



# The Thousand Lights Hotel

*Emylia Hall*

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## **The Thousand Lights Hotel** Emylia Hall

*The Thousand Lights Hotel* is the gorgeous new novel from Emylia Hall, author of *Richard & Judy Summer* Pick *The Book Of Summers*. Set in idyllic Italy, it's the perfect holiday read, for fans of Louise Douglas and Hannah Richell.

When Kit loses her mother in tragic circumstances, she feels drawn to finally connect with the father she has never met. That search brings her to the Thousand Lights Hotel, the perfect holiday escape perched upon a cliff on the island of Elba. Within this idyllic setting a devastating truth is brought to light: shaking the foundations upon which the hotel is built, and shattering the lives of the people within it.

A heartbreaking story of loss, betrayal, and redemption, told with all the warmth and beauty of an Italian summer.

## **The Thousand Lights Hotel Details**

Date : Published July 10th 2017 by Headline Publishing Group

ISBN : 9781472212023

Author : Emylia Hall

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Genre : Cultural, Italy, Fiction

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## From Reader Review The Thousand Lights Hotel for online ebook

### Linda Hill says

When Kit's mother dies, she decides to search for the father she has never known.

I cannot begin to say how amazing I found this book. Emylia Hall has the ability to transport me to another place, both physically, in Elba, and emotionally, so that whilst reading *The Thousand Lights Hotel* I frequently had to pause to allow myself to process the depth of feeling created. I think it is her elegant style in using such a range of sentence structure that has the ability to stop the reader in their tracks, heart breaking and tears streaming, as emotion after emotion washes over them. Who would have thought a semi-colon could reduce a middle aged woman like me to an emotional wreck! The way direct speech is fractured and fragmented makes it naturalistic and affecting and Emylia Hall knows exactly when less is more. She can convey more emotion in one monosyllabic word than many writers can convey in pages.

*The Thousand Lights Hotel* is a gorgeously crafted book. The plot is urbane, graceful and believable, but also surprising with tantalising hints of mystery. Elba as the main setting is inspired. A place of exile, all the characters seem to be looking for, or hiding, a part of themselves and as these aspects are gradually revealed the reader is completely entranced. The use of the senses transported me completely to every setting so realistically and the smattering of literary and cultural references, including Italian, enhanced the total credibility of every single word.

The characters themselves are outstanding creations. Although physically present for only a few pages, Rosa is at the very heart of the narrative. Of all the 'thousand lights' she burns most brightly in a sense. I found I didn't much like her, but that I understood her completely and desperately needed to know how the lives of those touched by her were affected. This is such clever story telling. I saw Valentino as a kind of King Lear with Kit almost Cordelia and I don't think it is an exaggeration to say the strength of emotion in Emylia Hall's *The Thousand Lights Hotel* equals Shakespeare's writing.

It's hard to articulate how much I adored *The Thousand Lights Hotel*. I thought it was exceptional.

<https://lindasbookbag.com/2017/06/12/...>

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### SidseC says

Selvom det er lidt en feelgood-roman er der alligevel lidt dybde og sorg i den også og den var heller ikke helt så forudsigelig, som den genre ellers ofte kan være. Det er en roman som både handler om svigt, sorg, tilgivelse, håb og kærlighed og den kan bestemt anbefales til læsere som normalt er glade for denne genre.

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### Thebooktrail says

Visit the locations in the novel [Travel to Elba with the Literary Travel Agency](#)

A stunning summer read that has everything you want from a gripping beach read – it's partly set on a beach, so you have to! Oh it's a love story and the discovery of a lie, a new life, a new past- so many secrets on such a tiny island! Elba might be known for Napoleon but it has a lot more history and dark secrets than you could ever imagine! Emylia Hall evokes an island of magic and dark shadows...

Emyilia Hall evokes settings with style and this is no different. I was right there on Elba, on a location so associated with history and intrigue, imprisonment and exile so where better for a story like this to unfold? I don't know if this was the author's intention but it more than adds to the intrigue and flavour to the book. It's what we expect to see coupled with the secrets we definately don't.

The character of Kit is well drawn and I loved arriving on the island with her and meeting Valentinos and his son Oliviero from the hotel. Getting to know them at the same time as Kit was a nice idea and the story just evolves, the twists and surprises rocking the small island community.

The island of Elba is not somewhere I've read many books about – unless Napoleon has been in them – so this was a lovely way to explore the island via its geography, history, culture and more. There was so much to captivate me here and that location is really outstanding for the role in plays in the story and not just the background.

