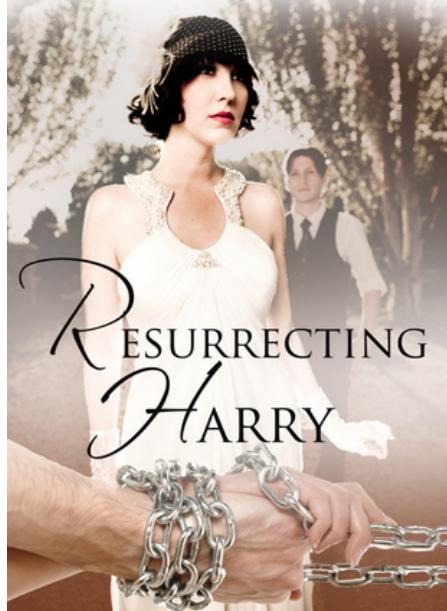


CONSTANCE PHILLIPS



Resurrecting Harry

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Resurrecting Harry Constance Phillips

In order to save the only woman he's ever loved from self-destruction, Harry puts his afterlife on the line by entering a wager with purgatory's keeper, Jaden. He gives Harry a younger face and body, and a new name: Erich Welch.

If he wants to keep his new life, he must convince Bess to give up the promise she made to Harry on his death bed and call off the séance she's scheduled on the anniversary of his death.

Will Erich be able to help Bess over her loss and will any good come from resurrecting Harry?

Resurrecting Harry Details

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From Reader Review Resurrecting Harry for online ebook

Gracie says

This book is pretty awesome. I learned more about the real Harry Houdini in the first chapter than I ever knew. I enjoyed that this author took the time to research Harry and took real facts about him and put her own spin on things. The type of things we would never know, not having been in the man's life. It gives a really cool spin on reality. I really enjoyed the mix of truth and story that this author created. The whole thing is extremely clever!

Harry died and spent 11 months in purgatory, when he is sent back in a new body. He becomes Erich Welsh, his mission is to stop his beloved wife Bess from the séance she is planning on the anniversary of his death. If he stops her he gets to live the rest of his new life with her, if he fails, he spends the rest of eternity in a dark void.

This is a moving story about love, life, death, grief, second chances and saving the one you love. It will touch your heart without you realizing it. This story will stay with you long after it ends.

This is my first historical fiction novel, and I loved it. It was masterfully done and I'm glad to have read it. This is definitely a must read!

CoffeeTimeRomance and More says

Harry Houdini's soul now resides in the body of Erich Welch. On a mission to save his wife, Erich must earn her trust and get her to call off the anniversary séance. He is certain she will recognize his soul, but is sadly mistaken upon their first meeting.

Beth Houdini has grieved for her husband for nearly a year. Harry has promised her that not even death can chain him, and he would speak with her again. She is desperate to talk to him. From the day he dies, her life has fallen apart, and she is unable to do some of the simplest things. When she meets Erich, there is an instant attraction that causes her to feel as though she is betraying Harry's memory, but having him around soothes her soul and makes her smile. In many ways, he reminds her of her husband, even if he is more humble and empathetic than Harry. It takes all of her willpower to fight her growing need of Erich.

After his untimely death, Harry Houdini is offered a second chance to save his wife, Beth, whom he loves and must do anything within his power to help. Her faith in him is so tremendous she believes he will contact her on the anniversary of his death. He must stop the séance she plans to hold or she will forever be a bitter, grief-stricken shell of a woman, and he will cease to exist. If he can get through to her, they can both have a chance at a long life together. Still, her sorrow and anger may prove to be too difficult to overcome. But Harry Houdini has never shied away from a challenge, and he does not intend to start now, his only hope that her future involves him.

This is a wonderful story about true love and sacrifice. It shows that love and hope are strong enough to overcome any obstacle—even death. I find the story heartwarming, sweet and tender. Beth's character shows how strongly grief can affect a person and act like a slow poison, inhibiting happiness and joy from being experienced long after the initial heartbreak. And the underlying message of hope and second chances add depth and enjoyment to the storyline. There are many lessons to be learned within the pages of this clever tale that will stay with the reader after the last page is turned.

