



The Daughters of Ireland

Santa Montefiore

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It is 1925 and the war is long over. But much has been lost and life will never truly be the same again.

Castle Deverill, cherished home to the Deverill family in the west of Ireland for hundreds of years, has burned to the ground. But young and flighty Celia Deverill is determined to restore the sad ruins to its former glory. Celia married well and has the wealth, after all, to keep it in the family and she cannot bear to see it stand neglected.

But dark shadows are gathering once more, as the financial markets start to shake. And everything that felt so certain is thrown once again into doubt.

A sweeping story of family and history, from the author of the top ten bestseller *Songs of Love and War*.

The Daughters of Ireland Details

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Author : Santa Montefiore

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From Reader Review The Daughters of Ireland for online ebook

Amanda - Mrs B's Book Reviews says

*3.5 stars

I came into The Daughters of Castle Deverill, the second book in a series written by established British author Santa Montefiore, having just read its predecessor, Songs of Love and War. Although it is not essential to have read the first book, Songs of Love and War, to enjoy The Daughters of Castle Deverill, I believe it enhanced my reading experience. It gave me a good handle on the characters and the scene that had been set. However, Montefiore does devote time in the Daughters of Castle Deverill in keeping her readers up to speed on her characters and their lives, which enables the book to also be read as a standalone novel.

As The Daughters of Castle Deverill opens, Montefiore is quick to transport her readers to the current comings and goings of her characters. There are three main characters to follow in this book – Bridie, Kitty and Celia. Each has their own compelling story and they are all quite different in their own way. This adds to the enjoyment of this novel, as it feels like you are getting three stories in the one novel. The beautiful Castle Deverill, which is connected each of these characters, now stands ruined after a fire. As Celia vows to return the castle to its former glory, Kitty and Bridie both experience their own triumphs and tragedies. The book moves seamlessly between the natural beauty of south west Ireland, through to the bright lights of New York city. Montefiore also adds another locale, by basing an additional story thread in South Africa, allowing her to contrast all three settings. As the lingering effects of the Great War is felt, followed by the financial crash of 1929, the book focuses on how this impacts on our three main players. It is a novel that is grand in scale, as it also traces the heritage of the Deverill Castle and its inhabitants, back to the time of the reign of King Charles II. Here, an ancient curse is revealed, impacting on the present occupants of Castle Deverill.

The Daughters of Castle Deverill is the perfect weekend read, it truly is pure escapism. The sweeping nature of the novel and the grandness in scale, makes it a wonderful romantic saga to get lost in. I have read a number of Santa Montefiore books in the past and I have enjoyed each and every one of them. I do like the direction Montefiore has taken with her Deverill series. She has seeped her series deep in rich Irish history, she delivers a strong sense of place and presents the reader with a rich cast of main, as well as supporting characters. I was sorry to reach the end of The Daughters of Castle Deverill, as I now have to wait for the third and final chapter in the series. I am hoping the open ending and unanswered questions that I had after closing the second book will be resolved by Montefiore in the next book.

* I wish to thank Beauty and Lace for a copy of this book for review purposes.

Tracey says

found this a slower read than normal for one of Santa Montefiore Books.
still an enjoyable read , just rather long and slow read with a lot of characters to remember.

Vlada says

I really liked this book, although I have to admit it seemed a little slow at times. We meet all the characters (and even the ghosts of some dead ones) again. The slight touch of magic is what's making this trilogy unusual. It's comforting to imagine a world where the loved ones who passed away are never really far and still take an interest in our lives.

The second installment of the trilogy kept me turning the pages late into the night and had some twists that I didn't see coming, which is always a bonus.

I think this trilogy is slightly similar to "The Spoils of Time" by Penny Vincenzi, which is my all-time favourite. So for those who read and enjoyed it, there's a good chance you'll like this one, too.

Thank you to Netgalley and the author for providing me with an ARC copy free of charge in exchange for an honest review.

Jess says

I was pulled in by a pretty cover and few positive reviews on IG/GR. I slugged through this one and even finished. Then realized I'd lost some hours of my life over a book that reads like an Irish telenovela. So much angst over love, unrequited love, adulterous love, jealousy over misunderstandings that could easily be cleared up with a conversation, shady business dealings involving South African diamonds, and half hearted revenge plots x 2. I just found it to be lacking in substance. The characters were so shallow I honestly didn't care what happened to them in the end. Which is good; because she sets up for an equally soap opera-esque follow up book involving twins. I won't say more.

One positive note. This can be read as a stand alone. This was a second book in a trilogy and I had no idea. So if how I described it may be something you'd like to try or do like; read without worrying you had to start with book one.

Marlene says

Originally published at Reading Reality

In this second book in the Deverill Chronicles, following last year's marvelous *The Girl in the Castle*, the focus shifts from Kitty Deverill to her cousin Celia, as the ownership of Deverill Castle falls out of the hands of the original line and into Celia's collateral branch – with its better luck and greater fortune.