And please can someone build the Thousand Lights Hotel? I would be there in a heartbeat. Even the cover of the book looks gorgeous so if the real place is anything like it, I may never leave. Emylia Hall, you have pulled me in to your world once again and created a captivating read.

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### **Jeane says**

The magic of a place like Isola d'Elba and the characters given to Kit, Valentino and Olivieri, created a story that makes you enjoy, relax and dream.

Kit left England temporarily with heavy bagage and planned to unload it in Italy. Her reason to go was to be found hotel Mille Luci.

Kit had planned things as much as she could and made up her mind about the main people in her life. Going to Mille Luci however, opened a world more than she could have thought or maybe hoped for. A world she probably wasn't even ready for, when she left England.

But to get on with her life, it is a trip she has to make.

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### **Caitlin says**

I received an electronic copy of this book for free from Net Galley in exchange for an honest review. This was a delightful but quick read. I really enjoyed the foreign setting. It was a captivating book that held my attention from beginning to end. I am eager to read the author's previous books.

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### **Nicola Smith says**

I must admit that the first thing that attracted me to this book was the stunning cover. Up close you can see the lights that are part of the title, the lights that hotel owner, Valentino Colosimo, has strung up around his hotel on the Italian island of Elba and which he lights night after night. And who wouldn't want to dive into

that beautiful blue, twinkling sea?

The next thing that drew me in was the setting. I'm a sucker for anything Italian and islands, so it was perfect for me. And the final thing, but probably the most important, was the story. We have a young woman, Kit Costa, who has lost her mother and is searching for her father.

When Emylia Hall's first book, *The Book of Summers*, was published I was eager to read it but found it very hard to get into and I think it was because I didn't then have the patience to read her very descriptive style of writing. Now, I can appreciate the sheer beauty of her prose and how measured and thoughtful her words are.

Here's just one short passage that had me marvelling at the depth of her descriptions.

"The day was brazenly beautiful. The breeze in the palm trees sounded like the rustling of dresses. The bougainvillea beamed."

Isn't that just so evocative? The book isn't just about the gorgeous imagery but about this sad story of a young woman whose mother, her one constant, has died. Kit is grieving and for the first time she wants to find out about the father she never knew. So she goes to Elba and meets hotel owner, Valentino and Oliviero, the hotel's chef (who provides us with some wonderful food to drool over). Both of these men are wonderful characters. And we also meet, in a smaller way, some of the hotel guests, all different and all so interesting.

*The Thousand Lights Hotel* is such a beautiful, glorious read. It's emotional, moving and written with such feeling. It was a true pleasure to read and it ignited all my senses.

I want to go and stay in the Thousand Lights Hotel!

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### **penny king says**

An evocative story with beautiful descriptions and flawed, interesting characters. Refreshing. Loved it!

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### **Tripfiction says**

Novel of loss and family set on ELBA, Italy

This review first appeared on our blog, where the author talks about being inspired by Elba:  
<http://www.tripfiction.com/novel-set-...>

Every year on July 14 the Legend of Innamorata is celebrated in Capoliveril, lights, drums and festivities line the processional route. The festival is said to date back to the 1500s and tells of the ill-fated love between Lorenzo and Maria...

Wonderful to see publication of this novel to coincide with the annual Innamorate festival that takes place every year on Elba.

Kit has grown up with her mother in England (now living in Bristol), having never known her Italian father. She has learned to bite her tongue about her Italian heritage, and soon it is too late to find out more when her mother passes away, leaving Kit, in her late 20s, with only a name to go on. But it is an unusual name, and without difficulty she tracks her biological father to a beautiful hotel – The Thousand Lights Hotel – on Elba.

The author is very good at going through the what-ifs of making contact, even HOW to make contact. Would it be a brave thing to do? Or foolish? The uncertainties of descending on her father out of the blue could have colossal consequences for both her and any family he might have. Her mother had one very scant version of events, her father would undoubtedly have another. How do you go on to handle such a situation, do you let sleeping dogs lie or do you stir up the hornet's nest?

Kit chooses to go to Elba and as an experienced travel writer can appear at her father's hotel with a convincing cover, giving her ample time to assess the situation before potentially diving in. She is picked up on her way to the hotel by the handsome Oliviero, who happens to be the chef at the hotel (there is some delicious-sounding food served up at the hotel). Her father, Valentino, and Oliviero seem particularly close and her suspicions about their family ties grow. To find out how she handles the situation and what the consequences are for her, you will need to buy the book....

