



## The Treasured Brides Collection

*Grace Livingston Hill*

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## **The Treasured Brides Collection** Grace Livingston Hill

Take a step back to a slower paced life in the 1930s and 40s, and discover the joy of old-fashioned romance as penned by one of America's most beloved authors. Lightly updated for today's reader, this collection of three romances—including *The Big Blue Soldier*, *Found Treasure*, and *The Patch of Blue*—is the perfect pathway to discovering a timeless author. Grace Livingston Hill created enduring characters who go through every human emotion. They are realistic individuals looking to fit in and find a place of contentment in life. Love meets them in their struggles and faith points them to eternal hope and peace.

## **The Treasured Brides Collection Details**

Date : Published July 1st 2014 by Barbour Books

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Author : Grace Livingston Hill

Format : Kindle Edition 450 pages

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# **From Reader Review The Treasured Brides Collection for online ebook**

## **CM says**

I am always impressed with Grace Livingston Hill's storytelling. This collection was pure and some of her best in weaving the Gospel seamlessly within the action of the romances. Love, love, love these timeless tales!

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## **Darlene Luton says**

### **Three good stories !**

I liked the first two stories better than the last one. Very well written Christian tales written years ago ! For easy reading and "feel good" time's.

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## **Lynn Davidson says**

Three Christian flavoured romance stories, old-fashioned for today, but nice reading.

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## **Rebekah Morris says**

I haven't read many books by this author and wasn't sure if I'd enjoy these stories. I did. Though I couldn't help shaking my head over the "brides" part in this title. Only one of the three girls got married, one got engaged, and the other didn't even do that.

### **The Big Blue Soldier**

(I still am puzzled over the title of this story as the soldier's uniforms from WWI were not blue.)

Taking me back to 1918, I landed in a small town or village, with "Auntie Rill" and really wished I could spend a month with her in her home. It was a sweet story even if there weren't many "Christian" things in it.

### **Found Treasure**

(This might be my favorite of the three stories.)

I fell in love with Effie almost from the first even if no one else wanted or liked her because she was a wild tomboy with no manners. I wanted to help her and was so delighted when Lawrence Earle came home. My one complaint was that I wanted the story to go on. I wanted to find out what happened next even though I was pretty sure of what happened.

### **The Patch of Blue**

(Still puzzling over this title too.)

This might be my least favorite of the three stories, though I did enjoy it. There wasn't really anything wrong

with it. A little more "romance-y" than I usually read, but still written in a sweet and wholesome way. Clear Christian message in this story.

Altogether, I enjoyed this book and am sure I'll read these stories all again.

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## **Meagan Myhren-bennett says**

The Treasured Brides Collection

By Grace Livingston Hill

Three Timeless Romances

from a Beloved Author

I've always loved the simple beauty found in Grace Livingston Hill's books. So when The Book Club Network offered a chance to read and review this just released collection from Barbour I jumped at the chance. After all these were 3 stories from Grace Livingston Hill that I had never read before.

The first story is The Big Blue Soldier. The First World War has ended and Sergeant Lyman Gage has just received word that his business has failed, his fiancée has become engaged to another man, and he is in debt to his former fiancée's father. Lyman is understandably dejected when he is approached by an unusual woman who invites him to dinner and to pretend that he is her nephew.

What follows is a delightful and sweet story about seeing past the outer person and seeing the heart. The kindness of strangers heals a broken heart and brings happiness to a hurting lonely heart.

The second story is Found Treasure. Effie Martin is a despised young woman - her youthful, tomboyish habits are felt to be an embarrassment to anyone unfortunate to be caught in her company. Her mother despairs of ever turning this selfish, self-centered girl into a lady and her sister Eleanor loathes her little sister who tries to get her part in Eleanor's activities. But Effie is searching for something, she feels unwanted by anyone and wonders if there is even a purpose to her very being.

But when Effie steps forward and saves a life she comes to the attention of several people, including Lawrence Earle. Lawrence helps Effie to become more than she ever saw herself becoming. She became Euphemia a "woman of good repute" all because someone was willing to give her a chance.

This story finds the worth and treasure of a person within their heart. Outward appearance and monetary worth mean nothing if one cannot find peace and comfort in a relationship with God.

The third story is The Patch of Blue. Chris Walton had everything. A father of good standing who was the bank president. He lived in a spacious house in an elegant well-to-do neighborhood. He was heading for his final year of college, played football, and was making the most of his life when everything changed. When his family's life of privilege was suddenly over Chris learns who his true friends are. And he learns who he truly is thanks to Natalie Halsey.

