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Richard Paul Evans

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Richard Paul Evans, bestselling author of the beloved classic *The Christmas Box* and *The Looking Glass* returns to the unfinished story of Faye Murrow and Michael Keddington in a tale that will delight and inspire new readers, as well as legions of loyal fans.

The Carousel Details

Date : Published October 1st 2001 by Pocket Books (first published 2000)

ISBN : 9780743428705

Author : Richard Paul Evans

Format : Paperback 368 pages

Genre : Fiction, Romance, Holiday, Christmas, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit

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From Reader Review The Carousel for online ebook

Kayrene Smither says

Don't think The Carousel would be one of my faves from RPE, but I do love his writing, so this is a pass for me. I might have enjoyed it more if I had read the first two (have I?), not sure. MK character seemed familiar so maybe I've read one of the earlier ones. I just think maybe just some tough subject matter in this story; especially the first event chronologically. Tough to hear about. But, love RPE, no doubt, and I'm glad I read this.

Teri says

A great ending to a great series! This one, for me, was the harder book to put down out of all three of the books. This one seemed to have more humor but also more drama in it. Plus a few plot turns. I am left wishing there was another book or two, or ten to follow this. I would say "Read it!" You won't be sorry.

At first I wondered what book #2 (The Looking Glass) had to do with books #1 and #3, other than it teaches the reader of the beginning of Bethel town. But upon further pondering, I realized there are similarities between the two main characters, Michael and Hunter. They both are dealt a bad hand of cards from life (depression, losing wives, suicide, false accusations, etc.etc.), but they both learn that even while we have some terrible things happen in life, life is still worth living, and still offers us a richness, a hope, a happiness in life that can come in no other way but by living life - right up to the end, no matter how slow or fast that end comes! Pushing through the hard times, and taking time to enjoy the good times. It is all in our attitude!

Kym McNabney says

I have suddenly become a huge RICHARD PAUL EVANS fan. First the CHRISTMAS BOX, then LOST DECEMBER, and now THE CAROUSEL. To say that I am in love and in awe of MR. EVANS writing is an understatement.

I would say that I have pretty high standards when it comes to telling a story, being a writer myself. Unfortunately, I have not yet been able to accomplish what I believe to be great writing, but that does not mean I don't recognize it in others. There are many great editors that do not have the knack for writing, but have the talent to identify a great story, and edit it to near perfection.

My joy and strength is not in writing what a story is about, but rather to identify the author's ability to tell a story. MR. EVANS has a way of spinning a tale that will leave you feeling as though you stepped into the pages, forgetting there is a living world around you.

I LOVE the quotes before each chapter. They alone would make a great book. I LOVE the depth of his plots, the way he weaves a message of life lessons in a subtle yet powerful way. You can't help but fall in love with the characters, and he has a way of not producing the expected in the traditional way. I foresee reading many more stories by this amazing writer.

From Amazon:

From bestselling author Richard Paul Evans, the final chapter of the love story that began in *THE LOCKET*. Richard Paul Evans, bestselling author of the beloved classic *THE CHRISTMAS BOX* and *THE LOOKING GLASS* returns to the unfinished story of Faye Murrow and Michael Keddington in a tale that will delight and inspire new readers, as well as Evans' established legions of loyal fans.

Amazon.com Review:

Michael Keddington and Faye Murrow are young lovers who marry on the eve of Faye's departure for medical school. While the bonds of matrimony and faith pull them together, the troubles of the real world do sunder: disapproving parents, work demands, distance, death, and an unplanned pregnancy. As in his earlier novel, *The Christmas Box*, nostalgia and emotion run unchecked, to the delight of most readers.

This is not the great American novel, but Evans never pretends that it is, he only hopes that you "might find the message of this story meaningful and applicable to your own life." If that is the standard, most readers should be satisfied.--Nancy R.E. O'Brien

Rhonda B says

There are several things likable about this book and a dislike. First, I LOVE the 5" x 7" size of Richard's books. So easy to hold and stash in my purse for easy carry. The second is the little quips from the characters journal at the beginning of each chapter, as in "There would be less suffering in this world if humanity would learn this one truth: It is not what my we receive but what we give that heals us". Powerful words!

