



Stranger within the Gates (Love Endures)

Grace Livingston Hill

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Sylvia Garland's impulsive brother brings home a bride from college, shocking the whole family. The bride doesn't appear to be a good fit for the family, still Sylvia determines to befriend her. But Florimel is out for her young husband's inheritance, pitting mother and son against each other and throwing the Garland family in so much turmoil that Sylvia may miss her own chance at love.

Stranger within the Gates (Love Endures) Details

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Author : Grace Livingston Hill

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From Reader Review Stranger within the Gates (Love Endures) for online ebook

Eli says

This reminds me of Mansfield Park in the sparky villainess way. The horrible girl who swoops in and craps on their ordered, sanctified life reminds me strongly of Mary Crawford.

Laura Renee says

This book tops my list for a gleefully sadistic read.

All I have to say about it is ORANGE DRAGON PAJAMAS. Which the villain-heroine parades in at one point, shocking the wholesome Christian family in the 1930s. If you too were overexposed to sanctimonious religious fundamentalists in your upbringing, you may too find a great deal of joy in reading this story about such a pure, wholesome family very nearly broken up by a MODERN WOMAN. A hard, flashy girl.

It is now my life goal to be a hard, flashy girl with a set of orange dragon pajamas.

Partridge Public says

Hill, Grace Livingston

Melissa says

This one is perhaps the most ridiculous of them all storywise and yet....still I can't look away! Young man runs off with a foolish, worldly, moneygrubbing woman named...wait for it...FLORIMEL. The painted Jezebel! The scenes of her trying to shock this otherwise sweet family, oh they are delightfully awkward. Also set at Christmas, and the bits of family life we see as they try to navigate this sad development after having recently lost their father...those are quite nice. And the story wraps itself up nicely in a little convenient Christmas bow, and we all leave happy and self-satisfied. Except for Florimel, but that hussy was never going to be happy.

Kristine Hansen says

Sometimes Grace Livingston Hill truly needs to be written in the context of the time period in which they were written. Perhaps in today's world, the idea that a son away at college would come home with a wife is a tragedy, something to be ashamed of, and the ruination of possibly the entire family. A man at college is not even considered to be "of age" to marry - and in this case that's very much true. He's barely even 19 at the time of the 'incident.'

To the family at home, waiting for the errant son to turn up with his bride, there is much speculation and trouble. How will the affect the budding romance of Sylvia, his sister.

I dropped this a star on the rating because this really was a rather heavy-handed cautionary tale aimed at young people to think carefully about who they would join themselves with. But all the same, the way this family banded together when it mattered, was absolutely beautiful. And the resolution, while maybe have been pulled out terribly quickly at the end, satisfies and leaves you thinking that life will be OK for this family in the future.

Mikayla says

I love Grace Livingstone Hills books, they're my comfort reads. This one felt like it had a bit of a rushed ending, but it was still good!

Mary Wilkinson says

I love Grace Livingston Hill's books, mainly because she writes from a different era. Though the publishers tried to update her books by putting a 70's picture on the front, her stories are still set in the classic Grace Livingston Hill time period, the 30's and 40's. This was a time in our history where life had rules, there was a distinct right and wrong, and classes of people were defined differently than today. Not that it was better, it was just different; unlike our world today where everything is relative to our feelings. The Bible played a major part in people's lives, but the sins of today were going on then too.

Grace Livingston Hill's books always have a beautiful and exciting love story, one where Christians and non-Christians lives collide. I read her books to my 97 year old mother-in-law, Anna, and she relates in a different way than me. I am awed by the way people lived in that time period, and she actually lived in the 30's. When Grace describes clothing of the day, Anna remembers having a dress made out of that material. If I don't understand an idiom of that day, Anna explains it to me. These are wonderful books to share with an older friend or relative. You can read them aloud and not worry that people listening will be shocked by any passages. Instead they will be encouraged.

Amber says

wow. just wow. This sinks to a level of melodrama that's surprising even for Hill in her later years. The entertainment is there but it is not intentional. wow.

Kerri says

Another sweet book by a good author. The thing I admire most about Mrs. Hill's books is that she shows such a clear picture of a Godly family, no matter what their circumstance. In this book, a widow and her children have been left well-off after the death of their husband and father. One of the sons has decided he is a bit more grown-up than he really is, and when he meets a young woman who seems to really need him, he decides to be her savior by secretly marrying her.

The family is shocked. In a few days, he shows up with his new wife for the Christmas holidays, and she begins to show what she is really like. It's not good! It is almost unbelievable that she could be that awful, even to the modern-day reader. The situation allows for the author to give some good advice on how to deal with trying circumstances which we could all use today.

When I read Mrs. Hill's books, I can usually figure out how the story will end. I have to say that this book did not end the way I expected it to, but it does have a satisfying ending. I would recommend it, even though it contains the worst "bad girl" that I have read about in one of the GLH romances.

Victoria says

The basic plot left me with too many questions to really enjoy it. However, Florimel is the best GLH villain I have read. Beautifully over-the-top and I wish her and her pajamas well.
