



The Wingless Bird

Catherine Cookson

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Even the approach of Christmas, 1913, fails to excite the restless Agnes Conway, the twenty-two-year-old manager of her feckless father's adjoining sweet and tobacconist shops. There are dark secrets in Arthur Conway's past, and these come tragically to light when Agnes's younger sister becomes pregnant by one of the notorious Felton brothers. And Agnes herself has a secret, which she knows she must keep from her father: an attachment to Charles Farrier, son of a local landowner, who outrages his own pious family by proposing marriage...

But Charles is not the only man who shapes Agnes's future, for his brother Reginald makes no secret of his admiration for her; although she could not have foreseen how significant a part he was to play in her destiny...

The Wingless Bird Details

Date : Published April 1st 1991 by Summit Books (first published September 1st 1990)

ISBN : 9780671666200

Author : Catherine Cookson

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

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From Reader Review The Wingless Bird for online ebook

Bettie? says

[Bettie's Books (hide spoiler)]

Mary says

I loved the TV adaptation and the book was an equal pleasure to read. Catherine Cookson may not have liked to have been called a romance novelist but she does a good job at the genre. I loved Agnes, and Reggie was my favorite of the two brothers. It helped they were played by such good actors. I recommend to anyone who likes strong women and novels set during the great war.

Penny Kettlewell says

Excellent

I enjoy all of CC's writings, but especially this one as she makes one actually care about her characters as she weaves her historically correct stories with humor + wisdom.

Barbra says

This is one of her best books - riveting and a page turner.

Back Cover Blurb:

Agnes Conway has had to put up with a violent father, who owns adjoining sweet and tobacconist shops; a mother who doesn't care and a flighty sister who becomes pregnant by one of the notorious Felton brothers. Although Agnes still loves them all she spends her time working in the family shop hoping for a life of her own.

Then all at once she discovers that things are not right with her family, her parents hate each other violently, and her sister is in love with 'scum of the docks'. At the same time she meets a charming man whom she falls in love with.

Denise says

Set during and after the First World War, this was a touching and entertaining story with both romance and tragedy. I especially really liked Agnes' character. A very enjoyable read.

Lili says

I read all of Catherine Cookson's books some years ago and enjoyed them immensely. I recently re-read all of them and find that on a second look I found them all so very predictable, and was rather disappointed. However I'm sure that it is my tastes that have changed not the calibre of her story telling.

Shaista says

Always a joy to read her books???

Shirley Revill says

Brilliantly written. Really enjoyed.

Victoria says

My favourite

Samantha says

Every time I read a Catherine Cookson book, i'm so surprised by how much she manages to fit into every story! So much went into this, and every character was different. I also love reading her books because she sets them in the area I live, so I'm so familiar with the settings and the history she writes about, which is a great change.

Robin Raines-Bond says

Excellent depiction of the time period. I felt transported back.

Susan says

As in most of Cookson's books she writes with strong female characters overcoming some miserable circumstance or misfortune. I also love the English accents given her characters. If you like books set in old England and well developed characters, you will enjoy books by Catherine Cookson!

Mairi says

Catherine Cookson's writing style is interesting. Sometimes she is very descriptive and other times not at all. Her dialogue is sometimes awkward too. The story and the characters, however, are amazing, and I couldn't put the book down - especially the last 50 or so pages. I really love this story.

Laura says

.From IMDb:

On the eve of World War I, Agnes Conway manages both the business and the problems of her troubled family. She finds the strength to break class barriers and help her sister Jessie marry a good boy from a family of dockside toughs. Is she strong enough to break them again when Charles Farrier, a gentleman, courts her over his parents' opposition? Agnes faces an added dilemma when she finds her heart divided between Charles and his soldier brother Reginald.

The movie is available at YouTube.

- 4* Feathers in the Fire
- 5* Katie Mulholland
- 5* The Black Velvet Gown
- 5* The Rag Nymph
- 4* The Black Candle
- 3* Colour Blind
- 4* The Dwelling Place
- 4* The Glass Virgin
- 4* The Gambling Man
- 3* The Girl
- 4* The Maltese Angel
- 5* The Round Tower
- 3* The Cinder Path
- 4* The Fifteen Streets
- 3* The Moth
- 4* The Wingless Bird

The Mallen Trilogy:

- 4* The Mallen Streak
- 2* The Mallen Girl
- 3* The Mallen Litter

Tilly Trotter Trilogy:

- 4* Tilly Trotter
- 5* Tilly Trotter Wed
- 4 Tilly Trotter Widowed
- TR Tilly Alone

Autobiography:

- 4* Our Kate

TR The Silent Lady
TR Dinner of Herbs
TR The Tide of Life
TR The Man Who Cried

Joy H. says

Added 1/4/12.

I did not read this book but I streamed the movie adaptation via Netflix:

"**The Wingless Bird**" (TV mini-series 1997)

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0141988/>

<http://movies.netflix.com/WiMovie/Cat...>

One of the user reviews at IMDb sums it up nicely:

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"This is typical Cookson territory, really. There's high drama, attempted murders, disgrace, scandal, and a swathe of upper class snooty horrors..."

"'The Wingless Bird' is engrossing, if predictable, fare, and is beautifully photographed and flawlessly played by its cast ... A superior soapy drama.

"Catherine Cookson was for many years [one of] the most borrowed and read writers from UK public libraries, and her novels remain popular years after her death. The TV adaptations which were made over a twenty year span generally do the books proud without making their thin plots seem ridiculous, and 'The Wingless Bird' is no exception."

FROM: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0141988/r...>

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I'm giving it 5 Netflix stars out of 5. Highly recommended.