Typical feel-good story line for Richard about a love that has a bit of turbulence to it but ultimately survives. BUT, and here is the dislike, I got lost in a side tract adventure of the main character into his work life at a nursing home. It is needed to build his life outside his main relationship but a bit more in-depth than needed. This is my dislike and the reason for not a 5 star review.

Debbie Williams says

This was a good series even though a lot of his writing comes off like the Hallmark movies.

Greg says

Generally I like Richard Paul Evans' books. I'm coming to realize, though, that they are a bit of a conundrum for me. I spend much of each book depressed and sad about the terrible things that are happening to the main character, only to be totally turned around in the last 30 pages of the book and left happy and thrilled for the good ending. I'm not sure the last 30 minutes are worth the 3-4 hours of sadness. Sometimes it feels to me like the guy was repeatedly pounding his head against a tree. When asked why he was doing that, he replied, "because it feels so good when I stop." That was what reading *The Carousel* was like. Nonetheless, I found some thoughts worth of pondering:

1. "It is possible to learn more about compassion in one quiet act of selflessness than in a hundred fiery sermons." Agreed!

2. "Nowhere is our vision more distorted than when we turn it on ourselves." Yup, that one resonates with me too.
3. "If variety is the spice of life, routine is the bread of it." Never heard that thought before, but it is certainly true in my life. I like occasional interludes of "spice" -- travel, new projects, etc., but most of the time, I appreciate a life bounded by routine. One semester in college, I had tuna & noodle casserole every night for the entire semester. By the end...I still liked it and could have kept up the routine. I truly am a creature of habit and routine, I suppose.
4. "I have come to believe that we do not walk alone in this life. There are others, fellow sojourners, whose journeys are interwoven with ours in seemingly random patterns, yet, in the end, have been carefully placed to reveal a remarkable tapestry. I believe God is the weaver at that loom." Me too...I have been blessed tremendously by some of those fellow sojourners. I hope that I have been able to do the same for some others.
5. "Though adversity is the fertile soil in which the human spirit best grows, we loathe it still. I do not see how it can be otherwise, for no rational being seeks out pain and misfortune. Still, I cannot help but wonder if it is not somehow wrong to enjoy the fruit of the tree but curse the tree." Indeed.
6. "There would be less suffering in this world if humanity would learn this one truth: It is not what we receive but what we give that heals us." An important truth, and one I must often learn anew.

And my favorite...

7. "I have come to believe that the defining moments of most lives are not acts of courage or greatness, rather they are the simple acts: expressions of virtue or vice that are tossed carelessly like seeds from a farmer's hand, leaving their fruits to be revealed at a future date."

To me, the most profoundly important moments are those that occur one on one, one heart to another, one need met by another, one sorrow assuaged, one expression of love and caring to another human being. We best live our lives not in programs or institutions, but heart to heart, hand to hand, in service to one another. I'm glad to see another book that reinforces that message, even if it was a little bludgeon-like.

Mickey says

Maybe I'm getting to the point where I've read too many Richard Paul Evans books. I enjoy them all, and they basically all have a happy ending, but this one was a little too painful in arriving there. The book is the third of a trilogy, but I found the trilogy rather disjoint. "The Locket" was a charming story of Michael Keddington and his relationships with elderly residents of the senior care facility where he works. "The Looking Glass" stepped back in time about a century, and completely different main characters. At the beginning of "The Carousel," we're back with Michael, only this time the story revolves around him and his girlfriend/fiancee/wife, with whom he secretly elopes at the beginning of the book. Faye is on her way to graduate school clear across the country, Faye's father disapproves of Michael as a potential son-in-law, but Michael and Faye reason that getting married will cement them together as the geographic distance between them separates them.

I thought there was just too much death and sadness in this book. Michael is close to Faye's sister Jayne, who has issues. Jayne ends up committing suicide, and everyone blames him- or herself for not having been able to reach Jayne and give her the self-assurance that would have prevented the suicide.

