



## The Honor Girl

*Marcia MacDonald , Grace Livingstone Hill*

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## The Honor Girl Details

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Author : Marcia MacDonald , Grace Livingston Hill

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## From Reader Review The Honor Girl for online ebook

### Kay says

This hard copy find from a massive library booksale is the book that introduced me to the joy of living in the past with circa 1920's novels. I love seeing into another time and the social standards of the day. Grace Livingston Hill tends to be simple and moralistic, but it's such a refreshing antidote to modern living!

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### Katrina Hosking says

Hadn't read this in years but really enjoyed reading it again. Makes me think of my mother's mom (who I never met) that had to go live with an aunt after her mother died. She never went back to live with her father and brother though, as the character Elsie in the story did.

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### Kerri says

This was a good book. Its theme is not very modern, and some readers may not appreciate it.

A girl has been raised by her aunt and uncle and has always had everything she needed. She hasn't grown up spoiled, however and she is very successful in school.

Life is not as easy for her father and brothers, and when she finds out their condition one day, she decides to help them out. She gradually gets more involved in their lives, and this helps them to also do better for themselves.

I just gave this book three stars, I don't think it is one of the best. There are two things I really appreciated about it, though. First, it deals wisely and gracefully with the subject of alcoholism. In most of Mrs. Hill's books, the plotlines are neatly tied up. This is one where everything is not so perfect. But we are not led to believe that the virtue of the female character is all that is needed to correct the problem of alcoholism. Second, this book does distinguish between the worldly achievements of the heroine and her nobility of character. She is first "the honor girl" because of her excellence in her educational career. Later, she becomes "the honor girl" because of her excellence in character.

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### Becky says

Well it is a classic and has some noble ideas about women but being the modern gal that I am I had a little bit of an uneasy feeling that this portrayal of an intelligent women giving up her dreams to sacrifice for her family was a little unbalanced. This book bristled my feminist side.

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### Erika R. says

Very Good!

### **Jerry says**

Not as good as I've come to expect from this author.

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### **Anna says**

This was a difficult book, I fully support women working to make a home for their families, I can even go so far as that it may be the most important thing they do, but this book, or at least some of the characters in this book, imply that it is the only thing women are good for, and that really irks me. I don't think that GLH really supports that view but it is an impression you could get from reading this. Other than that the story was good as far as it went, Elsie is a nice strong lead who sets to work and gets things done, but it ends very abruptly just as our heroine has gotten everything started. I will have to do some research and find out if there is a sequel.

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### **Cynthia Pratt says**

This book was written originally back in 1929 and may not be deemed politically correct in present day. GLH wrote Christian books where people were faced with the problems of life and love and triumphed. I have read others and this one is not her best. There is also something wrong with the timeline as she has Elsie leaving home at 8 years old and living with her aunt for 5 years. That would only make her 13 years old. From the story I would put her age closer to 18.

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### **Scribs says**

Beautiful writing! What happens to the girl that has it all after high school? Is she "honorable" to the core? What will she do when she sees her brother and dad living in dire conditions, will she abandon her life of ease to help them? Can she "give up" such a bright future?

The answers to these questions surprised and delighted me. My only comment is that this really isn't a romance but just a delightful story. Completely clean and darling.

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### **Bookworm says**

While the wealthy heroine manages to clean a whole disheveled house in not even a whole day, plus bake a tasty dinner, that is one of the parts of this book that I find so interesting and amusing, and the fact that she has such a sweet family of grown brothers and her Dad. makes it a read worth keeping.

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## Charlene says

This is one of my single favorite books of all time. I re read it every couple of years :) It brings me back to my childhood, when I read it the first time, and I can see how she evolved, and how I've grown up :)

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## Rhonda says

I've often compared the women in Grace Livingston Hill's books to the women in Agatha Christie's as they both had books published during the same time period.

There isn't one woman in Hill's books (that's not on the dark side) who drinks, smokes, plays cards, dances (and divorce is that terrible word never thought of).

Christie's women are the complete opposite--drinking, dancing and partying are many times a way of life, plus so many are divorced are wanting one.

