



Fenton's Quest

Mary Elizabeth Braddon

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Fenton's Quest Details

Date : Published October 11th 2007 by BiblioLife (first published 1871)

ISBN : 9781434622846

Author : Mary Elizabeth Braddon

Format : Paperback

Genre : Classics, Fiction, Mystery

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From Reader Review Fenton's Quest for online ebook

fred Kinsler says

Wonderful Read!

Modern writers could take lessons from this excellent novel.
M. E. Braddon is a very accomplished writer from the Elizabethan era.

LauraT says

It's true: the good are rewarded in the end and those who behaved badly received the "right" penalty. But ... but ... this is a great book if you can abide Victorian structures

Herman Gigglesworth says

Fenton's Quest was a pleasant surprise. I sometimes look for obscure books on Project Gutenberg, and I remembered that I liked Braddon's more popular novel *Lady Audley's Secret*, but disliked Henry Dunbar. Yes, the review will include some spoilers. It's not like Braddon's plot twists are the most original in literature, or even the "sensation novel" genre.

Fortunately, this is a bit closer to the former than the latter, and even includes some recycled plot devices and descriptions! If you are a man and have any doubts about the stability of your romantic relationship, don't go to Australia. Nothing good can come of that. This goes for both George Talboys and Gilbert Fenton. Women have "pre-Raphaelite" hair in this book too, by the way.

I may have liked this novel better than Henry Dunbar because there is more focus on the female characters here, which Braddon writes better than the "dissipated" men. The narration is similar to that of *Lady Audley's Secret*, with a great deal of commentary about the limited roles for women in the 19th century, culture of the time, and architectural tax dodges. The best example of this is Ellen Carley, who is forced to marry a much older gentleman whom she hates because of her father's embezzlement of a local baronet. Jane Eyre fans can probably guess what happens to Marian when she doesn't go along with her father's schemes.

The main characters are rather...spoony, or drippy, or whatever adjective you prefer to describe overly sentimental people. Fortunately, the more interesting side characters spend much of their time throwing witty insults at each other, and have subplots that are more entertaining than Gilbert's pining for Marian.

If you've already read *Lady Audley's Secret* and you want more sensation novels, Fenton's Quest is worth spending a few days with. (Gilbert Fenton himself, not as much.)

There is some offhand racism in some of Mr. Saltram's dialogue, in case any readers want to be warned ahead of time.

Marika says

Somewhat predictable and slow moving, but a nice read.

Fiona Brichaut says

Another cracking good read from ME Braddon. It's hard to describe her books without spoilers. This one deals with marriage and money, money and marriage. Women being forced to marry and the pressures to marry for money rather than for love. Like all her books there is a mystery at the core, and like all I've read it's screamingly obvious to the reader what is really happening. But that doesn't detract from the suspense of the story. The characters are well drawn, each with a distinctive voice.

I just cannot get enough of Braddon's books!

Julia says

I listened to this as a free download from LibriVox. org.
