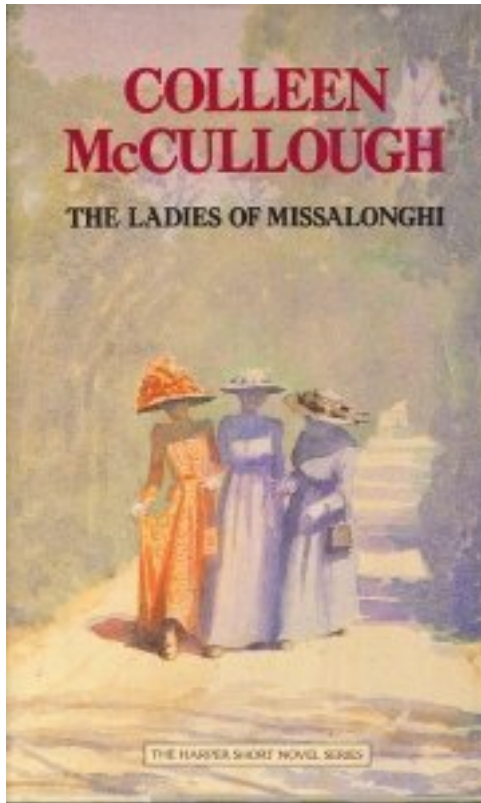

Colleen McCullough

The Ladies of Missalonghi



Title: The Ladies of Missalonghi

Author: Colleen McCullough

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Description

Sometimes fairy tales can come true--even for plain, shy spinsters like Missy Wright. Neither as pretty as cousin Alicia nor as domineering as mother Drusilla, she seems doomed to a quiet life of near poverty at Missalonghi, her family's pitifully small homestead in Australia's Blue Mountains. But it's a brand new century--the twentieth--a time for new thoughts and bold new actions. And Missy Wright is about to set every self-righteous tongue in the town of Byron wagging. Because she has just set her sights on a mysterious, mistrusted, and unsuspecting stranger... who just might be Prince Charming in disguise.

Insightful reviews

Linda Gibson: I loved this book. It was so mysterious and I found myself becoming deeper and deeper involved in the story and the Ladies of Missalonghi. Very interesting. Hope you like it as much as I did and still do.

Kari: I'm usually willing to forgive an author for a predictable story; it makes me feel smart that I have guessed the right answer before the story gets to the question. However, when an author picks an utterly absurd conclusion as a cop out to resolve the story, I get annoyed. It feels like a betrayal -- like the reading has suddenly become a waste of time. Not cool. Still, I'm a sucker for "unexpected" romance (which consequently is never unexpected and always predictable), so that's why I'm still giving it 3 stars.

Mary: Several years into the twentieth century, in the tiny town of Byron nestled somewhere in the Australian Blue Mountains, a shy spinster, her widowed mother and her crippled aunt live in genteel poverty. For thirty-three-year-old Missy Wright, her mother Drusilla and aunt Octavia, life is difficult living as the poor relations of the Hurlingford family - the most prominent family in Byron. Despite the Wrights being allowed to live at Missalonghi - Drusilla's home through marriage - the women are actually victims of the Hurlingford inheritance policy which allows only the male members of the family to inherit all the wealth. In turn, the men heartlessly abuse and dominate the women in their care.

Plain, painfully thin and doomed to dress always in serviceable brown, Missy has limited funds and suffers from periodic bouts of ill health. Her only consolation is her frequent trips to the privately owned lending library in town, where she indulges in her only vice - reading Gothic romance novels. Missy seems resigned to her fate, facing a dreary future until a distant cousin, a divorcée, arrives from Sydney...

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It was a delightful little story, with a totally unexpected ending, at least for me. I do have a copy of Colleen McCullough's epic saga *The Thorn Birds* hidden somewhere on my bookshelf, but have never read it. That particular admission probably comes as quite a surprise to many people, but it is the truth: "I have not ever read *The Thorn Birds* by Colleen McCullough!"

However, reading *The Ladies of Missalonghi* is my first foray into Ms. McCullough's work, and it was a relatively quick and easy read for me. Engaging and rather quirky, I give *The Ladies of Missalonghi* by Colleen McCullough an A!

Lendoxia: I learn this in my local language so this used to be a very speedy read, 3 or 4 hours maximum. I will say I loved it yet was once it something revolutionary, in fact it wasn't. It is a booklet to convey to the seashore or learn it on a wet weekend afternoon. Missy is a fascinating personality yet just like many others around the literature, and the tale good it really is relatively predictable from the beginning.

??Jülie: What a completely stress-free learn this was..Set within the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney, Australia, within the time ahead of the outbreak of the good War, the tale revolves round a small city group made up nearly completely of varied branches of a similar kin line...the Hurlingfords. A little bit of scandal, a bit snobbery, a couple of outdated maids and spinsters, and a little bit romance, make this a simple and exciting read.4*s

Gloria: In early 1900s Australia, a tender spinster grapples with social injustice. Missy, undeniable and drab and residing in rural poverty, however longs for no less than one beautiful costume in an outrageous colour and just a little romance to compliment it. The entire ladies that she loves dwell in poverty whereas their not-so-distant male family members stay in splendor. In a healthy of rebellion, Missy is going after every thing she has longed for. This short gratifying 189-pg novel makes willing observations approximately girl repression and social customs that served just a couple of very well. Witty and amusing, it is a advantageous historic novel.

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