The story, as it unfolds is one of tentative discovery and how major loss and difficult histories can converge to form new and perhaps unexpected outcomes. It is poignant, it feels real. The gentle exploration of familial ties is all set against the beautifully perched Thousand Lights Hotel, which overlooks the lustrous Mediterranean. Elba is beautifully rendered, you will want to visit after reading this novel.

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## Γι?τα Παπαδημακοπο?λου says

Το βιβλ?ο ε?ναι βαθι? συναισθηματικ?. ?χι μελ?, ο?τε μελοδραματικ?. Ε?ναι συναισθηματικ? στην ουσ?α του, στον πυρ?να του, σε «χτυπ?ει» εκε? ακριβ?ς ?που πρ?πει ?στε ν' αγγιξει τις πιο ευα?σθητες χορδ?ς σου. Νι?θεις, κατ? κ?ποιον τρ?πο, ν' ακολουθε?ς τα β?ματα της ηρω?δας και μ?ζ? μ' αυτ?, τους χτ?πους της καρδι?ς της, την αν?γκη της ν? κλ?ψει, ν? ξεσπ?σει, ν' αγαπ?σει, και αυτ? ε?ναι πολ? ?μορφο.

Η γραφ? της Hall ε?ναι πολ? ?μορφη, σχεδ?ν βελο?δινη θ? ?λεγα. Διαβ?ζεται πολ? ε?κολα κι ευχ?ριστα, αφο? η αφηγηματικ? ρο? της τρ?χει αβ?αστα, ?χοντας μεν τις εξ?ρσεις της, αλλ? ?χι σε τ?τοιο βαθμ? που ν? σε ταρ?ζει και ν? σε πετ?ει εκτ?ς feeling της εκ?στοτε δεδομ?νης στιγμ?ς. ?χει ωρα?ες αλληγορ?ες και ?μορφους συμβολισμο?ς, χωρ?ς, ωστ?σο, ν? καταφε?γει σε μαγκ? ρεαλισμ? που ε?ναι δ?σκολο ν? τον κατανο?σει κανε?ς, π?σο μ?λλον ν? τον «χων?ψει» διαβ?ζοντ?ς τον μ?σα σε μια ιστορ?α σ?γχρονης γραφ?ς. Παρ' ?λα τ?τα, η Hall, ?χει καταφ?ρει ν? π?ρει την γοητε?α και τη μαγε?α αυτο?, και ν? τα ενσωματ?σει ως στοιχε?α στα φ?τα του ξενοδοχε?ου της που λειτουργο?ν ως ψυχ?ς.

Πολ? ?μορφη και γλαφυρ? –?χι, ?μως, κουραστικ?- η απεικ?νιση της Ιταλ?ας και του πολιτιστικο? υπ?βαθρου αυτ?ς. Η συγγραφ?ας καταφ?ρνει ν? ζωνταν?ψει μ?ρη, τοποθεσ?ες, ?θη, ?θιμα, αισθητικ?, και ?λα αυτ? με ?ναν τρ?πο ανεπιτ?δευτο και ?κρως ρεαλιστικ? που δεν γ?νεται ν? μ?ν εκτιμ?σει και που σε ταξιδε?ει.

Πολ? ωρα?α σκιαγραφηση χαρακτ?ρων. Σωστ? δομημ?να ψυχογραφ?ματα, και παρ? το γεγον?ς πω? η Rosa, ως ?τομο, εμφαν?ζεται σε πολ? λ?γες σελ?δες, η παρουσ?α της ε?ναι δι?χυτη σε ?λο το βιβλ?ο. Και μπορε? ν? μ?ν ε?ναι ο χαρακτ?ρας που θ? συμπαθ?σεις, μ?λλον το αντ?θετο,

καταλαβα?νεις απ?λυτα γιατ? υπ?ρξε τ?σο σημαντικ? στη ζω? και στην πορε?α κ?ποιων, μα και π?σο καταλυτικ? ρ?λο ?παιξε για να φτ?σουν εκε?νοι στο σ?μερα.

Σε ?λο το βιβλ?ο υπ?ρχει δι?χυτο ?να μυστ?ριο που σε γοητε?ει και σε καθηλ?νει, και που σε κ?νει να θ?λεις να διαβ?σεις παρακ?τω για ν' ανακαλ?ψεις την αλ?θεια. Και το μυστ?ριο αυτ?, η συγγραφ?ας, το χειρ?ζεται με ιδανικ? τρ?πο, πα?ζοντας με το μυαλ?, τη συνε?δηση και τις αισθ?σεις του αναγν?στη της.