This story shows that one's happiness need not be tied to wealth, position, and possessions but rather in a

daily walk with God and contentment with what we do have. This is shown in the changes of Chris's demeanor and attitude from the opening until the closing of the story.

One item of note concerning this book it is not large print, but the print is larger than most books that are regular print - so if you like large print books this maybe one you want to check-out.

Thanks to The Book Club Network and Barbour for offering me this book in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Victoria Minks says**

\*title is very misleading. I enjoyed far better than I expected.

story#1 ????

story#2 ????? .... but the ending was far too abrupt!

sorry #3 ?????

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### **Sarah says**

The Treasured Brides Collection is awesome, especially if you're looking for a book that won't break the bank because not only does it contain 3 book, it's also only \$14.99.

The Stories included are The Big Blue Soilder, Found Treasure and The Patch of Blue. All three of these stories are very different, but are set back in the 1930's and 1940's. I can really appreciate the different climate of the culture shift between then and now. You won't be disappointed by any of these stories.

In The Big Blue Solider, Lyman Grace a vet from WW I in 1918 is sick, and returns home to find he has lost his money, his business, everything that seemed important to him. What's more important is he is in debt to his eyeballs and he has nothing. Marilla Chadwick invited her nephew Dick who returned from war to dinner but he has refused to come, so She sees Lyman Grace walking down the street and invites him in for dinner. She only asks that he will pretend to be her nephew. Mary Amber has lots of questioning for Marila. In the end, I did see this story turning out the way it did, but I won't ruin the ending. You'll have to read it for yourself.

In Found Treasure we meet Effie who wants to be like all the other ladies, but no matter how much she attempts to be a lady, she acts like a tomboy. I think many of us women can relate to that, however during this time period it was frowned upon if you were not lady like. Enter in Lawerence Earle into the picture and her world changes. He starts quoting scripture and telling her about Jesus. Will this lead her to a hero? A relationship with The Lord or will she find romance?

The last and final story is The Patch of Blue where Chris Walton, a privilege kid who has everything loses his faith and completely acts like a jerk when his fathers banking business fails. Enter in Natalie, a girl who is thankful for everything, sweet as pie, doesn't have much and seems to just be content. Despite Chris's unhappiness he wants to figure out why she's so happy. Is love in the air for these two?

Thank you Bookfun for this book! These were light heart reads. My reviews can be found on goodreads,

## **Derinda Babcock says**

THE TREASURED BRIDES Collection is a set of three stories of faith written by Grace Livingston Hill (1865 - 1947).

The Big Blue Soldier is set in Purling Brook New York, 1918. World War I veteran, Lyman Grace, returns home, sick and exhausted, to find his business has failed and he is now a debtor. He sells everything he has to get out from under the crushing load, and though he no longer has the debt, he also no longer has a home or job. His hopelessness increases when the girl who said she loved him dearly engages herself to another who can provide her with the lifestyle she craves. As he walks the road through Purling Brook, he questions the value of his life. It is at this low point, that he meets Miss Marilla Chadwick.

Miss Marilla Chadwick is an elderly spinster who longs to love and be loved. When she hears her nephew, Dick, will soon return from Europe as a war hero, she makes plans to show her love by providing a delicious meal and lavishing attention on him. As soon as he lands, she sends a note requesting his presence, but is crushed when he spurns her. Deep down she's always known he never really cared for her, yet his rejection hurts. To save face in front of the neighbors and her young friend, Mary Amber, the girl next door, she convinces a worn out soldier in a blue uniform to dine with her and, for just that evening, to allow her to call him Dick. She doesn't think her actions will hurt anyone, though she does wonder if the saying, "Oh, the tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive," is true.

Mary Amber is an unwilling participant in Miss Marilla's plans. Though she helped the woman make dinner for her nephew and agreed to stay and dine, she had concerns. She never liked Dick. He was mean and rude to her and others in the past, and though she knew war changed people, she had no confidence that Dick had changed. She is suspicious of the man who comes to dinner. He doesn't look much like Dick, and her suspicions increase when he can't answer her questions about the past correctly. She feels she must protect Miss Marilla from this deceiver.

