



## Blue Camellia

*Frances Parkinson Keyes*

Download now

Read Online →

# Blue Camellia

*Frances Parkinson Keyes*

## **Blue Camellia** Frances Parkinson Keyes

"To build a great empire from the pioneer land of Louisiana took a faith and a will as difficult to possess as a blue camellia. In this, one of Frances Parkinson Keyes' finest novels, determined men and valiant women wrest from the land a mighty tradition. The story of Brent and Mary Winslow is an epic of America. In a countryside rich with a French, Indian, and Negro heritage, the couple endure incredible hardships to become its foremost citizens. It is in the second generation, in the tragic story of their beautiful daughter Lavinia - torn between two men - that the family learns to endure, to again grow, and to find the blue camellia. 'Francis Parkinson Keyes a ther story telling best... a love story accented by a colorful background.'"

~Washington Post

## **Blue Camellia Details**

Date : Published December 1st 1974 by Pocket (first published 1957)

ISBN : 9780671787561

Author : Frances Parkinson Keyes

Format : Paperback 0 pages

Genre : Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, Romance, Historical Romance, Gothic, Novels

 [Download Blue Camellia ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Blue Camellia ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Blue Camellia Frances Parkinson Keyes**

---

## From Reader Review Blue Camellia for online ebook

### Adrienne says

The one novel I've so far found to be an authentic story of the life on the prairies of Louisiana. Loved every word because within its pages are the founding of my hometown, surrounded - of course - by rice fields.

---

### Judy says

Frances Parkinson Keyes had six top 10 bestsellers between 1945 and 1957. I have read them all. Blue Camellia was #5 in 1957. Most of her novels are historical fiction written in the style of women writing for women readers, though almost every book has at least one strong female character who defies convention. She produced over 40 novels in her career and I am happy that I did not have to read all of them.

The River Road was my favorite with Blue Camellia as a second favorite. It is based on the history of rice cultivation in Louisiana. The story begins when Brent Winslow decides to buy land in Louisiana. He and his wife Mary are the children of Illinois settlers, they are farming people in the late 1800s and have just survived a brutal winter which left Brent bedridden for weeks with pneumonia.

The story of their move with a nine-year-old daughter, the possibly shady land auction in Louisiana (which turned out fine) and their assimilation into what was essentially a rural Creole population, is good reading. Lavinia, the daughter, becomes a tomboy and runs wild with the Creole children but grows up to be an extremely self-willed and competent woman. Brent Winslow plants, works hard, studies and develops the best variety of rice in the area.

Most everyone prospers, there are joys and sorrows, Lavinia suffers great loss and heartbreak, but it all comes out well. I've concluded that Keyes' work covers numerous lesser known aspects of American life in the early 20th century. Her research was thorough including her habit to spend extensive periods of time in the locales about which she wrote. She indulges in that wordy style of her times but it reads smoothly while she makes you care deeply about her characters.

---

### Dawn Galland says

Knew about this book since I was young but had never read it. It was a very good book. I'm from the area around Crowley so could relate to the area and the people.

---

### Tina says

This book tells of the beginning of the city of Crowley and the surrounding Acadia Parish. This book is fiction but I'm sure there are facts there. Makes me think of my ancestors and how they lived in the 1800's.

---

## **Linda says**

The book was published in 1957 and took place in the late 19th century. I have read it at least twice before. It was the story of a family who moved from Illinois to Louisiana and became involved in rice growing. The characters were portrayed as fairly typical for that era and they were my least favorite aspect of the book with the exception of the Cajun characters. I found them very lively and real. Without exception, I found the Winslows annoying and flat.

The subject matter was the most interesting feature of this book. I enjoy reading about the south, especially New Orleans, Louisiana. This is even more true since visiting New Orleans 3 years ago. The writer's attention to detail is very strong and her descriptions are some of the book's strengths. I enjoyed reading about the rice growing industry and the cajun culture.

