



The Ladies of Missalonghi

By Colleen McCullough

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Sometimes fairy toles can come true-even for plain,shy spinsters like Missy Wright. Neither as pretty as cousin Alicianor as domineering as mother Drusilla, she seems doomed to a quiet life of near poverty at Missalonghi, her family's pitifullysmall homestead in Australia's Blue Mountains. But It's a brandnew century-the twentieth-a time for new thoughts and boldnew actions. And Missy Wright is about to set every self-righteous tongue in the town of Byron wagging. Because she hasjust set her sights on a mysterious, mistrusted and unsuspectingstranger ... who just might be Prince-Charming in disguise.

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The Ladies of Missalonghi By Colleen McCullough Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #583275 in Books
- Brand: Avon
- Published on: 1988-04-01
- Released on: 1988-04-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.75" h x .48" w x 4.19" l, .21 pounds
- Binding: Mass Market Paperback
- 189 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Like a box of chocolates, this short novel by McCullough is seductive and satisfying; readers will want to devour it in one sitting. Set in the early 1900s in the tiny town of Byron, nestled in the Australia's Blue Mountains, it tells of the blossoming of Missy Wright, 33-year-old spinster and poor relation of the town's ruling family, the Hurlingfords. Missy, her widowed mother and crippled aunt live in genteel poverty, victims of the Hurlingford inheritance policy that gives riches and power to the male members of the family, who heartlessly abuse the women they dominate. Plain, painfully thin and doomed to dress always in serviceable brown, shockingly dark-haired in a clan of luminous blondes, Missy seems fated for da dreary future until a distant cousin, a divorcee, arrives from Sydney. Under her tutelage, Missy acquires spunk, hope and the means to a happy ending. This is an endearing tale, exuding an old-fashioned sentimentality, yet wittily told. McCullough indulges in gentle social satire, even as she uses the stock character of a mysterious stranger to introduce suspense and romance. As miniaturized in scale as *The Thornbirds* was vast, this first volume in Harper's new Short Novel Series again demonstrates the author's narrative skill. 100,000 first printing; \$100,000 ad/promo; Reader's Digest Condensed Books selection; Literary Guild alternate; author tour.

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From Library Journal

McCullough returns to Australiathis time in the years before World War Iin this diverting short novel. Her heroine, thirtyish spinster Missy, is a poor relation of the wealthy Hurlingford clan, who virtually own the town of Byron. The male Hurlingfords and their pampered wives have for years oppressed and defrauded those Hurlingford women unlucky enough to marry poorly or not at all. When mysterious Una arrives in town, however, she lights a spark of rebellion in repressed, downtrodden Missy. By novel's end Missy will have a husband, the oppressed will be rescued, and the oppressors neatly parted from their wealth and power. While the novel is riddled with sentimental cliches, Missy's transformation and the neatly ironic reversal of family fortunes are very satisfying. Recommended for popular fiction collections. Literary Guild dual selection. Beth Ann Mills, New Rochelle P.L., N.Y.

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Review

"A master Storyteller"--"Los Angeles Times" "Lovely, refreshing, sensitive, wise and triumphant"--
"Publishers Weekly""Delicious.. it's old fashioned enough to have a happy ending. Only a churl wouldn't enjoy it."--"New York Daily News

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jean Young:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open as well as read a book eligible *The Ladies of Missalonghi*? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with its opinion or

you have additional opinion?

Joseph Dolezal:

Reading can be called mind hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book especially book entitled The Ladies of Missalonghi your brain will drift away through every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a publication then become one application form conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get ahead of. The The Ladies of Missalonghi giving you yet another experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful facts for your better life with this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

Nicole Williams:

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Barbara Kyle:

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