Are Christie's women evil and Hill's women saints? I believe many of Hill's heroines take their belief system too far, though it's understandable since she wrote Christian books, and the women are most likely set up as role models for young girls.

Though the women are extremely trusting of men they hardly know and fall in love almost immediately. The characters in her books believe they know a decent man just on the basis of meeting him, and every bad man shows his faults from the start. This situation is misleading--we all know that evil can be covered up with fine manners and a flair for words.

Christie's main characters live a more flamboyant lifestyle, but that doesn't make them wrong, just different. Would the protagonist from *The Honor Girl* care for one of Christie's characters? Maybe no, but they might find something rare and good in each other and overlook the others faults of being too saintly or not saintly enough.

Though Christie's characters are better at concealing the evil that dwells inside, hidden by smiles, actions and kind words. It's shocking to find out the character that I liked the most turns out to be a murdering fiend.

*The Honor Girl* is my favorite book by Grace Hill though the beginning part is rather boring. Elsie is so beloved by everyone for her brilliance in her studies and athletics.

After her mother died, she left her father and two brothers to live with her aunt. She hates to even visit her old home and rarely speak to the men she left behind.

One Saturday she must go to her old home to retrieve a book, and she finds her brothers and father live in great filth and poverty. She doesn't understand since they all work and can afford a maid to clean for them. Standing in horror while looking around the large house, she remembers her father asked her in the last year to move home. At this point, I want her to run and never look back, but she starts to think of the youngest brother, and how his sheets are ripped to shreds and he covers up with coats and an old shawl that belonged to her mother.

She decides to spend the day cleaning and cooking a decent meal, leaving before they arrive home, so as in doubt who their house fairy is.

She hires two women (this part is racist now and should have been racist back then) to help her clean, and orders several items from a department store. The three women are able to make the house comfortable, plus Elsie is able to make all the beds with new sheets and comforters, and add many other normal conveniences such as towels.

This was a time period when a 12 hour/6 day work week was mandatory, and no one is at home nor will they be home until evening, so she has the entire day to make this happen and finishes the meal minutes before the men arrive home.

After arriving back at her Aunt's house, she realizes that she's not happy away from her family and starts to think about moving back home. Every Saturday she goes back and to add more comfort to the home, and her brothers find her. Oh, how they love her, and she can't resist any longer to be away from the home she should never have left.

Elsie has many trials along the way--her father is an alcoholic, and she wants her brothers to attend college which they finally kowtow to her wishes. Along the way, she meets the love of her life as it wouldn't be a Grace Livingston Hill book without a love story looming.

I read this book several times a year, it's a nice change from zombie books and it's quite satisfying, and I love books about my God.

This review is from my blog: <http://somanymorebookssolittletime.blogspot.com>

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### **Andrea says**

GLH has not written one book that I have not enjoyed. I have all of her books. Some first editions. I really like this book, if only our country could go back to the standards of that time when a homemaker was appreciated and looked upon with respect.

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### **Dianna says**

This book is far from politically correct, but you have to remember that it was written in 1927. This book is written from the view that women belong in the home, and also that no one can take a woman's place in the home.

While I admit to chuckling a bit over the men who lived in a junk pile and didn't seem to know how to clean up after themselves, and the fact that everything was better once the sister came home, I did enjoy the story.

This book has plenty of housekeeping details, which is my favorite thing about Grace Livingston Hill's books, and this is her first book that I read that doesn't end (view spoiler). I have to admit I was quite relieved at that: after all, the heroine is in high school.

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### **Kristine Hansen says**

This is one of my favorite stories of all time. A girl who has grown up privileged with relatives who are rather worldly and shallow, returns to her father and brothers. It's a difficult life, where depression and squalor have crept into the house. But again and again this scrappy girl manages to change not only the lives they live on the surface, but also they find their truer selves.

I have seen firsthand what a difference surroundings makes in anyone's life. This book underscores this in perhaps a somewhat heavy-handed way, but the transformation is a beautiful one and I like how this girl doesn't wait around for a prince to come rescue her, but makes a plan, and buckles down to do the hard work required to make a genuine change in the life of those she loves.

I've probably read this book a dozen times now, and I have come away happy and content with each reading. I hope to read it a dozen more times yet. :)

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