



Savannah

Eugenia Price

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Few writers have earned a place in readers' hearts as dear as Eugenia Price. Her novels entice us into a vanished world, peopled by characters who immediacy makes their joy, sorrow, heartbreak, and soaring love something we can share and savor. Eugenia Price chose Savannah, Georgia as one of the most fascinating cities of the South, as the setting of a quartet of novels that follow the fortunes of the city and families that gave it life.

Orphaned Mark Browning was only twenty when he renounced his father's fortune and sailed to Savannah, his mother's birthplace...and the home of two remarkable women. The first is Eliza McQueen Mackay, his mentor's beautiful wife, whom Mark loves with a deep, pure love that can never be spoken. The other is lovely young Caroline Cameron, whose life is blighted by a secret that has tormented her grandparents for half a century--a secret that affects Mark more closely than he imagines. Desiring one woman, loved by another Mark must confront the ghosts of a previous generation, and face the evil smoldering hate, before he can truly call Savannah his home.

Savannah Details

Date : Published April 15th 1997 by St. Martin's Paperbacks (first published 1983)

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Author : Eugenia Price

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Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Romance

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From Reader Review Savannah for online ebook

Amy says

Quite the saga! the plot goes places you wouldn't expect. I can't wait to visit Savannah someday (as an adult, that is) and find the old Isaiah Davenport home!

CoffeeTimeRomance andMore says

Savannah is on the cusp of war with Britain. Mark Browning is attempting to find his way in the city of his mother's birth. Secrets are in the air. The truth may cleanse the soul and destroy the heart.

Mark loves a woman whom he will never tell. Another one loves him. Her family has a terrible secret. The secrets of Savannah eventually come to light. It is explosive enough to rock Mark and all he knows.

Past and present are about to collide. Mark is standing in the middle. The revelations separate Mark from the city he wishes to call his own. It will take the love of an adopted family to give him strength to survive.

Savannah is an enthralling story set during a romantic time in history. The war is but a backdrop to the story but influences the thinking of the time. The ending is never a sure thing, which keeps me turning the page in an attempt to untangle the lives of the MacKays, Brownings and the Cottings. The description of Savannah in an era of birth and rebirth are exquisite and provide a beautiful backdrop for an outstanding story of mystery, intrigue and romance.

Delane

Reviewer for Coffee Time Romance & More

- See more at: <http://coffeetimeromance.com/BookRevi...>

Susannah Sanford mcdaniel says

I read this book at the request of my mother: we're visiting Savannah in June and she wants to see some of the places in this series of books. Mother-daughter bonding over books!

Honestly, I didn't think I would like this book. The narrative voice is very calm and peaceful (in a bit of a woman-of-a-certain-age style...if that makes sense), and a little on the flowery side, but without being obnoxious. When I first started reading it, I thought it would be one of those books where the writing style isn't impressive, and the plot even worse.

But, it made me miss my bus stop. Seriously. I take the same bus route a couple of times a month to meet a friend and it's only a 10-15 minute ride. I was so absorbed in the book I completely missed it.

Excellent summer read. Would be probably one of the best beach reads for the aspiring reader who wants to venture away from Greene novels or Bridget Jones or that book about being skinny by practically starving yourself. It would probably be a great train or plane book: absorbing enough to distract you without being too heavy to become overwhelming after a while. This isn't a book that will be studied in literature classes

for the next 200 years, but it's pleasing and a good read.

The end ties up a little more neatly than I would have expected from the first book in a series, but I suppose now I'll just have to read the others to see what happens to Mark and Caroline.

Mackey St says

I'm writing one review for the entire set of Eugenia Price novels because, truly, the same can be said for each one. I read each and everyone of these novels - the Savannah Quartet, the Georgia Trilogy, the St. Simon's Trilogy and the Florida Trilogy - the very moment they were published waaaaay back when.

Eugenia Price is a Christian novelist who writes historical fiction with a bent toward and emphasis on her beliefs. Her writing style is very much in the flavor of the Old Style such as that of Catherine Marshall and Margaret Mitchell. It has grace and charm and exquisite beauty but, at times, can come across as a little too prim and proper. The difference between Price and Mitches is that Price's research on this area and era is impeccable. You can literally trace the roots of the families and the places if you visit Savannah, St. Simon's Island or St. Mary's in Florida. It's fascinating.

If you don't mind the light religious overtones - of which you are now aware - and you like historical, southern literature with very innocent romance then you might give these books a read. I enjoyed them very much at the time.

Leslie Andrew says

Google maps

It was fun to look for places and names with Google maps and search. The fire and yellow fever checked out too.