Shawna Romkey says

Resurrecting Harry is a fascinating story that explores “what if” Harry Houdini had a second chance to come back after his death to save the woman he loves. Houdini is a master escape artist, so what if he escaped even death? He makes a deal with a celestial being to do just that. Constance Phillips takes us back in time to the Houdini’s world and shows us life from Houdini’s wife’s side and how she grieves since his death.

I absolutely loved this book and it’s not something I’d typically read. I loved getting inside both the Houdini’s heads and hearts and learning about their life and times. The premise is unique and clever and turns the Houdini’s relationship and expectations on their ears.

A touching tale that delves into love, responsibility, loyalty, death and grief. I’m going to have to read more on Houdini now. Such a fascinating character!

Maer says

Taking the Houdini mystique and combining it with a story of love that endures beyond the grave makes this a memorable novel. Bess Houdini, Harry's grieving widow, strives to hang on to every memory of her late husband. In this alternative history, Harry's soul is placed in the body of Erick Welch and he's given the opportunity to help her move on. But he only has one month to accomplish this. The mysteries and obstacles placed in his path are not only external, but Harry himself, gets in the way more often than not.

Phillips delivers a beautiful story, extremely well written, with characters who seem alive. Her ability to bring not only the characters, but their surroundings to life is excellent. Bess is sympathetic and believable and it's easy to empathize with her. Erich is conflicted as he comes to terms with not only the present, but the past and future as well.

This was a very fast read for me and kept me guessing to the very end. It also made me do a bit of research on "our" Bess. I think I much prefer Phillips' version. I'll be remembering this book for a long time. The story is that good and it's that different from the rest. Highly recommend!

Katie O'Sullivan says

This is an old-fashioned love story with a ghost story kind of twist. This well-written and well-researched novel explores the what-ifs of the afterlife, and whether the connection between two souls who truly love each other can continue beyond death.

The Great Master of Escape, Harry Houdini, finds himself twisting in the winds of Purgatory. The keeper of the keys offers him one last challenge to escape death itself, and save his grieving widow, Bess, from the

self-destructive path she's chosen.

Harry's soul is given a new body, a new identity, and a singular mission. He must stop Bess from conducting the séance scheduled for the anniversary of his death. More importantly, he finds he must help Bess stop living in the past and embrace life.

When Harry's new body – in the form of a younger man named Erich Welsh – first meets Bess on the road, sparks fly between them. Harry thinks it will be easy enough to cheat death and have a second chance to relive his life. It takes time for him to realize it's not only Bess who needs to stop living in the past, but that Erich also needs to learn from Harry's mistakes. His soul needs to learn and grow if he and Bess are to really have a chance at true happiness.

Ms. Phillips gives us twists and turns as Erich makes some of the same missteps Harry made in life, and poor Bess is left wondering if she's going insane at the similarities in the men she's attracted to. The author gives us the story from both points of view, which gives interesting insight into their motivations, and makes it all the more gratifying when they come to the same conclusions. The love scenes are nicely done, and I loved it that while Bess realizes their age differences a lot at the beginning of the story, by the time they're in bed together it all falls away.

The author keeps you guessing right up until the end as to whether the pair will ultimately end up together, and whether Harry's last and greatest escape will be to defy death itself.

While historical fiction isn't my usual genre, this was a fun, fast read. Despite the 1920s setting, I'd classify it more as a paranormal romance. I loved the author's first novel, *Fairyproof*, and have looked forward to reading more of her work. I'm so glad I did, and totally recommend *Resurrecting Harry*.

N. Kuhn says

I received this book free in exchange for an honest review

I loved this story. It was about a 2nd chance life, love after death and getting back the one you love. Houdini was magic. But could he escape from death? This was a well written romance and I loved every minute. You ever hear that question, if you could bring 1 famous person back from death, who? Seems this author wanted more Harry Houdini. I loved the mix of truth and fiction in this book. If you enjoy the roaring 20's, Harry Houdini and 2nd chances at love, you should read this!

Rebecca says

Harry Houdini is an almost mythical figure in American history. This man who dared death to take him by his amazingly scary stunts. Who time-and-time again was able to escape the chains, ropes, Chinese water torture, and a myriad of other confinements. In the end he couldn't escape peritonitis which claimed him at the age of 52 in 1926.

What I didn't know before reading *Resurrecting Harry* was that Harry was a debunker of false spiritualists who were preying upon the grieving families of dead. Harry made quite a few enemies in his attacks against these charlatans and even co-wrote a book about their practices. It earned him quite a few enemies.

