



Katherine Wentworth

D.E. Stevenson

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A pretty, courageous young widow, faced with the task of bringing up three children and making her way alone in the world, is the appealing heroine of this touching love story executed with D.E. Stevenson's characteristic freshness and charm.

The thirty-ninth novel from the beloved author of *The Blue Sapphire*, *Bel Lamington*, and *Fletcher's Eng* -- this new work centers around Katherine Wentworth, married at the age of nineteen to a man with whom she was very much in love. Widowed after only four years of happiness with Gerald, Katherine is left to bring up her stepson, Simon, as well as her own twins, Daisy and Denis.

Katherine's struggle to raise her children wisely is one which will move every reader deeply. Told in first person, the story sensitively evokes the personality of Katherine's husband, whose many outstanding qualities are now perpetuated in his children. When Simon, growing to manhood, suddenly becomes heir to the family fortunes, he faces the difficult decision of either moving to the estate of his domineering grandfather or giving up the inheritance to remain free, as his father did before him.

While Simon wrestles with his problem, Katherine finds romance entering her life in the person of Alec Maclaren, the brother of an old friend. Thrown together on a vacation in the Scottish Highlands, the two realize in each other's company a new zest for living, and soon Katherine is faced with a future that promises she will no longer be alone.

As in her many other works, D.E. Stevenson has again created a realistic world of warm, believable people whose company brings delight to the reader.

~~from the dust jacket flaps

Katherine Wentworth Details

Date : Published 1964 by Holt, Rinehart & Winston

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From Reader Review Katherine Wentworth for online ebook

Hope says

Sometimes a book comes along at just the right time and is pure pleasure. That's how I felt when I started reading Katherine Wentworth. The calm dignity of the protagonist, the stark beauty of the Scottish countryside, the stalwart friendship of Alec, and the gentle kindnesses of the minor characters all joined together to make a refreshing tonic for my tired heart. Underneath it all is a current of quiet happiness that I found irresistible.

Katherine is a widow raising three children. She's come through the heartache of losing her husband and has learned to be independent and self-sufficient. She is strong, yet insecure enough to be believable. She is sure of one thing. When a new man comes into her life, she isn't the least bit interested in matrimony. A lovely book!

Linda K says

Delightful story of a widow raising her 3 children in Scotland. Her stepson, Simon, is legal heir to the family estate of her late husband, who had severed his ties with the family due to his fathers' authoritative dictatorship. Katherine visits the estate with Simon and wisely allows him to see the stringent life he would face if he would accept his position. Along the way, Katherine meets Alec who is much more than a friend and becomes a valuable part of the childrens' lives as well. A months' sojourn to an idyllic cottage in the wilds of the Scottish hills is a relaxing and much needed holiday. Written with great voice to the personalities of all, especially the children. A very satisfying, positive read.

Amy says

DE Stevenson is such a good choice if you need a comforting read with lovely people. Her stories are delightful slices of life. There's not much conflict so if you only read for plot then these likely aren't the books for you. If you enjoy character and setting then I highly recommend DE Stevenson.

Tania says

A light, entertaining read.

Katherine Wentworth is a widow bringing up Simon, her stepson and her twins. She bumps into Zilla, an old school friend who is bored and wants to renew their friendship, so she is invited to the big house that Zilla lives in with her brother, for tea. She and Alex start spending time together, but something is a bit off with Zilla.

Katherine manages to steer her family through various situations, to happy conclusions.

Lori says

I thoroughly enjoyed this one, even more I think because of a couple of recent trips to Scotland. A delightful comfort read that I purchased years ago from a used bookshop. I enjoyed it so much I immediately went to my local library looking for more by this author as I will definitely be seeking out additional titles for a pleasant diversion.

Gerrie says

4.5 out of 5 stars

Dianna says

I read this book for the first time last year and listened to an audio version this month. One of my new favorite books (and authors)! I love Katherine and her family and the scenery and the narrator's Scottish accent.

I'm glad the audiobook is available on Audible because the book is sadly out of print.

2017: This book did not disappoint on a re-listen. Completely cozy and satisfying!

Katherine says

As someone who has been to Scotland and Edinburgh, I enjoyed hearing about the the area from long ago. The sights and sounds of the lochs and hills...this book put me in a mind of the Anne of Green Gables books. There is a romance here, but it's as much about the people and the land as it is about the romance.