Beth Strand says

‘Savannah’ Left Me a Bit Cold

“Savannah” by Eugenia Price details the story of recently orphaned Mark Browning as he leaves his position as a wealthy Philadelphian and begins life anew in the city of Savannah in 1812. Fueled only by his father’s effusive stories of Savannah and the knowledge that his father met his mother in Savannah, Mark boards a ship to begin a new life. Literally by accident, he is befriended by Robert Mackay who insists that he start his life in Savannah in the Mackay home. While the novel is well-written and the pacing is decent, I simply found the characters to be a little, well, bland. The setting is beautifully described and the details of daily life in Savannah are interesting. The author simply glosses over slavery as an issue without adequately addressing how her “too good to be true” hero might feel about slavery after being raised by an abolitionist aunt. The dialogue often lapses into much more modern speech as in the use of the term “blow out” for a big party. (According to my research, the term “blow out” is not recorded until 1825 and has a crass meaning.) While it is interesting to note that the author has populated her book with many actual Savannah residents of the time, the Mackay family for instance, I found it difficult to warm up to many of her fictional characters.

Browning is either the best man who ever lived or a cad for taking advantage of the caresses of one woman while in love with another. Much of the dialogue feels either stilted or melodramatic and lacks an easy flow of conversation. Despite my quibbles, I'd give this book a three star rating as it does paint a lovely, detailed picture of the growing city confronted by the early days of the War of 1812.

This book was provided to me by Turner for this review. The opinions, however, are entirely my own. "Savannah" is available now.

Heather says

I really enjoyed escaping into this beautifully written novel. I knew nothing of the Author or story line when I picked it up at a thrift store.

CM says

Captivating.

Kclark says

Mark is obviously quite fabulous. It is written on nearly every page. Writing someone that is truly good is tricky business, in my opinion.

I figured out the Kott and Cotting thing as soon as I read the names.

So far, my favorite character is Caroline.

Still reading.....

-- Im in the middle of the book now. I know Mark is suppose to be wonderful, but I'm having a hard time. (Like I said, it's tricky business) First off, he's stringing along that poor Caroline girl. He kisses and kisses her, but he doesn't love her enough to marry her. I know she says she doesn't mind that he's blatantly doing this, but I wish some fabulous man would come to town and sweep her off her feet, and make her forget Ashley..I mean, Mark... I'm sure he would not like it, which would make it even better because the shoe would be on the other foot.

Another thing... He's in love with Eliza, who was married to his best friend, Mark McKay--who also happens to have heart trouble. So, on a trip to NY, he finally confides that he knows about the Kott/Cotting thing, and also accidentally ??? blurts out that he loves Mark's wife. Mark kind of laughs it off, but then he's dead the next morning.. Now, he's living with Eliza and her children. (She seems to think of him as another of her kids, but he's secretly lusting for her--living in her house..) Was this really done in early 1800's? Two unmarried people living together??? Seems scandalous..

Another thing that bugs me about Mark--Caroline apparently looks like his mom, and Eliza is old enough to be his mom (back then, at least--when they married at 16) He lost his mom at an early age. Freud would love

it.

Still reading...

Many of the figures are real life people, and the author wrote around them. It would be interesting to visit Savannah and see the houses/graves that she spoke about in this novel.

Erin says

I absolutely love the Savannah quartet. I just re-read these 4 books and I forgot how much I loved them. The history from the quartet is AMAZING, and as a history teacher seeing personal reactions to the events that unfold from 1812-1865 is one of my favorite parts. And what I love best about Eugenia Price novels is that many of the characters are real! While Mark and his family is fictional the McKay family is real, and the research that went into these books is meticulous. While at times they can be a slow read, and they are long. These books have me planning a trip to Savannah!

Missy Ivey says

It's hard to rate this novel because it's been so long since I've read it...back in late 1980's...when we were stationed in Charleston, South Carolina with the U.S. Coast Guard. I remember it being a very fat book and I remember enjoying the read. It was an easy summertime read, but don't remember much of the characters or even the story line too much. I'm going to give this 3 star just for the fact that I always enjoy easy summertime reads.

Cindy says

This was a great story that took a long time to get to where it was going. It was truly a southern novel as it was paced just about the same as a walk on a hot day.

Becky says

Price, Eugenia. 1983. Savannah.

First sentence: Hands gripping the rail of the plunging schooner Eliza, young Mark Browning, his well-tailored clothes wet and rumpled, stood on deck alone, determined not to be sick.

Eugenia Price, along with Margaret Mitchell, was one of the primary reasons I first fell in love with historical fiction. (Or perhaps I should say historical fiction with more than a couple of splashes of romance added into the mix.) (I honestly can't remember if this series "found" me in eighth or ninth grades. But definitely back when I was in high school.)

What is Savannah about? To make it short and sweet it is a story of a young man coming-of-age in the city of Savannah in the early nineteenth century. (Think the war of 1812). Mark Browning. Just twenty or so

when we meet him. Wise in some ways, naive in others. But without a doubt, the best day of young Mark's life was when he met Robert Mackay, family man and merchant.

Mackay is the owner of Eliza, a vessel named after his wife. He takes pity on the young man and cares for him when he falls sick on the ship. He also takes him into his own home back in Savannah. There he is welcomed by Eliza Mackay, the ever-faithful and near-perfect wife, and the couples' children: Jack, William, Eliza Anne, and Kate. (Though I can't quite remember if Kate had been born yet.) There he is welcomed, and there he remains until the day--some dozen or so years later--when his own house is completed and he begins keeping house with his own wife and child.