I also didn't know much about Harry's wife, Bess Houdini. Theirs was a love story that Ms. Phillips delves into in her novel. Harry and Bess made a pact before he died, that he would contact her from the dead. Bess did everything in her power for ten long years after his death, until finally she decided that communicating with the dead was not possible.

Ms. Phillips takes these true events and weaves a beautiful love story of Harry given a second chance and returned to his beloved Bess. The catch is, he is returned in a new body, a young body, and Bess has no idea who this young man named Erich is. But she does feel a connection to him, and yet, she can't let go of the memory of Harry.

Erich must help Bess to let go, so that his spirit can be free, and that Bess will be free from the imprisonment of not truly living and waiting for Harry to come back to her.

I found this story charming, interesting, and a beautiful love story.

Cynthia says

I really liked the history side of the story it is really a very spiritual read that pulls you in taking you away between fantasy and reality giving you a well balance emotional read. We all say I will love you even after death but for some of us time heals and we move on finding new love, never really forgetting our old one just not holding on to it so much. This isn't the case for Harry and Bess. This is a love that goes through time building stronger than not even death cannot take it away. You can tell the author put a lot of thought and time into this giving us a delightful romance that will live in our mind through time making us believe more than we could ever hope that our love will stand the test of time only to bring it right back to us when we least expect it.

This is a story based on what if, what if Henry was able to make the greatest escape that he could even escape..... death. Jaden offers Henry a chance of a lifetime he can return to his life with the women he loves. All he has to do is become someone else and never tell anyone who he really is. Now he must face things he never thought he would ever have to one being Bess and making her fall in love with him again as a new man. The only kicker is Bess is very much in love with Henry and has no plans on giving that love up. Henry sure has his hands full. Can he spin his magic again and make Bess fall for him all over again but as someone new? As the story builds there will be more than one obstacle in Henry's way he must stop the séance or all bets are off. Time is short with lots to accomplice and time is running out.

I really loved this plot it is so meaningful, so heartbreaking at times and so much joy and love it just touches you. I really liked the characters and how the story builds around them. It was a wonderful heartwarming story that truly touched my heart. I just loved it and it will be a book I will read again and again.

Jackie says

I loved this book! There I said it. Constance Phillips does not disappoint. I was really curious when I read the blurb about this book. I have always had an interest in Houdini and was intrigued on how this book would play out. The story begins with Harry in a purgatory of sorts re-living all of his past failures. He is brought

out of this endless spiral by Jaden. The keeper of this existence. Jaden informs Harry that he has been dead for 11 months. He soon offers Harry a proposition. If he can get Bess to stop her séance of trying to contact Harry's spirit then he may get yet another chance at life not only for himself but with his beloved Bess. Harry would be brought back in a different body but retain all of his memories. If Harry doesn't succeed he will forever live in a world of nothingness. Since Harry does not believe in an ever after he agrees and figures it will be very simple to get Bess to realize that deep within his new body and life is the Harry that she has loved. Harry, who is now Erich, soon realizes that 11 lonely months has changed Bess and she is not the same that she once was. Erich now faces a huge obstacle of befriending and hopefully earning Bess's love all over again. Bess in turn becomes conflicted with her growing feelings for this newcomer. She is weary because in the time since her husband passed away she has been bombarded by charlatans and swindlers just trying to get a piece of Harry's legacy. She feels it is her duty to protect the public's memory and her own memories. Along with the strangers are those who Harry has harmed who wish to try to blackmail Bess into holding the séance for both monetary and notoriety that would help them recover what they feel Harry took away. Through Bess and Erich's journey you get a sense of reawaken and epiphanies. Bess reawakens to a new life of possibilities that doesn't have to surround her dead husband's life. Erich has epiphanies about things that he never realized happened. Especially feelings that Bess had that he/Harry ignored or took for granted. In the end, will the new love bloom and start a new and different life or will the old ways creep back in and snatch away the bright possibilities?

Overall, an extremely well done book that drives you forward with each chapter. You can almost believe that this really did happen! This had to have been challenging to take historical characters and develop them in a way in which would propel and strengthen the story. Connie Phillips does a wonderful job navigating the waters of both paranormal and historical romance. Her choice of Bess and Harry was a clever one. Though many stories have been told about them you will be hard pressed to find such a good paranormal romance with a focus about them. In general I would whole-heartedly recommend this book! If you like a bit of paranormal and a bit of the historical you will love Resurrecting Harry. Great job, Connie!

