end love found her, and reading this book gave me hope enough that some day I would too.

Jojo says

My mother used to get Harlequins when I was little, but they were apparently too sexy for me to read when I was, like, ten. But this one was deemed harmless, and I was allowed to have it. I remember reading it a couple times back then and loving it, so when I found it buried in a box in the back of my closet, the warmth of nostalgia compelled me to revisit it.

It was not a successful revisit. It's a very old-fashioned book, but not in a charming way; it was published in 1991, but it feels completely out of touch with modern times. Lucy is a frustrating heroine; for all the conniving she does to put herself in Dr. Thurloe's way, she's still unbelievably passive. I just wanted her to *do something* rather than whining on because he didn't appear to pick up that her running into him (secretly on purpose!) in the park meant that she wanted to marry him and have lots of babies.

And neither she nor Dr. Thurloe really have much in the area of personality.

If things had been slightly different - Lucy being less passive, none of this love at first sight crap, there being some hint of why Dr. Thurloe was such a catch and not just cardboard - I might have thought this sweet and even charming. As it is, I felt a bit ick about it all.

One star for the actual content of the book, one star for that warmth of nostalgia that insisted on sticking around despite everything.

Aayesha Khatri says

Review to come.

Pamela Shropshire says

3 1/2 stars. I'm quite torn on this book. I confess to being quite partial to the title, myself being a "girl with green eyes." Lucy is adorable, but perhaps a bit too precious. William is the typical Neels hero, although somewhat less vague than some.

First of all, Lucy Lockitt is not an Araminta. She is quite pretty and has a comfortably-upper-middle-class

family. Her father is an eminent archaeologist; her mother is a society-minded wife with the intelligence to competently accompany her husband on expeditions; and her sisters are both "clever" young career women. So, why does Lucy behave like an Araminta, and a rather immature one at that??? I get the shyness, I truly do, having strong introvert tendencies myself. I like Lucy and I would like her even more if she spent less time crying and bemoaning her lack of cleverness (although I blame that on her family). One trait that has my unqualified approval, though, is her love of poetry. I love, love, love the scene where she quotes the poem Waiting by John Burroughs. (Burroughs was an American poet, a contemporary of Whitman.)

I do love that Lucy marched to her own drummer and stuck with her job at the orphanage in spite of her family's disapproval.

I love Alice the confidant/housekeeper.

I love that William was open with Lucy about his lack of interest in marrying Fiona.

I love that William took Lucy to his house every day so she could nap in his garden.

Fiona is a deliciously evil OW.

As usual, I enjoy the post-marital peek into the homes of other RDDs/PBNs, this time Litrik and Fran from The Secret Pool.

I love that Lucy didn't hesitate to travel to Holland to find William when she discovered Fiona's Evil Plot. Delightful Declaration and Proposal.

Lisa at Farm Fresh Adventures says

I have always loved all the books by Betty Neels. They are simple predictable love stories...but that's okay. Sometimes you just need a light read.

Dahlia Clarke says

A Special Treat.

I love all the Betty Neels books, but especially the ones with hospital settings involved.

This storyline varied a little because the H & H were still of the same social and financial standing. Lucy therefore needed another type of rescuing and it was a delight to experience how the author unfurled her usual magic.

In this book the H/William was a lot less austere than some of the other leading men. I found myself secretly smiling along with him as he teases "the girl with the green eyes".

I would recommend this book to anyone needing to unwind at the end of the workday or to pleasantly pass the time while waiting on appointment, destinations etc.

I gave it five stars because it was a easy effortless read with all the pleasure and none of the guilt of "comfort food" for the soul.