(Αναλυτικ? review αν τελικ? κυκλοφορ?σει...)

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## Jo says

I absolutely adored this beautiful 'summer read'. The Thousands Lights Hotel is a magical and breath-taking read about loss, identity, family and love. I found myself completely immersed in this fabulous Italian world and I never wanted to leave.

The novel revolves around a young woman, Kit Costa, who has recently lost her mother to cancer. Her mother's death makes Kit question her life, where she is and where she is headed, and as a result she decides to made contact with the father she has never met. What ensues is a story of love, friendship, longing and a journey of self discovery.

Kit's story is a most readable one. I found myself immersed in this strange world with her, learning about the local customs and its people. Although a travel writer, she has never been to Elba, and she soon finds herself feeling at home. This rubbed off on me, I also felt like I knew Elba, I could taste the wonderful Italian dishes and visualise the twinkling lights of the hotel. I too was lulled into the romance of the area and the story of Romeo and Juliet that the island thrived upon.

The Thousand Lights Hotel is a story of grief, but also one of hope. The author writes so beautifully and candidly about the grieving process. The emotions captured upon the page consumed me and invaded my thoughts. I felt so desperately sad for this young woman, in the fact that she now felt so alone in the world, the bond between her and her mother, Rosa was such a special one. This brings me onto Rosa. Although we only learn about her in the past tense, she has such a powerful voice within this novel. We learn about her through Kit and through Valentino, Kit's father. We learn about the decisions she made in life and of her relationship with her daughter.

This book is also about the role that fathers play. Valentino and Kit have never met, that is until she turns up at the hotel. I couldn't wait to read their encounters and how they would react to each other. Initially I thought that I wold despise Valenino, but I grew to love this man. A man I feel who was misunderstood, fiercely protective and incredibly lonely.

The writing is poetic, and simply beautiful, The author certainly knows that less is more, with each word carefully considered to evoke an entire set of emotions. The passages describing the Elba nightlife and the hotel are incredibly descriptive, and the dialogue between characters is incredibly direct upon the page. I adored this book, from the beautifully stunning cover with the sparking lights and sea views, right through to the final chapter.

This Thousand Lights Hotel is pure delight from beginning to end. Be transported to Elba, have faith in love and believe in yourself. It's such a magical read.

With thanks to Headline Review for a paperback copy of the book for review purposes.

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## Joan says

The beginning of this story is extremely sad. Kit Costa, who was very close to her single parent mother Rosa, is at her bedside as she peacefully passes away. They have always been a loving unit of two and Kit is devastated by her loss. Rosa had always told Kit that her father had broken her heart and was dead, but on her deathbed she tells Kit that her father is actually alive. Kit is both shocked and intrigued. She traces her father to The Thousand Lights Hotel on the idyllic Italian island of Elba and decides to pay him a visit and reveal their relationship. She thinks he is a bad person but wants to find out her mother's story. She travels from Bath to Italy, taking the ferry over to the island and meaning to scatter some of her mother's ashes en route, but something stops her from performing this act of love and honouring her mother's homeland. The novel continues with the story of Kit's summer holiday at the hotel managed by her father Valentino and of the discovery of Rosa's early life in Italy and her love of Kit's father. Secrets are revealed and towards the end of the novel there is a shocking twist that left me speechless.

Within this novel there are several different story threads that enhance the story of Kit's visit to Elba, some highly personal and some folklore. I found it quite hard to relate to this story and was not captivated by it as I had expected to be. The pervading feeling of sadness was continued throughout the novel with little relief. I was not endeared to many of the characters although they were well crafted and the story was beautifully written. I loved the descriptions of the island, the food and the local way of life, but I was not gripped by the action, except the modern holiday romance which lifted the overall tone of the narrative. Overall, the themes of grief, betrayal, guilt, recrimination and the sad stories of the main characters made me feel very low. I couldn't turn the pages for any great length of time because I felt weighed down and despondent; only the beauty of the island lifted my spirits because the sadness of the past was so depressing. However I felt compelled to pick up the story again because I was intrigued by how the story would unravel.

I would like to thank NetGalley and publisher Review for my copy of this novel, sent to me in return for an honest review. I quite liked it, but nowhere near as much as I have enjoyed Emylia's other novels.