At least until the fall of 1929, when everybody's fortunes take a plunge into the depths of the Great Depression.

The story here is still seen through the eyes of the three young women, those daughters of Ireland that we first met in *The Girl in the Castle*. In that first book, it was Kitty's story and Kitty's castle. But times have changed, and now it's her cousin Celia in extremely proud possession of the family seat.

But the Deverills are cursed, or at least their castle in Ballynakelly in County Cork certainly is. And that's where the infamous luck of Celia's father's, as well as Celia herself, finally crash to the rocks.

As the story begins, Celia has just bought the burned out castle, with her husband's fortune and a bit of her father's as well. She throws herself into the restoration with abandon – as well as oodles of Pounds Sterling. She intends to recreate Castle Deverill as she thinks she remembers it from her idyllic memories of her childhood – but it's much more of a re-imagining than a re-creation. It's Celia's vision of what it was, not what it actually was. The heart and soul are no longer quite there.

Just as she is on the brink of believing that she has brought everything back to the way it was, only better of course, her entire world goes smash. While she has been swanning around Europe, buying every expensive trinket that caught her fancy, her husband has been in a state of quiet desperation, watching his fortune disappear into the Stock Market Crash. And rather than face the music, he kills himself. Completing the ruin of all Celia's hopes and dreams, her father dies scant months later.

And she discovers that her father was not quite the man she thought he was. That underneath his devil's charm and his devil's luck, there was a man who danced with the devil to get what he wanted. Celia, in a welter of disillusionment and grief, sets out to discover the truth of the man she revered all her life.

What she found, and how she found it, allows Celia to discover the woman she was meant to be – that underneath her very feathery little head lies a brain every bit as intelligent and ambitious as her father's. But with a lot more heart.

Escape Rating A-: Either they don't make them like this anymore, or it's been a long time since I've sunk my teeth into such a juicy family saga. The trials, tribulations and machinations of Downton Abbey have nothing on the Deverills – and this saga isn't over yet.

The Deverills would be an interesting family (read that as fascinatingly dysfunctional) even without the compelling historical backdrop – but with the major historical events swirling around them – their reactions make for great storytelling.

In *The Girl in the Castle* those events were the Easter Rising and the Irish War of Independence, as the Anglo-Irish Deverills found themselves on both sides of the Rising, while trusted, in the end, by neither. In this second book, *The Daughters of Ireland*, the action has moved from the tragedies of the immediate post-WWI period to the next great upheaval – the Depression. And the clouds of WW2 are already gathering on the horizon.

The story in the end is about family, the trials and tribulations, the triumphs and failures, the fissures and the ties that bind – even if sometimes that binding feels like a straitjacket.

As the story began with the childhoods of the three women, now we see them in their 20s and 30s, living with the choices they made long ago, and all of them facing the regrets of the roads not taken. Just at the point where it seems that one of them has found an easy road, instead of facing the envy of the others, they find tragedy instead. Triumphs are always brief, while the tragedies seem endless.

Although parts of the story follow Kitty's and Bridie's perspectives, this is Celia's story. At the beginning, she is not a particularly sympathetic character. She's not nasty, she's just selfish, self-centered, and self-indulgent. The universe revolves around her, and her husband and father have both conspired to keep her in a very well-upholstered little bubble.

The person she becomes after it all crashes down around her is much more interesting, and much more capable, than anyone imagined – including Celia herself. Her transformation carries the reader along from

London to Ballynakelly to Johannesburg, and it's the making of her.

Whether it also turns out to be the saving of her family from ruin is the story that we shall discover in The Last Secret of the Deverills, which may have an entirely different title by the time it reaches these shores. But whatever the book is called, I bet that last secret is a doozy.

Teresa says

Absolutely brilliant!!!

I loved the first book in this trilogy and wondered if the second would come up to standard. It did. And it surpassed it. All the characters from the first book are here with the addition of new off spring as the years progress. There are twists and turns aplenty. I gasped out loud so many times with all the surprises coming my way. But the end just beat all. When Bridie's daughter goes in search of her real mother, the twist was totally unexpected! And the meeting in the hotel in Dublin is going to have a catastrophic effect I think. I'm not saying any more as I don't want to spoil it or give anything away for readers of this fantastic, sweeping epic of a novel. I'm just lamenting that I have to wait a year for the next one!!!

Jeanette says

I spotted this novel recently in a local charity shop and decided to purchase. My fault that I didn't realise that this is book 2 of a trilogy. Some books are easy to read as a stand alone, but found on this occasion that it wasn't so easy to pick up the story. I may purchase the first book sooner or later, as I do enjoy novels by this author.

