



Wild Lily

K.M. Peyton

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It's the 1920s - cars and aeroplanes are new. Lily Gabriel is 13 years old - she's scruffy and confident and takes no nonsense from anyone. Antony is 17 - he's rich, spoiled and arrogant and Lily is completely and utterly - no nonsense! - in love with him. So join Lily as she falls...Falls in love...Falls out of the sky...Falls through time...And effortlessly, inescapably, falls into her future. Life is never what you expect or what you predict. But if you're lucky, you hold onto exactly what you need - a young and wild heart.

Wild Lily Details

Date :

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Author : K.M. Peyton

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From Reader Review Wild Lily for online ebook

Dove says

Pretty interesting book. I really liked how this book took place in the 1900s. It made the book more interesting. I liked that olden feel to the book, because the 1900s always seemed like such a dreamy times. The guys were all gentlemen, and everything was more simple. The love was more pure and everything was more classic. I liked how this love story took place in that time period and I liked how cute it was. I liked how Andrew was a player and how it made the relationship more complicated and how she liked him despite the fact that he was a player. I really liked how everything played out. My only issue was I found that some parts were a little boring and I couldn't focus throughout the book because it got a little dry at parts. It didn't capture my attention as much as I would have liked. I wish there was more drama or problems that thickened the plot a little more.

Louise Culmer says

Set mainly in the 1920s, this is the story of Lily Gabriel, a beautiful spirited gardener's daughter, who loves Antony Sylvester, the son of her father's employer. Antony is rich and handsome and charming and feckless, and he allows the adoring Lily to tag along with him and his friends. Lily knows her passionate love is not reciprocated, but she doesn't care. Antony is given a plane for his seventeenth birthday by his father, and he takes Lily flying with him, and she gets to experience the joy of a parachute jump. Antony leads a strange life with his wealthy, withdrawn father, and his beautiful blind and deaf sister Helena. Both Helena and her father could be interesting characters, but unfortunately neither is allowed to appear much. Although this is an enjoyable story, the characters are not as interesting or well developed as in some of K.M. Peyton's other books. Also they tend to use rather a lot of anachronistic expressions in their conversation, they don't really sound like 1920s people at all. And the last few chapters of the book rush us through a long period of time, something I am never very keen on. Although entertaining, this is not one of her best books.

Brandi says

It's not quite what I thought it would be (I think I was expecting more sci-fi, but I do like historical fiction as well), though I do like the book's overall message. I also like the "vintage settings" - 1920's, 30's, etc. I am unfamiliar with K.M. Peyton's other works, though she does seem to be quite prolific, so I am not sure how this book rates among them. I would read more of her works in the future, though, should I have the opportunity.

Lily Gabriel was a likable character, Antony Sylvester was a bit boring though. His family was kind of interesting, but didn't seem to factor into the story much. It also started a bit slowly, but was quite entertaining once the story started to flow. Overall, I'd rate it about a 4.1 - 4.3.

Anna F. says

Lovely relaxing read... well written but I would have loved to see the character of Lily to have more depth.

Frances says

Cross-posted from Nightjar's Jar of Books.

In April of 1921, Antony Sylvester celebrates his seventeenth birthday with a brand new aeroplane; a present from his wealthy, but distant father. Lily Gabriel is four years younger than Antony, head-over-heels in love with him, and the only person in his circle of friends who's brave enough to do the parachute jump Antony so desperately wants to try. But is it truly courage, or is Lily just only driven by her desire to impress a boy so self-absorbed that he can't see that the best thing that could ever happen to him may be about to pass him by.

This book felt incredibly nostalgic to me! It's not connected to the *Flambards* series (the only other books of Peyton's that I've read), but the setting and the subject matter were both incredibly reminiscent of *The Edge of the Cloud* (the second *Flambards* book) – and particularly the parts of the book that took place at Brooklands Airfield, a place that feels like an old friend to me, even though I've never been there. Aeroplanes aren't something that I've thought about in quite some time, but Peyton was the author who first made me love love them, and *Wild Lily* really re-invigorated that love.

But despite being pre-disposed to like this book, it took me a while to really get into it; for the first third of the book I was worried that I wasn't going to like it at all (which would have been a huge tragedy). It's written in a very matter-of-fact style that it took me some time to get used to. Additionally, I initially really disliked Antony, who is spoiled and selfish, and although Lily was a wonderful character from the very start, the beginning of the book is largely dominated by Antony and his ego.

... So, he's kind of a prat, but he did grow on me, and by the end of the book he came across as a more loveable one than he did at the beginning. As I got to know him better, his faults became less annoying and more tragic. And Lily, as I mentioned before, was a joy to read about; bold and adventurous, and unashamedly devoted to Antony without blinding herself to his flaws. I also really loved how fiercely protective she was of her little brother, who is frequently bullied because he was born with some kind of brain damage (possibly?).

