



Silver Wattle

Belinda Alexandra

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In fear for their lives after the sudden death of their mother, Adela and Klara must flee Prague to find refuge with their ? uncle in Australia. There, Adela becomes a film director at a time when the local industry is starting to feel ? the competition from Hollywood.

But while success is imminent, the issues of family and an impossible love are never far away. And ultimately dreams of the silver screen must compete with the bonds of a lifetime ...

Silver Wattle confirms Belinda Alexandra as one of our foremost story-tellers. Weaving fact into inspiring fiction with great flair and imagination, this is a novel as full of hope, glamour and heartbreak as the film industry itself.

'An absorbing story of hope and despair, loyalty and love' - Woman's Day

'Readers are kept on their toes ... and it's a worthwhile wait' - Courier-Mail

Silver Wattle Details

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Author : Belinda Alexandra

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From Reader Review Silver Wattle for online ebook

Ruth Bonetti says

An unusual and rarely documented slant tells of the early history of film in Australia, all the better seen through the lens of a female emigrant from Czechoslovakia. The characters are engaging and the plight of the two sisters is well drawn.

Tien says

Two sisters fled their home in Prague when a sinister murder of their mother and a plot against them was revealed. They found welcoming arms in their estranged uncle in Sydney Australia. Adela and Klara are intelligent and talented girls. They are also kind, generous and courageous. The book explores the relationships across cultures and the social scene of the time (mainly the movies).

Belinda Alexandra shows in this book & White Gardenia of the love she has for Australia, especially it's flora & fauna. Her care in the vivid descriptions of nature in both books has definitely put in my mind that I should care more for my home. I'm not a nature person (city chic all the way) but I do care for the world and she has impressed in me how beautiful the world / nature was just a century ago and how much we have lost now. However, I am just not fully convinced to be a complete vegetarian yet (my husband would definitely protest on that front).

Jessica Sadler says

A book I didn't want to put down because I wanted to know what happened next. The storyline was an enjoyable one further enhanced because of the historical context.

Adrienne says

C'était très sympa mais j'ai pas trop saisi où elle voulait nous emmener avec son histoire.

Jill says

My second Belinda Alexandra book and there's definitely some themes, even though the previous book I read (and enjoyed, Wild Lavender) was set in another part of the world entirely (although in the same general time period, the 1920s forward).

Ms Alexandra knows how to weave a cracking good story that keeps you turning the pages. It isn't high literature but it isn't trying to be either. Ms Alexandra excels at plotting a good yarn, even if some of the details aren't so well taken care of. For instance, in the early part of the book where the young women/girls are in danger in Prague, the menace isn't very well brought to life - we are simply told they are in grave danger and a few sketchy plotlines and characters are thrown in to convince us. Here's a couple of examples

from that part of the book:

A man is watching them - he isn't described as being terrifying or threatening or carrying a weapon or attempting to abduct them or anything; he is simply a "bad man" who we must believe, despite not being given much to go on, that he intends them harm. It's almost like stick figures drawn in big crayons, it's that simplistic.

Speaking of that, the second example is how the girls and their Aunt Josephine come to learn of this grave danger (prior to the bad man appearing), which is this: another man turns up and tells them. Yes, you read that right. A strange man turns up and tells them he's overheard a plot against them and wants to warn them. More stick figures drawn with large primary coloured crayons. There's absolutely no intrigue or layers to that part of the story.

But the benefit it has is the story moves along. The girls are in peril, they're set sail to Australia, and we move onto the next bit of the story without being too traumatised by descriptions of assaults or psychological warfare.

And on with the story we indeed go! There's lots more to come, and it's all good stuff. The characters are quite brilliant in a way - they are both simple enough to follow along with without having a psychological textbook open to try to discern their intricate make-up, and interesting enough that we want to know what they do next and find them credible as people (not stick figures drawn in crayon). It's quite a fine art form to do this, and I salute Ms Alexandra for her ability to do it so well.

There are a few main themes I've already picked up on from reading only 2 novels by this author, and one is thwarted passion. This appears in this novel as well: the main character and her paramour are desperately in love, destined to be together, soul mates. And yet devious characters and dastardly events intervene and their love is thwarted. They cannot be together. It is agony. it is torture. It is so damn unfair!