---

## **Val Robson says**

I first discovered Frances Parkinson Keyes as an author after a trip to New Orleans as a student aged about 20. I fell in love with the area and culture when and enjoyed the couple of books I managed to get hold of. I'm now approaching retirement end of life and have more time for reading so am thrilled to have read Blue Camellia as I loved it so much and am looking forward to reading a lot more of Frances Parkinson Keyes' books. The wonders of the Internet these days means I can get them easily too.

Blue Camellia is a charming story set in the late 19th century of a couple, Brett and Mary, move from the harsh climate of Illinois to the milder but wetter one of Louisiana. Their daughter, Lavinia, is only 7 when they move and they start pretty much from scratch in a newly created town building up a business farming rice. Lavinia is the main focus of the book but there are many other characters, especially the local Cajun population.

Frances Parkinson Keyes has a wonderful talent of making the reader feel not just part of the story but of the times and culture that she sets her books in. You always learn so much about the local history and about many other things - in this case about the cultivation of rice which I found surprisingly interesting. Her books make me want to go back to New Orleans and explore more of the surrounding area. How wonderful to live in those times with the lovely homes, horse and buggies and relative simplicity of life with a strong adherence to traditions and religious observance.

---

## **Carrie Dalby says**

This is the first book I've read in a long time that got me mad at the characters: like stop-reading-for-while-upset, but evoking the emotions in a reader is a good thing. The passionate distaste alone might merit a fourth star, but I didn't REALLY like it. It was painful at times to read, but yes I had to keep reading. Train wreck!

This is NOT a romance (this cover edition was updated to fit in with the 1970ish Gothic romance craze, while it was originally published in 1957, according to copyright.) I'd categorize it as Southern Gothic/family saga, and historical, of course. Well researched, interesting look into life in southern Louisiana in 1887-1910. The "Cajun" dialect was difficult to read, but it did strongly flavor the characters.

Bonus: Lavinia Winslow (one of the main characters) helped me understand why a critique partner hates one of my characters in the Gothic series I'm working on because of similar choices. Great to know, though an

uncomfortable lesson to learn. ;)

---

### **Gaile says**

Dis remember

---

### **Jamie says**

A good story, though not an unusual one. Pretty much the same "woman falls in love with a man she can't have" sort of story, but I liked the setting very much and the ending pleased me, as it was not the expected one.

---

### **Victoria says**

This is my first France Parkinson Keyes book. I enjoyed it. The milieu was very well recreated. I came to care about the characters. I will read more by her.

---

### **Muriel Schwenck says**

I haven't read this since I was about 20. I remember it as a great tragedy. Women in Keyes novels usually suffer a great deal from an unfortunate love, and this is one of her best. Great descriptions of landscape, gardening, rice farming, Cajun life and cooking. And camellias!  
Highly recommended.

---

### **Twila Forsyth says**

very good, a little disappointing at the end, but that could be from being written in a different time where everything was not so graphic.

---

### **Susannah says**

Amazing work, a story so skillfully crafted that its social anachronisms seem charming and quite forgivable in the context of their time. Powerful and based loosely on historical facts, the story of a woman who found her own way in life and carved a niche for herself that, instead of rejecting family and society, carefully selected the finest yields and stoutest promise, enfolded a heart full of love and wisdom with the best portions of her heritage and fortune to triumph over her personal nightmarish tragedy and make a life well lived.

---

## **Jennifer says**

A friend gave me a copy of this that she found at an estate sale. One evening, I pulled it off and began reading...I really enjoyed this book which is told on a grand scale. It is about the life of one family who moves to Louisiana to find a better life in the late 19th century. I was particularly drawn to the Cajun characters with their simple, yet deep faith and traditions. It was very interesting to learn about the way life was in Louisiana for a farmer starting out...The main characters were very fleshed out and at times highly irritating but you end up admiring their tenacity and fortitude. The female characters, in particular, were very noble and my favorite character was Mother Anne, a Catholic Cajun mother of 7, who as Keyes describes her, is neither beautiful or educated, but a hardworking and loving mother to her family.

---

## **Pdswhite says**

I think that I have read all of Ms. Keyes books. And although they were all read about 40 years ago the first time, I have reread many of them. This was not my most favorite of them. And the reason I know that is that the plot does not stand out for me or the characters.

---