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## Clair says

The Thousand Lights Hotel was my first holiday read (at Butlins, nowhere near as exotic as Italy!) and this was certainly the perfect holiday escapism. However escapism is not to be confused with a light-hearted easy read as it opens with Kit losing her mother to a long battle with cancer and discovering that her father isn't actually dead as she'd been led to believe for the past 30 years.

Understandably Kit is devastated by the loss of her mother however her world has also been turned upside down, finding out about the existence of her father and his name – this is a secret that Rosa has kept for 30 years so Kit has very little to go on. Fortunately, her father has an unusual name so tracks him to the Mille Luci – the Thousand Lights Hotel on the island of Elba off the Italian coast. Kit, consumed by her grief and in need of answers, heads off to the island under the guise of investigating a local legend in her role as a travel writer.

What ensues is Kit getting to know her father without him knowing who she is. The book starts off gently in pace, articulating how Kit is trying to gather her thoughts and emotions as well as how she is going to tackle the subject with her Father, Valentino. Then there is also Oliviero whose head she has turned but refers to

Valentino as Papa – Kit is obviously reluctant to get to know Oliviero as she doesn't want to give off signals when she cannot explain the truth!

As well as Kit, we also learn a lot about Valentino, he is a man with a past that haunts him and when he finds out who Kit is, it all comes flooding back. I adored Valentino, he is a true gent who's aim in life is to provide the perfect holiday for his guests that lasts with them long after leaving the Mille Luci. His relationship with Oliviero is heart-warming and amusing!

The Thousand Lights Hotel is a wonderful read, Hall's writing is exquisite; each sentence is carefully thought out and adds to the story, it takes the reader to Elba as the descriptions of the island are stunning – Elba and the Mille Luci sound like fabulous holiday destinations! The flow of the writing is seamless and the differing perspectives bringing together the story are brilliant. The emotions in this book are in bucket loads and Hall's writing really brings to life the highs and lows that the characters are experiencing – sometimes through not writing too much narrative, letting the reader truly feel what the characters are feeling.

I highly recommend The Thousand Lights Hotel – it is the perfect holiday read, just don't be too disappointed that you are not experiencing the Elba summer for yourself!

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### **Laura says**

received as a good reads giveaway...

3\* isn't a bad review. To me a solid 3\* says I enjoyed thoroughly but there was nothing I felt needed to be shouted from the rooftops.

For me this read really familiar. This is both a comfort and disappointment. It means it felt homely and easy to read but it also read as though I have read it before or something similar anyway.

This was a very easy read with a gentle but inviting storyline. I found it slow to start but was absorbed entirely 50 pages in. If you want a feelgood book this summer then this is the book for you.

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### **Shaz Goodwin says**

<http://www.jerasjamboree.co.uk/2017/0...>

The tangled webs we weave ...

Kit has been led to believe her father is dead and yet finding the courage to ask her mum Rosa one more time about him as her mum lies terminally ill, she finds out he didn't. Leaving the hospital with the letters, she is able to trace him and using her job as a travel writer as a screen, travels to Elba to see if she can piece things together.

Valentino has been on Elba for nearly 30 years, in the beginning renovating a building that becomes the popular Hotel Mille Luci. His reason for being is looking after his guests. Knowing before they do what they want and then doing his utmost in providing it. His son, 30 yo Oliviero creates amazing dishes in the kitchen using local produce. He's popular with guests but always keeps his distance.

There is so much to enjoy about this story. The setting is magnificent. The food, customs and guests of Hotel Mille Luci all combine to make you feel as if you're pace of life has slowed down, having escaped from the daily routine. Fabulous characters and the intrigue and mystery ... trying to figure out what Valentino and Oliviero are hiding and not acknowledging but powerful enough to have shaped their lives. And then there's Kit with the legacy from her mum who didn't believe in love and reinforced the message that they didn't need a man in their lives. A lonely character who is trying to find roots and who needs to belong, to know the truth. Who needs that connection to 'other.'

There are a couple of twists in the story too! The first one I didn't see coming and to be honest, I only realised the truth of the second because of Oliviero's dilemma. It wouldn't have crossed my mind otherwise!

Emylia Hall's writing is powerful – not the words themselves but how she uses those words. They give a reader everything they need to build that image, to become that person, to experience whatever it is alongside the characters. Effortlessly it seems I become involved with the story from the beginning until I am the story. That's powerful. That's what I call magic ?

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### **Juwita says**

A delightful read. You may think it's a bit predictable, but there are still surprises stored in this tale.

All the food mentioned in the story made me really hungry. ?

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