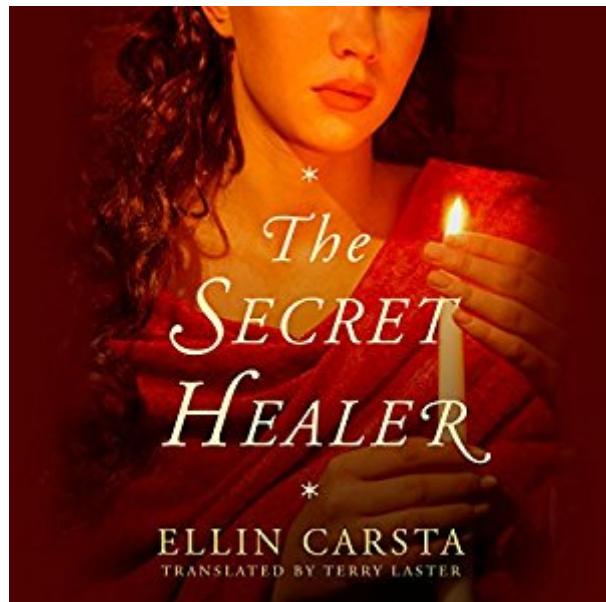


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# The Secret Healer



## Synopsis

In the fourteenth century, opportunities for women are limited to the home. But spirited young Madlen finds her calling as assistant to the city's trusted midwife, Clara. Working alongside Clara, Madlen develops a surprisingly soothing technique and quickly becomes a talented healer. After Clara's tragic death, Madlen alone rushes to assist the birth of a local nobleman's child. But rather than the joy of birth, Madlen walks into an accusation of murder and witchcraft because of her extraordinary gifts. Forced to flee her own town, she establishes a new identity in the home of her aunt. Yet even though it endangers her life, she cannot resist the urge to help the sick patients who seek out her miraculous treatment. When she meets handsome Johannes - an investigator hired by the Church to bring her to justice for sacrilegious acts - she becomes drawn to the very man that could destroy her. Will Madlen's gifts bring about her downfall? Or can love and reason prevail in a time of fearful superstition?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Secret Healer by Ellin Carsta is a historical novel which I have chosen to be my KindleFirst read for the month of April. I'm hugely satisfied with this book as I enjoy a story with a lot of surprises and unexpected twists, which this novel has abundantly. Written elegantly with an authentic account of the time period which it covered, author Ellin Carsta's novel is a great reading experience as you follow the young protagonist's journey. I was quickly drawn to the predicament of the main protagonist Madlen as one can well imagine how life would be like for a young woman in the Middle

Ages. In a German society bogged by the superstitious mind-set of the fourteenth century, Madlenâ™s character stands as a symbol of both the victim and victor. The injustice that was meted out to her would have undone any lesser soul but she was made of sterner stuff, and her story made for a compelling read. Though reading author Ellin Carsta is a new experience for me, I appreciate the treatment of each character, both good and bad. The writing is impressive and simply mesmerizing. While the injustice of the period is appalling, the never-say-die attitude of Madlen will inspire you. The plot was very well conceived, with colorful characters planted all over the book. If you love reading historical novels, you wonâ™t be disappointed with *The Secret Healer*.

Edit: Finished the book, and I unfortunately still give this book only one star. It's the worst book I've read in a long time. I could write a very long review about it, but honestly, I don't see the point. Just don't read it. It's terrible. I haven't finished the book yet, but I want to start a review now for people who are choosing their Kindle First book this month. Do not choose this book! The writing style is very amateurish. The point of view shift erratically from character to character. Incredibly emotional events in the book are simply stated, rather than drawing the reader into the emotions themselves. The prose isn't beautiful or insightful or literary in any way.

I will update again when I finish the book BUT - after only a few chapters, I am struggling. The plot seems as good as others have said, but if you care a great deal about POV consistency, this is not the book for you. There are other grammar issues in the translation and simple matters of refinement that would take this book from "good in theory" to a great read. These are things I wish I'd known ahead, as I would not have even chosen it for my Kindle First freebie, as they throw me out of the story.

This book made me feel something a book hadn't done in a while. I was on the edge of my seat and unable to stop reading until I finished it. I had to know what happened! I became involved with the characters, I wanted everything to work out for Madelyn. I loathed and despised the antagonist. This was a well written book and I devoured every word. I would definitely recommend it.

Words cannot even express how amazed I am with how fantastic this novel is! I've read quite a few good Kindle First books within the last several months but *The Secret Healer* by Ellin Carsta is by far my favorite. Several years ago, my favorite genre of books was historical fiction and, even though I mostly read contemporary romance now, I love to pick up a historical fiction every now and

then. I was intrigued by the idea of a historical fiction novel set in the 1300s in Germany. The Secret Healer was originally written in German and translated by Terry Laster but I couldn't really tell that it hadn't been written in English first because the story is written and translated so smoothly. Madlen is the protagonist of the story and is only thirteen years old when she assists in her first birth alongside her midwife friend, Clara. Over the years Madlen finds herself accompanying Clara with many births and learns a lot about healing and medicinal herbs, especially when it comes to women's troubles and pregnancies. The problem is, back in this time women who were healers were viewed as working for the devil and were often convicted of witchcraft. After a misunderstanding that quickly escalates into a plot by a power-hungry man seeking a council seat, Madlen is no longer safe in Heidelberg. Because Madlen is such a kind-hearted person and wants nothing more than to help others, she can't help but heal others even though it could cost her her life. I was hooked the instant I began this novel and it was well-worth my time to read! At first when one of the big events happened so early on in the novel, I thought the book would drag on but I was wrong. This book is fast-paced, a very entertaining read, and kept my interest piqued the entire length of the novel. I couldn't put it down last night and stayed up way too late but it was so worth every minute of lost sleep! If you enjoy historical fiction, I'd definitely recommend reading this book!

I'm a mother of busy toddlers- the last book I read took me weeks to finish and a recent favorite still took me a week. this book I plowed through in ONE DAY!!!! I absolutely love this book! And I hate that it's over. It has been a pure pleasure to read. Packed full of action and gut wrenching twists and of course a little romance , murder and mayhem!! This book has it all and As I read the last page I immediately wished for more and hated that it was over. I've found myself a new favorite author!!!! Thanks for this book I LOVED it!! and highly recommend this to anyone looking for a great read!!!!

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