Found Treasure is set in New York City, Summer 1928. Womanhood comes hard to tomboy, Euphemia "Effie" Martin. She doesn't fit in. She plays baseball, runs, and rides her bike better than most boys, and her rough-edged exuberance often causes her mother to sigh and her older sister to complain. When Effie overhears what the other girls her age think about her and how she acts, she is infuriated and hurt. She has always been shunned by them, so why should she care? She decides that is she can change some things, people might like her better. Lawrence Earle, the sought-after young man who taught her how to pitch a mean fast ball, shows her how Christ can change her from the inside out. She no longer has to be the old Effie, but can now be Euphemia, a person of "good report."

The Patch of Blue is set in New York City, Fall 1932. Christopher Walton, Jr., has everything a young man his age could desire: wealth, loving parents and sister, respect, admiration, athletic ability, and the expectation of returning to his senior year of college as the star football player and leader of his fraternity. On Sunday, he attends church with his parents, but his mind is not on the message. Instead, he sees the new car he will test drive the next day, and make plans to show it off. His attention is momentarily caught by the Pastor's message about being thankful when bad things happen, but he shrugs it off. He doesn't think this is possible.

On Monday, Christopher's beautiful world is shattered. There is a run on his father's bank and his life is threatened. Due to circumstances out of his control, he no longer has wealth, respect, admiration, or the expectation of returning to college. He and his family must move to Sullivan Street on the worst side of town, and he must hunt for a job. He is grateful to find a lowly job in a store where quiet Natalie Halsey works. Her faith has been tried, and when she shares it with him, he begins to see how one could be thankful for hard times.

The inside and outside covers of this book are attractive and let readers know right away they will be reading a “timeless romance.” The Big Blue Soldier was interesting, but ended so abruptly that it left me wondering if G.L.H. died before she could finish. The other two stories were engaging and worth the read, though the overuse of the words “nice” and “sweet” slowed me down. I sympathized with Euphemia in Found Treasure, and enjoyed the scene in The Patch of Blue where Chris Walton saves Natalie from the armed robber by pelting him with hard green apples.

Hill's voice could be heard during times she stepped in the story to narrate a passage. Though this kind of author intrusion is not often tolerated with editors today, it gave me an opportunity to understand the importance of social class to people of this time, and what G.L.H. considered respectable or entertaining. Though social values have changed, one thing that hasn't is the way

I received this book from Book Club Network in exchange for my honest review, and have posted this review on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Goodreads, DeeperShopping, and Christianbooks.

## P. Upshaw says

## Fantastic Christian stories

Fantastic Christian stories of romance. This was my first time reading this author's stories and I was so wonderfully surprised and pleased at the stories and depth of each one.

**Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says**

## About this book:

“Take a step back to a slower paced life the 1930s and 40s, and discover the joy of old-fashioned romance as penned by one of America’s most beloved authors. Lightly updated for today’s reader, this collection of three romances—including *The Big Blue Soldier*, *Found Treasure*, and *The Patch of Blue*—is the perfect pathway to discovering a timeless author. Grace Livingston Hill created enduring characters who go through every human emotion. They are realistic individuals looking to fit in and find a place of contentment in life. Love meets them in their struggles and faith points them to eternal hope and peace.”

Series: They are all part of the Grace Livingston Hill books.

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## “The Big Blue Soldier” by Grace Livingston Hill

“Aunt Marilla Chadwick wants to find a young man for her lovely young friend, Mary Amber. She sees a tall young soldier walking slowly toward her house. It doesn't matter that his uniform is bedraggled and dirty or that she had never seem him before in her life, for Aunt Marilla has an idea, a plan, a sudden inspiration--and soon she, Mary Amber, and the mysterious soldier are all entangled in an adventure that will change their lives forever.”

Spiritual Content- Prayers are said & two Scriptures are quoted.

Negative Content- Minor Cussing including: a “you can go to thunder” and a “go to thunder”.

Sexual Content- a 'hussy'; Love

-Mary Amber

-Miss Marilla

-Lyman Gage / Dick

P.O.V. switches between them in a narration form

Set in 1918

95 pages

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Pre Teens- Two Stars (If you don't mind a small amount of romance)

### New Teens- Three Stars

## Early High School Teens- Four Stars

## High School Teens- Four Stars

My personal Rating- Two Stars (and a half)

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## “Found Treasure” by Grace Livingston Hill

"Effie Martin was humiliated! Lawrence Earle, the football hero, was coming back from college, and all the girls were planning a big picnic for him. She had been planning to go, too--until she overheard the girls saying they didn't want her along because she was too rough, too much of a tomboy. Well, she'd show them. She could be as much a lady as any of them!

