



The Gentlewoman's Choice

George MacDonald

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Hester Raymount was an angel of compassion to the needy. Would her own purity blind her to the deception around her? A vivid portrayal of the compassion of God.

The Gentlewoman's Choice Details

Date : Published May 1st 1987 by Bethany House Publishers (first published 1882)

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Author : George MacDonald

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From Reader Review The Gentlewoman's Choice for online ebook

Elisha Andres says

A very encouraging book to follow the Lord in the way He has called you specifically. I really enjoyed my read, very wholesome and clean book. So thankful for all George MacDonald's books! His writing is truly a blessing! Praise God there are some authors who are not afraid to be different.

Seymour says

Like most of George MacDonald's novels and unlike his fairy-tales, this book is not a light read. It is wordy, appears to be full of digressions and overblown character analysis, and is increasingly given to sermonizing as it progresses. However, it is worth persevering for every inch of the way for the sheer value of George MacDonald's thought and wisdom. The prose is so dense at times as to distract the reader from the symbolism that the author weaves into seeming side-details - but I still find him a great deal easier to read than Dickens. Unlike Dickens, MacDonald's characters are not caricatures, although very much the bearers of tendencies we can identify in ourselves and the people we know.

When stripped of everything else, the plot of this novel is almost Dickensian. I think it would make a beautiful period drama. The protagonist, Hester, is caught between her duties to "decent" society and her conscience towards the poor while her older brother goes the way of a prodigal son. MacDonald uses the unfolding tale of her growth into adulthood and the tragedies that befall her family and friends as a vehicle to expound his theology of suffering, vocation, feminism, redemption and human nature. Such as it is, the author's theology does not submit to distillation because it works at a deeper level than doctrine and is dyed into the fibre of his work. I think, however, that these aspects will be better appreciated by a reader who is already accustomed to George MacDonald's thought.

Overall, it is a profound book that left me subtly adjusted and duly instructed by the gentlest of teacher-storytellers.

Gayle says

This is the first George MacDonald book I've read and I'm sure that I needed Michael Phillip's editing to understand it. I greatly enjoy what many would call MacDonald's sermonizing as I value the teaching and growing it provokes. But it is not an easy read and I find I prefer Michael Phillip's novels, which echo MacDonald's style with more storyline included. However, I would still enjoy reading more of Phillip's editions of MacDonald's works, as well as more of Phillip's own works of fiction. If more current authors adopted this style of writing I suspect our society would be a better place. Sadly, you cannot give what you do not have.

Janice says

Jeff just finished reading this one to me. Wordy, difficult to follow at times. But, full of George MacDonald wisdom.

Mary says

I am amazed to find I have read another George MacDonald book! They are a challenge on more than one level. But since I admire C. S. Lewis, and evidently he admired MacDonald, I am determined to forge ahead. It takes longer to get into MacDonald's books than we modern readers are used to, so requires more patience and/or pure perseverance. He describes the character development of several individuals, exposing the reader to real life dilemmas and opening a candid view into life in England a few generations ago. The theme of this book was "godly service to the poor" which I think is a relevant one for any time period.

I don't think of his books primarily as romantic fiction, but more philosophical/religious introspection and comment on the lives of inter-connected individuals. I confess I was expecting a different ending to this story, but it was left ambiguous enough that I could imagine the one I expected.

Because there are so many observations that I agree with, and so many others that push my thinking a little further, I will continue to read this Scottish author, grateful for Michael R. Phillips, Editor, who makes it possible to do so.

Bethany Oetken says

Coming soon

Ronit says

I liked the story. There was a lot of depth to many of the characters. The book could have used some editing as the amount of expository prose by the author was distracting at times.

Jessica says

possibly my favorite book ever!

Jaclynn says

Another great classic from George MacDonald, this one was not as good as others but I still enjoyed it.

Sharon says

Donated to Stewartsville Baptist Church Library

Claire says

This was a nice read. I think I liked it because it acknowledges that obedience to God can sometimes get in the way of personal relationships...Maybe you'd have to read it to get what I'm talking about. But it was a good story.