Lori says

Loved it! Montefiore does a great job of including pieces of background from the previous novel to ensure an easy transition for the reader. This novel was much more of a family saga than the first; with focus being placed on several members of the Deverill & Doyle families instead of mainly Kitty. Looking forward to the last and final novel of this series. 4.5 stars.

Zoe says

Epic, intriguing, and mesmeric!

Daughters of Castle Deverill is a meticulous, fascinating tale that picks up where Songs of Love and War left off, taking us back to south-east Ireland during 1925 where Kitty is raising her father's illegitimate child, Birdie has returned wealthy and intent on claiming her son, and Celia is determined to restore Castle Deverill to a more luxurious version no matter the cost.

The prose is polished and rich. The characters are flawed, driven, eccentric, and alluring. And the exceptionally compelling, well-paced plot is filled with familial dynamics, drama, emotion, self-discovery, secrets, revelations, love, loss, heartbreak, courage, duty, and passion all surrounded by authentic historical events of the time.

Once again with Daughters of Castle Deverill (Deverill Chronicles #2), Montefiore has written a novel that showcases her extraordinary talent as a writer and her passion for history in a tale that sweeps you away to another time and place and leaves you yearning for more. It's a beautifully written, romantic, heartwarming tale that grabs you from the very first page and leaves you eagerly awaiting the final novel in the series, The Last Secret of the Deverills, due to be published in Canada in January 2019.

Thank you to Simon & Schuster Canada for providing me with a copy in exchange for an honest review.

Treacy says

Brilliant can't wait till the third book next year !!!!!

Anna says

I gave 4.5 stars to the first book in this trilogy and deliberately saved this second installment for when I could curl up in a cosy chair and devour it uninterrupted; having finished work for the Christmas break, now was the perfect moment.

So what went wrong? It lacks the intimacy of the first book, and the feisty characters I'd loved first time round have now become two-dimensional and irritating. It jumps through the years with no pause to appreciate the present, meaning stories are rushed and have no emotional impact. Even the past comedy element, the dotty old Shrub sisters, fall flat.

I skim-read a lot of this willing it to pick up, and it finally does towards the end when a chance meeting sets things up for plenty of shock and heartbreak; I'd decided not to bother with the third installment midway through the second, but the ending changed my mind.

Very disappointing, but I have hope for the next one.

Tina says

When I read The Girl in the Castle I didn't know it was book one in a trilogy. That story ended well and didn't leave you hanging. Maybe one little mystery at the end but otherwise, it could have been a stand alone novel. It was quite a treat to find two more books were planned as I very much enjoyed the characters and plot.

The next book is titled **Daughters of Ireland** and picks up where book one left off. The little mystery at the end of book one explains who bought Castle Deverill.

The main setting is in West Cork Ireland with part of the story set in London and New York City. We pick up the story of Bridie Doyle, Kitty Deverill and Celia Deverill Mayberry, their paths going different ways but eventually crossing back again. In childhood they were loving and devoted friends but tragedy stirs up a mess of emotional baggage. Love, revenge, fear and determination are a constant in this book.

This second book has me screaming for more. So many story lines weaving together, leaving the reader with great anticipation about what happens next. The main characters are all about to collide and I expect many fireworks in book three.

If you are a fan of family saga type books you will love this series. It's a touch of Downton Abbey along with rural hard living families spanning a time period of 1925 to 1938 (book 2).

Food and drinks are mentioned here and there. I wanted to represent both social economic divisions so I brought a Pomegranate Martini which would appeal to the Deverill family and Scones with cream and jam for the Doyle and O'Leary families.

Pomegranate Martini

2oz Vodka
1oz Pomegranate Juice
Splash of Cointreau

Pour all ingredients into a cocktail shaker full of ice and shake. Strain into a cocktail glass.

I won a copy of this book from Goodreads. Thanks so much!

Pattie says

Already starting book 3...really enjoyed 1 and 2!

Haley says

At first, I felt like I was missing so many pieces of the puzzle. I jumped right into the deep end of the pool without floaties on. Who is this person, and this person? There is some kind of curse and the castle is doomed? There was a fire and EVERYONE is connected to everyone in some twisted way.

WHAT the WHAT?

Then I realized...this is the SECOND book in a trilogy. *facepalm*

Sometimes second books can stand alone—this one, however, cannot. And there is no indication on the cover that this is part of a trilogy, so I have a feeling a lot of readers are going to end up confused like I was. Once I got into the book and kind of figured out what was going on, it was fine. The story started moving, and the pieces started making sense together—I still felt like I was playing catch up the whole time, though.

I think if I started with the first book, I would have liked this a lot more. It's the type of historical fiction I generally enjoy—the family is large and complicated; the story mostly focuses in one time period, but we do see flashes of the past. I probably won't go back and start over myself, but I do recommend starting at the beginning if this is the type of book that interests you. Don't try to read it by itself, it's too complicated a story and it needs the enrichment from the beginning.
