



The Jarrow Lass

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Brought up on her parents' smallholding in Jarrow, Rose McConnell knows she is luckier than many in Tyneside during the harsh years of the 1870s. But she can't help dreaming of the world she has glimpsed in the idyllic country estate of Ravensworth where her own mother grew up. And when she captures the heart of handsome William Fawcett, who comes from a respectable family and lives in the well-to-do James Terrace, it seems her dream of a better life is finally within her reach. As the years go by she is blessed not only with a loving husband she adores, but with a home of her own and a brood of beautiful daughters who she vows will never know the hardship of her upbringing. But with the poverty of Jarrow never far away, it sometimes seems that the security of Rose's new life is as delicate as her childhood dreams...

The Jarrow Lass Details

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From Reader Review The Jarrow Lass for online ebook

Bronwyn says

Enjoyed this story, am always pleased that I was not born into a situation of poor working class subsistence in Northern England mining regions during Victorian times - life was certainly to be endured not enjoyed. Am going to read the other two books in this trilogy, I am hoping that life will get better - always the optimist

Susan says

Good book in the line of Catherine Cookson and I didn't realize it was about Catherine's grandmother so that made me like it even better. I also didn't realize it was a trilogy so it looks like I will be reading the next two. Life was hard back then! Men were not so nice either.

Shirley Revill says

I thoroughly enjoyed every word that was written on the pages of this book. Recommended.

Emma Murphy says

This book has been in my Kobo for ages. It was the type of book, in my opinion, that you left until the end, until you had read 'all the good stuff.' How wrong was I! I started this book as I had nothing else left to read and loved it. Loved it that much in fact that I have purchased the second and third in the series. The book focusses around Rose.....the Jarrow lass, and her trials and tribulations with her family, her love interests and her place in society and life in poverty. I loved this book - the author depicts life for Rose so well, and you feel her ups and downs as you read. Think Catherine Cookson, but earlier.

Grace says

I really liked this book although the lead character had a very hard life particularly with her 2nd husband. Her in-laws from her first marriage didn't treat her well and all through the book I wanted something good to happen to her.

This was a very well written book and the author drew the characters so well within the book that you could almost imagine them being real. I love to read period dramas and thoroughly enjoyed this one. I'm looking forward to reading the other 2 books in the trilogy,

Ellen says

I am a fanatic about family sagas. You will see this if you look at the genre of books I read. Janet Macleod Trotter is a wonderful writer and when you read this book you will have to read the others because the story is superb.

LindyLouMac says

Janet MacLeod Trotter is an author that I had never considered reading until my daughter purchased this trilogy for Kindle. I was surprised as not the sort of thing that I would have expected to appeal to her, in fact she thoroughly enjoyed the saga and recommended that I read them. Intrigued especially when I learnt that the story was inspired by the life of Catherine Cookson, the trilogy seemed a good choice for a holiday read. A gripping and historical family saga that spans the late 19C and the first half of the 20C with admirable heroines. Slow to start with but once I was immersed in the trials and tribulations of the family, I just wanted to keep reading. Ended up reading all three volumes, one after the other as savoured the insight into life during that period.

Survival against all odds is the recurrent theme throughout the trilogy as we follow the stories of love and sorrow through the eyes of the three female heroines and their families. The Jarrow Lass, the first in the trilogy introduces us to Rose, growing up on a small holding in Jarrow in the 1870's but dreaming of a better life in the country that she once glimpsed as a child. She thinks her dream might be in reach when she marries a steelworker, but tragedy strikes and poverty threatens.

The protagonist of the second volume A Child of Jarrow is daughter Kate who to escape problems with her step-father is sent to work in the countryside on the Ravensworth Estate. Kate soon settles into her new life but sadly finds that daring to dream leads her into trouble and she has to return home to Jarrow, where life is even more difficult to cope with.

Return to Jarrow concludes the trilogy with the story of Rose's granddaughter Catherine, though always know as Kitty. Streetwise Kitty is very bitter about her mother Kate's new husband and she is determined to escape life in the poverty stricken north east. Despite being teased by her contemporaries uneducated Kitty turns herself into an educated well spoken young lady called Catherine. Romance, heartbreak and deprivation pave the way as this spirited young lady sets off to follow her ambitions.