Faye ends up pregnant, and loses her baby. She deals with this herself, and doesn't even tell Michael.

Faye is drawn to a down-on-her-luck waitress named Judy and her daughter. She doesn't understand why she cares so much about them, but I found this aspect of the story to be the most redeeming.

Michael gives Faye a little carousel early on in the book, and Evans uses the carousel as a metaphor to express that life has ups and downs, but still ends up on course.

Phyllis Wright says

I like endings like this. Good ones!

John Mulholland says

The last book in the Trilogy and as always a great read from Evans.

Cortney Nadig says

I just love Richard Paul Evans. His books are so easy to get through and so uplifting. There are always trials and yet you put the book down satisfied and eager to fight any battles you might have of your own. Once I pick one of his books up, I can't put it down until I am finished.

Diana says

Love Paul Richard Evans. Very inspirational.

Lisa Moncur says

I love the humanity in Richard Paul Evans' books. He has a way of capturing his characters' lives that allows you to walk around in their shoes for a while and experience their joys and pains in a way that leaves you changed because of it. I loved this book. It was a bit dramatic, but that's what makes it exciting makes you keep reading. I honestly didn't know what was going to happen or who Michael was going to choose in the end because it was written so empathetically and in the moment.

Well done, Richard Paul Evans. This is why I keep reading your books!

Noreen says

Needed tissues several times today as I read this. Loved it!

Debbie says

This book kept you wondering what was going to happen next... could not put it down... loved the ending.

Lynne says

Very enjoyable & quick read.

Laura Beasley says

A love story that seems so real and exposes the ups and downs of love as well as the trials and tribulations. Michael and Faye are in love and she is leaving for med school so decide to get married before she leaves and keep it a secret. Then real life sets in and the hardships begin. Their love is tested and fails for a time but in the end true love wins. Life is like a carousel at times and other times it isn't but life still goes on. As always Richard Paul Evans touches your heart and makes you think about life .

Judi sampson-young says

Another fantastic book by Evans, but I was so disappointed to discover that it is considered the third in a series called The Locket. The ending of this book seemed a little too rushed and I thought the relationship he had with Blythe to be cruel on Michael's part, considering the way her previous relationship ended.

Katie W says

This story reminded me of how hard life can be sometimes and how it can tear people apart or bring people together. It reminded me how much we need God and how much we need friends/family, the people who love us and support us. Some parts of life don't have a happy ending, but it helps to know that we're in it together and that in the end love ultimately wins. I especially liked this quote about carousels:

"She smiled in remembrance. 'I still come here a lot. Whenever life gets overwhelming I just sit here and watch it go around. It takes me back to when the most difficult decision I had was figuring out how to make the quarters last until Dad came back. [...] Maybe I like carousels because they're so constant. They always go to the same place. And they never change. You know, I've probably ridden every animal on there."

God is like that for me--the constant in my life whenever I am overwhelmed or life gets stormy. God is my refuge, my solid rock, my fortress, my strength, my comforter, my anchor, my firm foundation. God is the same yesterday, and today, and tomorrow. Everything else in my life can change in an instant but God is always the same and will always be there for me. I know that I am never alone and that I will always be loved.

Mary says

I have become a fan this author's beautiful style and wholesome characters. Michael Keddington was quite lovable and all the characters seemed to jump off the page.

Lora says

A very light touch on the tragedies of a the very real and chronic problem of depression. "In the face of the lies told by depression, we must have courage to survive. And courage is best fed by hope. The sun will rise again. The only uncertainty is whether or not we will be there to greet it." (pg 224). Chronic in my family and I always pray for them to just hang on. Enjoyed the love story. The feeling of loss and tragedy was palpable throughout. Not a very "happy" Saturday read, but poignant. I think I am finally at a point were I can say that I am grateful for some of my trials. I loved this thought, "Though adversity is the fertile soil in which the human spirit best grows, we loathe it still. I do not see how it can be otherwise, for no rational being seeks out pain and misfortune. Still, I cannot help but wonder if it is not somehow wrong to enjoy the fruit but curse the tree." (pg. 230).