Wild Lily didn't go in the direction that I was expecting – or hoping for – it to, but it did so in a way that felt very true-to-life, and I found myself very satisfied with the way it ended. All in all, it was a thoroughly enjoyable book, with a slightly sad, but also touching storyline, and some really wonderful characters. I expect that this book will stay with me for a long time to come.

Sara says

When I read the little blurb on this book's cover, I was expecting a science fiction type book where the character falls through time. But as I got into the book, that didn't seem to be happening. So then I thought that since it said how she jumped out of a plane and fell into her future that maybe Lily would get a job jumping out of airplanes, but that also wasn't true. Instead, quite honestly, not much happened. Lily spent the entire book pining after a boy, Antony, who may have had more money than her, but was beneath her in every other way. Despite the books being over 300 pages, I didn't feel like I got to know any of the characters that well. Even Lily's motivations weren't that clear. It is partly my own fault of not understanding what the cover's summary was saying, but this book was kind of boring. I can't really see it appealing to too

many YA readers.

Ms. Yingling says

It's the 1920s, and airplanes are not quite as scary as they were before the war. Wealthy Antony asks for one for his birthday, and his father lets him have one-- after all, he is impressed that Antony wants to take flying lessons instead of just trying to bring a plane home without instruction. Lily's father is the gardener for Antony's family, so she grew up with him and loves him from afar; when he wants someone to parachute from his plane, she is the only one who agrees. Antony has an older sister who is both blind and deaf, and his friends from school are enthralled by her beauty. With Lily's help, he sets up a party in the family's grotto for his school mates, but the party ends in tragedy. After his father is arrested for a variety of ill considered dealings, Antony isn't quite sure what he will do, and eventually makes some very poor choices. While Lily still pines for him, she can see that the two of them will never be together, and tries to get on with her life.

Lily's adoration of Antony is somewhat disturbing, but completely typical for the time period. The class divisions are clearly delineated, but it was good to see that Lily was able to get along with Antony and his friends, and that they were kind to her. The treatment of Helena was interesting as well, although I would have thought that by this point Helen Keller's life might have given the family some insight into how to better help her.

The plane, of course, is a major character as well. It's hard for us today to understand how enthralling the idea of flight was, since flight today is more like an annoying bus journey instead of a glorious "slipp[ing] the surly bonds of earth". Like cars, planes were a luxury, but also an obsession. Even my five uncles managed to pool their resources in the 1940s and bought a small plane, which they would land in the field by the family dairy!

This was definitely more of a young adult novel than one for middle grade readers; the tone is a bit more introspective and sad.

Peyton has written fantastic books about British life for a long time-- her 1967 *Flambards* is considered a classic, and my daughter's favorite book is her 1994 *Snowfall*. Sadly, for British society, these books usually show how hard it is to keep together these grand estates. Teens who got caught up in their parents' obsession for *Downton Abbey* will find this a distracting read, which will hopefully get them to investigate other books set during this period by authors such as Sayers, Christie and Waugh.

jv poore says

It is not typical, particularly in 1921, for a soon-to-be-seventeen-year-old to casually request an airplane for his birthday. Antony's English home, however, is eccentric at its tamest. His father grants permission. The mostly absent, mysterious man who makes mountains of money, is an indulgent single parent. His only sibling is constantly chaperoned by her nurse-maids, so Antony has learned to enthusiastically embrace his freedom and entertain himself.

Care-free, full of fun and wholly inclusive, Antony does have a certain appeal. On the other hand, his fierce focus on only a couple of arbitrary, short-term goals coupled with his disdain and dismissal of any actual problem, makes it difficult to qualify his redeeming qualities.

Lily is genuinely good. Wearing responsibility like a second skin, she is raising her baby brother and working on her father's gardening crew. She bears her burdens intuitively, refusing to allow them to tame her ferocious appetite for life and furious joy for adventure. At the tender age of thirteen, Lily has a laundry list of admirable traits.

Inexplicably, Lily is unquestionably in love with Antony. Although this curious commitment could carry the story (it's so beautifully written, I bet Ms. Peyton's grocery lists are poetic), Wild Lily is not a romance. Ample action and adventure balance brilliantly with tragedy, compassion and caring. Mayhem, and maybe murder, make for a fast-pace and simple twists invoke suspense.

I found this to be an enjoyable and engrossing book. When it ended, I was pleased and mostly satisfied. Writing this review, however, made something click. My perspective broadened and suddenly I understood Lily better. Now, I love her even more.

This review was written for Buried Under Books by jv poore.

Emilia says

I found it a bit slow to start with but then as the story progresses I felt more connection to and interest in the characters. I liked how the book was written in the parts- the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s etc. But I think more should have been written about the 1940s and during the war as that era was quite brief yet in real life was a very important, vital and scary time because of the war. Overall, a lovely book.

Charlotte says

a bit disappointing--Lily's passion for Antony sucked up to much of her character, which was the point, but still.