The trilogy was indeed a good choice for my trip. The style of writing was in fact reminiscent of Catherine Cookson whose novels I read some of in the dim distant past. Fans of Catherine Cookson in particular and those of historical fiction in general will I feel enjoy this saga. A good choice for your eBook reader for your next holiday, personally for me Ebooks will never replace the printed page but as an avid reader packing enough paperbacks for a holiday was always a nightmare!

<http://lindyloumacbookreviews.blogspot...>

Stina says

I love Catherine Cookson, so when I read that this was inspired by the life of her grandmother I just had to read it. And read it I did. I finished it in two days...reading till 3am! The story is heartbreaking yet passionate and makes us thankful for the things we have today that would be considered luxuries and more back then. You feel their sorrow and heartbreak, admire their strength and courage, and remain thankful life has

changed since then. Yet we find ourselves drawn to their plight, their tale and their story that if it weren't 3am I'd be back on Amazon buying the next in the trilogy to read now! lol. But that can wait till tomorrow...or as they would - it canny wait till the morra.

Merged review:

I love Catherine Cookson, so when I read that this was inspired by the life of her grandmother I just had to read it. And read it I did. I finished it in two days...reading till 3am! The story is heartbreaking yet passionate and makes us thankful for the things we have today that would be considered luxuries and more back then. You feel their sorrow and heartbreak, admire their strength and courage, and remain thankful life has changed since then. Yet we find ourselves drawn to their plight, their tale and their story that if it weren't 3am I'd be back here buying the next in the trilogy to read now! lol. But that can wait till tomorrow...or as they would - it canny wait till the morra.

patricia w wiktorek says

Harsh

The lives women lived back in the late 1800's and beyond is beyond belief. Horrible. Rose's struggle with the "mores" of the age are remarkable. She won and lost. I can't wait to read the next book.

Sarah Thomas says

For God's sake - HAVE ANOTHER BABY!!

This book is awful. I kept reading just because I wanted it to end! I know that women were treated horribly. I know that these were difficult times when people were highly uneducated and lived in abject poverty but my God this book was awful. If one more person died, got pregnant, was beaten by her drunk husband, got head lice, became ill, shit themselves, or whatever awful affliction the author could dream up I was going to lose it. Thank God I only paid .99 cents for this wretched tale of death and depression! And if Rose was as strong as the author likes to paint her she would have not let her drunk ass, foul mouthed husband impregnate her ever!!! And she certainly would not have let him continually beat her while spending ever last shilling on booze. I would have plotted his untimely death and under no circumstance would I have "warmed his bed." Since he was drunk 97% of the time it would have been easy. I would starve and live in the alley before I put up with half the bs she endured.

Louise says

This was brilliant, telling the life of Catherine Cooksons family. Can't believe how people used to live and managed. Have to read the rest now

Janey says

Story is well told and held my interest most of the time, but quite depressing at times, so I had to skip-read parts.

Alexander says

From a Jarrow lad this is a very well written, evocative and representative rendition of life in Jarra at that time, will be following this on with the next two in the trilogy.....well done lass you penned a reet canny read like!

Neneh says

It was an ok read, but for me, it lacked something. The story and the picture of the time was interesting enough to keep me reading, but I thought the characters felt flat and lifeless, some to the point of being stereotypical and cardboardy. Throughout the book, the heroine never evoked any interest in me, I never truly felt her as a living breathing person. I wanted to like the heroine, feel with her, be able to admire her, but none of that ever came up for me. Another point that annoyed me a bit was how quickly most scenes seemed to fly past, I could have done with a more thorough, more detailed description of some characters, places and events. Where some authors paint very vivid images in the minds of a reader, this story feels a bit rough and sketchy to me.

Sarina says

such a good book. Struggled to put it down. Read all three in the series, all fantastic. You can get completely lost in the story. Feel at a loss now I've finished them!! :-(