Mark, an orphan with no known family, comes to a new city, a strange city and finds refuge. His mother had been born, so he was told, in the city of Savannah. And it was in Savannah that his mother had met his father, Mark Browning, Sr. He has now come to that city to see if it holds some power over him. If perhaps he will find something he's been looking for his entire life--a place to belong, a place to call home. The minute he sets foot in Savannah, his love affair begins. He begins working alongside Robert Mackay. And soon he is made partner in Robert's business. But this arrangement isn't just good for his career. No, Mark genuinely becomes part of this family. The couple loves him. Sees him as a son. And the children idolize him. They cherish him. Cling to him almost.

This illustration of Southern hospitality seems strange in some ways to the modern reader. (I certainly can't imagine a modern family taking in a complete stranger for any amount of time let alone letting him--urging him--to become part of the family itself forever and ever and ever.) But if it is strange, it is strange in a mostly good way I think.

Savannah has more than its fair share of secrets. It is an emotional journey with unfolding mysteries and romances. Secrets. Lies. Blackmails. Murder. Passion. Jealousies. A little bit of everything really. It spans the years 1812 through 1825. It is rich in historical detail. It is really just a thoroughly satisfying read.

Kimberly Lewis says

An old-fashioned sweeping saga of the Old South. Took a little while to get into it, but I liked the combination of historical and architectural appreciation, woven into a story of family dysfunction and resolution. Refreshing that love was represented without sordid sexual scenes- that topic was treated with respect, which I'd love to see more often in novels.

I did like the exploration of the good and bad coexisting within a person- with some people leaning more in one direction or the other. Also that the psychological backgrounds were taken into consideration and negative characters were still presented with some sympathy. On occasion, I did find it tiresomely romantic that only women who grieve so much that they decide to remain in single widowhood are considered to have loved deeply. I would have liked to see that explored on a more practical level- the fact that the women might have been afraid to try again. I didn't like it presented as healthy or realistic- especially for a woman of that time period.

Hmo says

Much better than the cover describes... learned a good deal about pre-civil war deep South. Writing style a bit goody-two-shoes and the principal character annoying at times, but the history is sound and if you've

been to Savannah, the name-dropping and situations are amusing.

Mary Lou says

A good story, but poorly written.

Jane says

Where I got the book: review copy supplied by the publisher. My feature article on the *Savannah Quartet* appears on the Historical Novel Society website.

On the eve of the War of 1812, Mark Browning moves to Savannah. On the way he meets Robert Mackay, a successful Savannah merchant, and the two hit it off so well that Mackay invites Mark to stay in his home, thus leading to a lifelong friendship. Against the background of the war, Mark discovers his past and his future.

I'm going to stop here and explain that Robert Mackay was a real person, while Mark Browning is fictional. The weaving of fiction and fact is pretty seamless—Price uses the real lives of the characters as plot points, inventing a sort of love triangle that is a major factor in the book's last third. Price was a Christian writer and this is reflected in the text, but I didn't find it particularly preachy or intrusive since nineteenth-century Americans of that class were pretty much automatically religious.

Price's main fault is repetition—she has a tendency to belabor plot points by having first one set of characters and then another discuss them. Also, I wanted to smack Mark for keeping Caroline hanging around while he moons over Eliza—if he were a woman there'd be a name for his behavior. But he's portrayed as so perfect—many of Price's 'good' characters are good to the point of weakness—that we're evidently supposed to sympathize with his predicament. I didn't.

Having said that, *Savannah* is a really good read with plenty of historical interest and something always about to happen round the next corner (often heavily foreshadowed). It's the kind of book you can just sit a long time with, preferably on a verandah with a tall glass of cold liquid. Recommended.

Mary Ann says

Story was more interesting than I expected, the description of Savannah was well done. I was disappointed with the ending, but; then say the "afterword" and saw that the author plans to continue the saga.

Beth says

I am only 100 pages into this and am reading it the same time as *Dragonfly in Amber*. Am I a sucker for punishment or what, reading two huge books at the same time. Anyway, what I have to say about this book is that if the author tells me one more time how noble, without guile, beautiful etc. the main character, Mark, is I am going to scream. Nobody is that terrific. I am going to keep reading but as I do I can't help but keep

scoffing at his noble self.

I finally finished this book and although it was kind of interesting Mark remained, noble, beautiful, and oh' so wonderful throughout the whole thing. This is a first book of a 4 part series but there is no way that I can put up with his beautiful self or family anymore so Goodbye beautiful, noble, Mark Browning, Goodbye!

Maureen says

I was disappointed in this book. I thought that this book would be more of a historical fiction than a love story. The book is about a love story between Mark Browning and Caroline Cameron in Savannah during the early 1800s. I have the three books that are sequels to this edition, but I doubt that I will read them soon.