I'm going to take a short break from the novels of Ms Alexandra, but I'll be back. I've already sourced 2 more novels (White Gardenia and Sapphire Skies) so once I've had a read of someone else for a bit, I'll pick them up for another cracking read.

Phrynne says

Based on the degree to which I was skimming rather than reading a lot of the text I can only give this two stars. I did enjoy the descriptions of Australia and the bush but the story was occasionally nonsensical and it went on for far too long. At the end the convenient way we farewell poor Freddy was way over the top. So just an okay read for me and not one I would recommend.

Bettina says

Wow wow WOW...I'm totally in love with this book. Best book I've read this year so far. Belinda is quickly becoming one of my favourite authors. This story was captivating right from the start. Adela and Klara having to flee Prague to live in Australia after their mother is murdered and with their lives in danger as well. I found all the characters captivating too and enjoyed the ups and downs in Adela and Philip's love story. You know you're reading an awesome book when the author has you crying and laughing throughout the story along with the characters. There was lots of drama happening throughout the story. It's going to take

awhile for me to get over this book. I want to give it 10 stars!

Bronwyn Rykiert says

I listened to an audio version of this book

It's just after WWI in Prague, Adela is 17 and Klara is 12 when their mother dies suddenly. They quickly discover that she was murdered by their stepfather and soon he is after them, as their mother left most of her estate to them. Their Aunt Josephine, who is their guardian sends them to live with her brother in Australia.

Adela becomes a movie director in the silent movie era and with the help of her husband Freddie is successful. Tragedy strikes a few times and their lives change.

It was a pretty good story but I didn't enjoy it as much as the earlier books I read by Belinda Alexandra "Wild Lavender" and "White Gardenia"

Vivien Bridges says

I found this book a bit ho him to begin with. The letters written to fill in past events was stilted, I thought. It also felt as if the author was trying to capture every bit of Australian history and jumped into these at times. For all that, it was a good tale and held my interest to the end.

Rocío Cruz Vázquez says

Aunque a ratos se me ha hecho un poco denso, me ha gustado mucho, más que mi primera incursión con la autora, La gardenia blanca de Shaghai. El final, desde luego, es bastante mejor que en la novela anterior. Seguiré leyendo otras obras de Belinda Alexandra.

Dale Harcombe says

Actually three and a half stars, almost four. I enjoyed this story of Adela and Klara as they are forced to flee Prague and seek refuge in Australia with their uncle. Characters are well drawn and the novel gives a great picture of the early film industry in Australia. It also contains a love interest and tension created by the presence of the one who seeks to eliminate Adela and Klara. Interesting reading and I suspect a lot of research went into it. A shame then that the koala is referred to as a native bear when koalas are not bears, but perhaps that is what people of the time thought they were and even today some people think that is the case.

That quibble aside,I will be interested to read another of Belinda Alexandra's novels.

Jane Scott says

I actually read the book rather than listened to it but there was no book listed only this CD. Very much in the style of her other books.. lightweight and predictable. Good filler book when you're in between good ones. One that you borrow, not buy!

Katrina says

I really enjoyed this book in the end. There was some times the book was bogged down with too much detail and there were some over the top bits, but overall I liked the character and voice of Adela and wanted to know what happened to the rest of her life when the book finished. Loved that it is set in Australia and her descriptions of nature and wildlife were fabulous.

Steve says

While I wasn't sure of this book before I started it, I soon warmed to it, and fell into the story, and by the fifth chapter, I was hooked. The storyline moved at a good pace, and while I felt the chapters were a little long, the frequent breaks and scene changes made up for that. While the climax of the book was a little disappointing, the drawn out resolution more than made up for it, but the actual ending left me wanting a little more justice.

The Cats Mother says

I quite enjoyed this, but less than the others of hers that I have read - the story dragged a lot in the middle then descended into melodrama. Sisters Klara and Adela have to leave their luxurious life in post WW1 Prague when their mother is murdered by their step-father, and go to stay with their eccentric uncle in Australia. The descriptions of filming silent movies were interesting but the story was pretty predictable.
