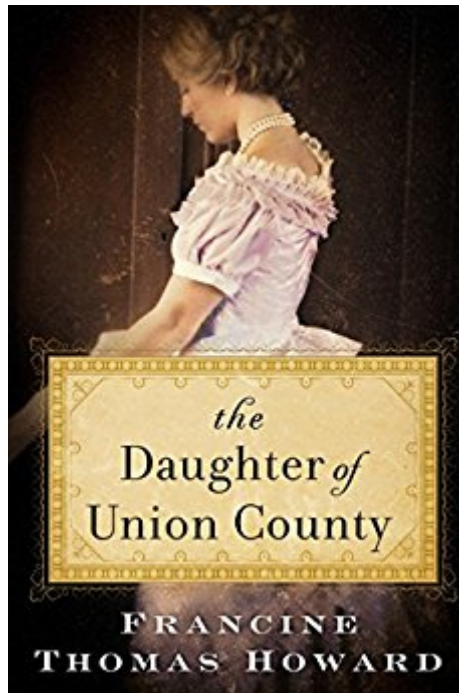




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The Daughter Of Union County



Synopsis

Fourteen years after the end of slavery, Lord Henry Hardin and his wife, Lady Bertha, enjoy an entitled life in Union County, Arkansas. Until he faces a devastating reality: Bertha is unable to bear children. If Henry doesn't produce an heir, the American branch of his family name will die out. So Henry, desperate to preserve his aristocratic family lineage, does the unthinkable. When Salome, a former slave and Henry's mistress, gives birth to a white-skinned, blue-eyed daughter, Henry orders a reluctant Lady Bertha to claim the child as their own, allowing young Margaret to pass into the white world of privilege. As Margaret grows older, unaware of her true parentage, devastating circumstances threaten to shroud her in pain and shame, but then, ultimately, in revelation. Despite rumors about Margaret's true identity, Salome is determined to transform her daughter's bitter past into her secure future while Henry goes to extraordinary lengths to protect his legacy. Spanning decades and generations, marked by tragedy and redemption, this unforgettable saga illuminates a family's fight for their name, for survival, and for true freedom.

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Customer Reviews

I seldom write negative reviews for books, but this was just awful. It isn't well-written. The black characters were stereotypes. The women were stereotypes. It was hard to build a true empathy with the heroine because she was so poorly written. I tried to force myself to finish it, but the storyline was a fail.

Although it's being marketed as historical fiction, this book is actually the author's family mythology, full of secretly swapped babies, American nobility (?), "coloured" mistresses, family secrets, and...I'm making it sound far more exciting than it is. The characters have exactly one note: frenetic. They scream at each other for four-hundred pages in impenetrable (and inaccurate) dialect, and when they get tired of that, there's raping and wife beating to be done. Other reviewers have covered the factual errors and blatantly unnecessary violence. But worst of all, the book doesn't seem to have any reason to exist. A lot potential themes are brought up, various abuses of slavery or the immediate post-slavery period, but the author speeds past them with vast time skips to create a slide show of horrors instead. The cast has no development. The titular character spends most conversations saying, "What?" "Huh?" "I have to [repeats exactly what she was just told]?" I don't think she ever actually does anything on her own, just gets yelled along by other characters. As for the supporting cast, they show up every few decades to deliver the same threat or make the same offensive comment as last time, with no one ever growing or developing. In all four hundred pages, there is nothing to connect to, nothing to engage the reader, no questions to ask. There is nothing here but slavesploitation. Diagnosis: Read Pudd'nhead Wilson instead.

This novel is horrible on so many levels. I cannot believe this was written by an adult woman in present time. It feels as though it was written by male teenager in the 1950's . It is full of stereotypes of women and different races.

Not bad enough to hate, but not very good. Jumps around, stilted dialogue. Glad it was free.

It is 1879 and Lord Henry Hardin of Union County, Arkansas awaits the birth his child. However, the mother is not Lady Bertha who is unable to bear children, but instead is Salome, a former slave. Lord Henry is determined that his family name will be continued so he takes the white-skinned, blue-eyed female child from Salome to be raised as his and Bertha's child "a white child. Thus Margaret, child of a former slave is raised as a Southern lady granted all the privileges of

a wealthy white family. Over the years Henry and Salome manage to maintain their secret. However, at some point secrets always come out. And the consequences are life-changing to many of the characters. The story spans the years of 1879 to 1942, thus revealing the consequences of Henry and Salome's secret through the generations. There are quite a few reviews on this book lamenting its racism and violence toward women. But that is how it was in those days. We can't rewrite history but we can learn how it was and not repeat those atrocities. This is a story of family "good or bad. Through all the turmoils and struggles, the strength of the family endures. They showed how much could be accomplished as a united family than could have been accomplished as individuals. And there were true "laugh-out-loud" moments, as there are in all families. The characters were so well developed I felt as though I knew them. I laughed with them, grieved with them, and celebrated with them.

There are several reviewers who are complaining about the violence against women and blacks that were described in the book. I am not quite sure why negative reviews are given for this, given that the description of the book made it clear it was set in the time period directly following slavery. In the south of all places, where this was common until at least after the civil rights movement (and to be honest, is still not perfect to this day). To deny this is to deny history. Is it upsetting to read? Why yes, yes, it is. However, this book was set in a time period where this was the reality. Therefore, yes, those events are covered in the book. Overall, the book was okay. I neither loved nor hated it. It was not the best written book I have ever read, but I have certainly read worse. I grew attached to the main characters (Henry, Salome, Margaret, Waylon and Tom), so I finished it because I did want to find out what happened with them. It does seem the book focuses too much on some details that are not at all important to the story, and yet leaves out other details that would have been of greater importance. Then there were sex details that were just entirely unnecessary (example, and small spoiler: sex while one of the main characters is still in more or less a catatonic state after the death of her son. I just felt this part was tasteless and unnecessary). Anyway, I got it for free as a Kindle First read, so it was a distraction for a couple of days until I finished it. I have little desire to re-read it. If you like historical fiction you might like it.

As a white of Nordic heritage I can say that this story hit home to the abuses sustained by most people of color. I imagine that the reviews of the other whites reading this story do not want to acknowledge that these abuses did occur. The history is there for anyone wanting the truth from journals of both black and white people in the south. As this is a story I imagine some truths are

enhanced and then again maybe not enhanced enough to the degradation suffered by people of color. The Ku Klux Klan is real today as it was in the past. Hate because of the color of a person's skin is abhorrent to me and to many others. Our Father in Heaven made each of us and the beasts to inhabit the land he created. Unfortunately every race of people have tried to make the world a better place and also every race tries to take advantage of circumstances in evil pursuits. No race is immune to hatred. Most are bringing it on themselves. The choice to do good or the choice to do evil is given each of us no matter what race we are.

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