S.P. Moss says

I remember K.M.Peyton's books from my childhood and early teens and was so pleased to see that she is still writing.

I loved the era and setting of 'Wild Lily' - I am a big fan of Brooklands - and the evocation of a carefree summer in the 1920s, although an air of melancholy hangs over the whole book.

The beautiful dreamlike descriptions of the party in the grotto and the parachute jump put me in mind of Le Grand Meaulnes, capturing moments of pure young love that can never be experienced again.

However, there were some parts of the story that I found improbable and it did become rather repetitive in places (Lily forever flinging herself at Antony!)

Overall, though, this is a great saga-like story for young teens with a gloriously nostalgic feel.

SHERRY says

Another winner from K. M. Peyton.

Dhriti says

The ending really disappointed me. I would liked if Lily had been with Anthony. Nevertheless, it is good book! It's filled to the brim with emotion and I am glad that Lily got to be happy, even though she didn't get what she wanted.

Emily says

3.5, really. I almost enjoyed this enough to 4 star it, but I had to admit that had it been by anyone other than K.M. Peyton, I might have found it the sort of book to read once and not to keep. As a Peyton fan though, I'm just so happy that at 90 (!) she's continuing to write and publish. The set up of this novel, which opens in the early 1920s, is interesting enough. Lily is the daughter of the gardener at a great estate, built by a shady businessman/war profiteer, and she spends a childhood alternately working herself to the bone and tagging after the owner's overly pampered and yet emotionally neglected son, Antony, and his Eton pals. When Antony gets an aeroplane for his 17th birthday, he develops an obsession with parachute jumping. Having no one else to fly his little plane, allowing him to parachute, he asks Lily to do the jump in his stead. This is the first of a series of plunges, literal and metaphorical, that take place over the course of the novel. Lily nurses a passionate love for Antony and would probably do the jump without a parachute if he asked her. As I write this out, I find myself warming more to the story, and yet, in the reading of it, I was just not that emotionally involved. Mostly, this is because I never really believed in the world of this book. So many elements of the set-up, including, but not limited to: Antony's father's limitless wealth, the beauty of a mysterious grotto on an island in the lake on the estate, the unearthly radiance of Antony's deaf and blind sister (who somehow sings, always at emotionally appropriate moments, with a weird wordless beauty) seemed so improbable to me that I almost felt as though I were reading fantasy. There is a definite dream-like quality to the tone of the narration, that makes it easy to admire the story while feeling somewhat distant from it. None the less, I turned the pages quite readily, curious to see what would become of them all.

Last random observation: every time I see that cover out of the corner of my eye, I think I'm seeing an issue of the New Yorker. I guess it's a combination of the stylized illustration and the position and type of the title.

L.H. Johnson says

It's hard, sometimes, to write about KM Peyton without descending into 'ISIMPLYJUSTLOVEHERANDYOU SIMPLYJUSTSHOULDTOO' and so, I've taken my time over this review of her latest: Wild Lily, a novel of the 1920s and beyond, and of airplanes, and of foolishness/bravery/lovelovelove. One of the most foremost reasons for taking my time, was an attempt to gain some sort of critical distance upon it. Sometimes writing about the beloved authors is difficult because it simply turns into something incoherent. Passionate, yes, but incoherently so. Passion is glorious, thrilling,

but when you're on the outside of it? A spectacle, nothing more.

And I don't want that for KM Peyton. I wouldn't want that for any of the authors that I write about because I write about their books to *share* them. One of the greatest things I believe about children's and young adult literature is that it is for the reader, and everything I do - but everything - is to facilitate that moment of book finding reader and being read. Without the reader, we'd be nothing, and so I give myself distance because I want you to be part of this transaction. You, you, you, you're vital. You're powerful.

KM Peyton gets that, I suspect, and she writes outwardly; great swathes of beautiful, eloquent passages dominate this book with their almost physical urge to be read, to swell and grow out of the page and to live. This is a book about life and love, as so much of KM Peyton's work is, and we follow the titular Lily from her youth through to old age; a life knotted together with people and animals and regret and love and wild, wild exuberance.

I found the blurb of the novel a little opaque and the opening was, I admit, slow. But I suspect a novel of this nature was always going to be slow and subtle to start, and when the narrative properly started to kick into action, I was rapt. I always am with KM Peyton because every now and then she will give me something perfect, something so perfect that I will stop and write it down or simply stare at it and will the day I get to write things like that. She captures love, I think, just love, and the great drunken infuriating joy of it, so well. Perfectly, really.

And this is such a good book, exultant in places, glorious in others, that I can forgive Peyton that slow start and the odd moment of being too deft with her narrative. I can forgive her those moments where she ties things up a little too neatly because in another breath she'll give me the ragged edge; an unfinished moment where the story is something quite wild and quite beautiful and I *feel* it, I physically feel it, inside of me, always. A book of light and shade; of dazzling, dazzling light, and it is good really, it is beyond good at points, and I love her, I love her, I love her.