Or could she? Almost immediately Effie found herself caught in a struggle between "acting ladylike" and being herself--a struggle she was afraid of losing. Then suddenly, wonderfully, an act of heroism throws Effie into an extraordinary friendship with the football star himself! And she begins the thrilling journey of becoming a woman who understands strong faith and lasting love."

Spiritual Content- Proverbs 22:1 at the front & Philippians 4:8 gets quoted a few times; Guardian angels are mentioned; Lawrence has a strong Faith and witness to Effie; Prayers & a Scripture are said; Talks about God & knowing Him.

Negative Content- Ugly, hate and wanting to die because nobody likes you (Effie feels like this); a flask gets emptied by others.

Sexual Content- *\*Spoiler\** When Eleanor gets married Euphemia says she can make Eleanor's lingerie



(nothing is said about what Eleanor will use it for, except that when Effie's making it she says it's underwear). \*End of Spoiler\*

-Euphemia “Effie” Martin

-Lawrence Earle

P.O.V. switches between them in a narration form.

Set in 1928 (but skips 5 years, then 1, then 3, then 2.)

140 pages

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Pre Teens- One Star

New Teens- One Star (and a half)

## Early High School Teens- Two Stars

## High School Teens- Three Stars

My personal Rating- Two Stars (and a half)

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### “The Patch of Blue” by Grace Livingston Hill

“They lived in separate worlds until his world fell apart. Now Chris and Natalie will never be the same.”

Spiritual Content- Chris goes to church but only because his parents want him to; A sermon does get written; Natalie has a strong Faith; Prayers & two Scriptures are quoted; Many talks about God & Faiths get stronger.

Negative Content- A semi-detailed robbery; Chris says a man is yellow and that you “couldn’t depend on him”.

Sexual Content- a 'hussy', two 'tramps'; Chris wants to kiss Natalie but doesn't; A not-detailed kiss; Love & falling in it.

-Natalie Halsey

-Chris Walton

P.O.V. switches between them in a narration form.

Set in 1932

185 pages

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### Pre Teens- One Star

### New Teens- One Star (and a half)

## Early High School Teens- Two Stars

High School Teens- Three Stars

My personal Rating- Two Stars (and a half)

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Pre Teens- One Star  
New Teens- One Star (and a half)  
Early High School Teens- Two Stars  
Older High School Teens- Three Stars  
My personal Rating- Two Stars (and a half)

Let's break them down;

The first book, "The Big Blue Soldier", was a cute story but very, very rushed. The "I love you" part came out of left field to me.

Book Two, "Found Treasure", well, before the middle of the book, I was dreading finishing it! Effie was so annoying, rude & and just plain hateful! Many times I wanted to smack her (I know, I know, that's wrong but honestly!) She (finally!) got better but then her bratty, selfish older sister took the hateful show over.

Lawrence was the only good part in this book.

And Number #3, "The Patch of Blue", was my favorite out of the three but the negative part was hard for me to read. It was a cheesy plot, but I did like, however, when Natalie shared her Faith with Chris.

Overall, it was an okay, but pretty clean, read.

Link to review:

Coming 8/8/14

\*BFCG may (Read the review to see) recommend this book by this author. It does not mean I recommend all the books by this author.

\*I received this book for free from the Publisher (Barbour) for this review.

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## **Lisabeth Fluitt says**

### **Nice book**

The book is refreshingly innocent without the gratuitous, graphic sex scenes found in so many romance books of today. Each story has a happy ending.

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## **Stacy Wilson Wilson says**

### **A Real Fine Read!**

Grace Livingston Hill was the very first Christian author I had the pleasure of reading. This book is just one shining example of the many great books she has written!

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## **Rebekah Tooley says**

All of these stories were so very sweet! Very clean.

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**carol price says**

**The Treasured Brides Collection: Three Timeless Romances**

I got hooked on Grace Livingston Hill books when I was in grade school and checked out my first books by her from school library. Collected her books for many years now reading them as ebooks.

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**NancyDrew says**

**Loved this!!!!.....**

Just so captivating the way this author writes about the years gone by,with such description that it makes you feel like it is really those days again instead of the modern world today!!!!.....to me the first and third stories were the best,the third more so.....the second one kind of ended abruptly, but this is still a good collection to have.....I will be looking for more from this author!!!!.....

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