I enjoyed it...I want a cup of tea.

Sarah says

A lovely book, so relaxing to read, making one a bit nostalgic for old-fashioned values such as integrity and respect. The story is simple, cosy and soothing and the characters endearing (except for the nasty Wentworths, of course). On to the sequel... I love D. E. Stevenson books.

Kate says

Since I love Scotland and since I really like reading about gentle people in less modern lives, this book was

wonderful! Very much "comfort food" for the weary heart and mind.

Jane says

When you need a book to be a security blanket, as I did this week, you could do well to turn to the work of D E Stevenson.

This isn't her best book; it isn't a book that would stand up to very much scrutiny; but it is mid 20th century romantic fiction done rather well.

Katherine Wentworth was a young widow, living in Edinburgh in the most genteel kind of poverty, and bringing up a teenage stepson and two young twins. She missed her husband terribly, but she knew that he would have wanted her to carry on and to make a happy home for their family, and she knew that was the very best thing for her to do with her life.

She did well, and I found that I liked Katherine and her family – her sensible step-son, and her adorable twins – very much.

Over the course of one spring and summer a great deal happened.

Katherine met Zilla, an old school-friend. She was surprised at how delighted how warmly she was greeted, as they hadn't been close at all; and as she saw more of her she was disappointed that Zilla didn't appreciate that lifestyle and choices that her wealth gave her, or the lovely home that she shared with her brother. That brother became a good, supportive friend to Katherine, and he clearly enjoyed visiting a family home, forming a lovely relationship with her children along the way.

When Simon, Katherine's step-son, came home from school for the holidays received an invitation from his father's family. Katherine was concerned, because though her husband had said little about his family she knew that he had not come from a happy home and that he had never had any thought of building bridges. She and Simom talked about that, and they decided that they would go as a family, leaving the twins with her aunt.

After what happened there, Katherine was glad that seized the chance of a family holiday, in a cottage in the Highlands. It was idyllic, her twins, Daisy and Denis, were in their element, and their mother loved seeing the enjoying themselves, as well as enjoying her own escape.

But, of course, real life – the good things and the bad things – caught up with Katherine, allowing things to be tied up nicely and the story to reach the conclusion that I had been expecting from the start.

That ending was a little rushed but it was a very good ending; a proper conclusion but plenty of potential for a sequel.

The story is predictable. I correctly predicted how each character's storyline would play out as soon as they appeared; and I spotted so any familiar elements that appear in so many of D E Stevenson's works.

But the emotions were real, and they rang very true. D E Stevenson was very good at emotions, and at families, and at places.

Storylines and character's fates played out exactly as I wanted them too, but there was just enough depth to

the story to make it interesting; and I have to admit that I rather like this idealised era when the war was long ago, the modern age was far ahead, and the world was so much simpler and nicer.

Some of the characterisation is less than subtle; and the parts of the story that deal with bad behaviour and mental health suggest that D E Stevenson had little experience of that side of life and didn't do much in the way of research.

I'm inclined to think that she sailed blithely past those things because she liked Katherine and her family, and because she wanted to reach the Highland setting that she so clearly loved.

That allowed me to do just the same; and I have to say that this was a definite case of the right book at the right time.

Katherine says

A gentle, old-fashioned novel with a strong sense of place (Scotland) and well-drawn characters who face their problems head-on with honesty, integrity and strength. This was the perfect comfort-read for me at a time I found it particularly difficult to settle on a book, so I appreciated it even more than I might have at another time. As usual, there's a quiet depth in D.E. Stevenson's books that speaks to me and make her books wonderful additions to my personal library. This one is a keeper as well.

Julie says

I enjoyed it even more this time through, as I realized I had not reread it since our trip to Edinburgh in 2007. I loved this read through, since I could visualize places I had seen for myself, as she described walking round Edinburgh, or a trip out through the countryside, etc. Definitely made it come alive. I took some descriptive passages from the book, in a little notebook with me on our trip. Next trip want to take descriptive passages from Josephine Tey's 'Singing Sands' and go to the island with the singing sands. :)

Laura says

Another great D.E. Stevenson read :)

Mo says

Sigh... I just love books like this.