Danielle Forrest says

This story was a breath of fresh air, a refreshing twist on a well known tale. The book started out drawing the reader in. The otherworldly scenes with Jaden were really cool. I liked how the world just sort of shifted without warning. The author really made the most of the limitless creative space available.

Though I probably shouldn't have, I liked Jaden too. There was just something about his devil may care attitude and allusiveness that intrigued me and made me smile.

And I couldn't help but be drawn into Harry (or should I say Erich) and Bess's ups and downs. To me, this story is an ultimate example of star-crossed lovers. Harry loves her and, to a certain extent, she feels the pull as well but won't admit it to him or even herself. The reader is pulled through highs where he does good and she lets him into her life just a little, and lows where she shuts down and shuts him out, breaking his heart.

I spent most of the book, equally hoping that she would see him for who he truly is, but at the same time, I think what I was really hoping for was that she would see him as her true soul mate, which, as Harry or Erich, he most certainly would always be.

Great story, new idea. All in all. Worth a read.

Jody says

Awesome & inspiring! I was immediately drawn into the story and the history. Resurrecting Harry is a wonderful tale of how love endures and conquers everything, even death. It is beautifully written and told through both Harry's and Bess's points of view. The transformation of Harry's feeling and attitudes throughout the novel are believable and moving. The interactions between the other characters in Resurrecting Harry are well developed, interesting, and kept me turning pages as fast as I could. I won't give away any spoilers, but I thoroughly enjoyed the interplay between the characters and the suspenseful ending. I was touched by the writing and felt the author captured the lengths to which men will go to honor, protect, and love the women in their lives.

Resurrecting Harry is absolutely fantastic and I highly recommend it.

After Harry passes away, he leaves behind the love of his life — Bess. Resurrecting Harry is a story about what could have happened to Bess if Harry had been able to make the greatest escape of all — escaping death. The story begins when an awe-inspiring and supernatural spirit named Jaden, offers Harry a chance to return to life and his beloved Bess. However, there is a catch, Harry must assume a different body and not tell anyone who he really is, especially his wife. His new persona is the young and handsome Erich Welch. Erich/Harry now has only one month to convince Bess not to contact Harry via a séance on the one year anniversary of his death. If she cancels, Harry will be granted a second chance to live the rest of his life with his true love. Unfortunately Bess is being heavily influenced by her friends; friends that Harry does not trust.

Holly says

This looks SO GOOD!!!! I've always been fascinated by Harry Houdini, and this just sounds like a GREAT read. Yay!

Louann Carroll says

Harry Houdini is dead. Once he reaches the other side he meets up with a heavenly messenger who offers him an opportunity to go back to Earth to save Bess, his grieving widow. On the one year anniversary of his death, Bess plans a seance and it is up to Harry to stop it or he will spend eternity in unending darkness.

As Erich Welsh, Harry becomes a bus boy in a cafe he and Bess used to enjoy. After putting himself in danger to save the life of a youngster, he earns Bess' favor. Soon he becomes her trusted confidant even though he is half her age. Love blossoms between them though Bess fights against it. Betrayal and murder follow after a medium Harry tried to discredit seems to entrap his wife.

This charming tale of will make you laugh and cry. Told with such emotive candor we watch as Harry disguised as Erich learns about love, trust, and forgiveness. The story is a fast read and is well written. I can't wait to read more from Ms. Phillips.

Kristine (A Cozy Booknook) says

This is such a great story, I couldn't put it down. The author does a wonderful job of weaving true events into a fictionalized story, the lines are quite blurred. The characters jump off the page and the imagery painted by the author had me feeling I was in the scene with the characters. I really enjoyed this story and look forward to reading more from this author.

Abigail says

Going to be interviewing here tonight (3-28) on Bewitching Tours Radio and I will write my review as soon as possible. This book is truly one of the best love stories of the ages I have read. So touching. NOT a romance, but a love story!

Join me tonight and learn WHY YOU NEED TO GO READ THIS BOOK!!

CONSTANCE PHILLIPS on BEWITCHING TOURS RADIO with KRISS MORTON, HOST

OMG awesome!
