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The Silver Suitcase



Synopsis

It's 1939, and Canada is on the cusp of entering World War II. Seventeen-year-old farm girl Cornelia is heartbroken when she learns that her beloved soldier, Henry, has been killed in a train wreck. Alone and carrying a heavy secret, she makes the desperate choice that will haunt her for years to come. Never telling a soul, Cornelia pours out the painful events of the war in her diary. Many decades later, Cornelia's granddaughter, Benita, is in the midst of her own crisis, experiencing several losses in the same week, including her job and the grandmother she adored. The resulting emotional and financial stress takes its toll on her and her husband, Ken, who is also unemployed. On the brink of divorce, she discovers Cornelia's diary. Now the secrets of her grandmother's past will lead Benita on an unexpected journey of healing, reunion, and renewed faith.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If Max Lucado wrote, "Bridges of Madison County," "Legends of the Fall," "A River Runs Through It," while watching "For The Moment," it would read like "The Silver Suitcase" by Terrie Todd. A romantic, emotionally charged, sentimental tale of historic fiction with a prevailing theme of redemption and hope. The writing is every bit as beautiful as the cover. "The Silver Suitcase" will warm your heart and remind you to hold on to hope because there is always more going on in people's lives than is visible and God has a way of shining brightest in our darkest moments.

I've known this book was in the works for a while, and was really looking forward to its release. It was definitely worth the wait! I was excited to see that it's set near Winnipeg, Manitoba in Canada, as I haven't read too many books with that element to them. I love stories that use a diary to give readers a window into another era, and this one did this beautifully, although that was not the only way we got to meet the spunky Cornelia, one of the main characters. But, I just felt I learned more about her through those journal entries. One of my favourite diary entries was about a time when Cornelia was upset with her aunt for spouting off about the new clothes Cornelia got. She was however happy that Aunt Nona liked the new clothes. She poured out her frustrations in her diary, ending her rant with, "So Aunt Miriam can go and suck on lemons." Reading her Grandma's journal helps Benita deal with struggles in her own life. The healing, renewed faith and courage to make a fresh start, spreads to the rest of her family. Terrie has skillfully woven together the stories of three women, from three different generations, each with their own trials and triumphs, to create a captivating narrative. Although I would have loved to read Grammy's entire diary, the fact that I couldn't, added another level of intrigue to the story. I was a bit confused when I started reading the epilogue, as it mentioned people I hadn't met in prior chapters, but I was happy to see a few more diary pages, including Aunt Miriam's bombshell revelation. It's a unique way to end a book, even though it felt somewhat whimsical. I'm grateful to the author for providing a copy of this book, in exchange for an honest review.

Two women, decades apart, joined by the secrets in one suitcase. In 1939, Canada is teetering on war. Farmgirl Cornelia's heart hasn't been the same since she lost her mother five years before and blames God. When a young man named Henry arrives for the summer, the two become close. When tragedy strikes again, Cornelia doesn't know what to do. She's alone with a secret, so she makes a choice that will haunt her for decades to come. Unable to talk to anyone, she pours out her heart to her diary. Decades later, Cornelia's granddaughter, Benita, is struggling in her marriage. In the span of a week, she experiences several losses including the death of her beloved grandmother. The resulting emotional toll take their place on Benita seeking her to discover her grandmother's diary. Can the secrets of her grandmother's life bring healing to her own? This book intrigued me because the cover is so pretty. I'll admit that I didn't know anything about the book or the author before picking it up. I was rather surprised at how quickly I was drawn into Cornelia's story, especially her diary. My heart for all she went through. Benita on the other hand, kinda of annoyed me. I found that she didn't like to let go of controlling things. But the way things worked out, made it all worth it in the end. I'll probably read more by this author because her style was quick and

easy to follow along with. I received the Kindle version of this book from NetGalley for the purpose of reviewing. My thoughts and opinions are my own. Recommended to fans of Tracie Peterson, WWII fiction, historical & contemporary fiction, women's fiction. Rating - 4 stars

I loved this book. It was so uplifting, sad in parts, but opened up an era previously unknown to me. The story was well written, with insight and a good spiritual message. So many of us have an inward battle to understand God's love for us when we have such a low opinion of ourselves. Well worth reading.

I thought it was going to be about how people lived through WWII in Canada (which is my fav read) But surprise it was about faith. How sometimes we get mad at God but deep down we know he's looking out for us. We need something to impact us & remind us he's there. Sometimes we live to find out why things happen & sometimes it's after we are gone. But God always uses all our trials & turns them into good. I loved how the story went back & forth between the granddaughter/fam her mother somewhat, but the most interesting was the grandmothers life..My mother would tell me how things were during the war falling in love sometimes getting pregnant & how in those days such secrecy not to bring shame. I also loved the diaries the grandmother left behind in the silver suitcase (love books with diaries letter even emails) & was sad when the suitcase was stolen. But God used it for good & so many people's lives were effected for the better after it was stolen. I enjoyed this book especially the secrets (which I sort of figured a few) but also the love for fam was the most impacting. It was a good read esp when you're going through a trial of you're own you are brought to awareness of God that he is still working in your life even if you don't feel it. I only wish we learned more about the granddaughters father. Other than that I totally enjoyed it.

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