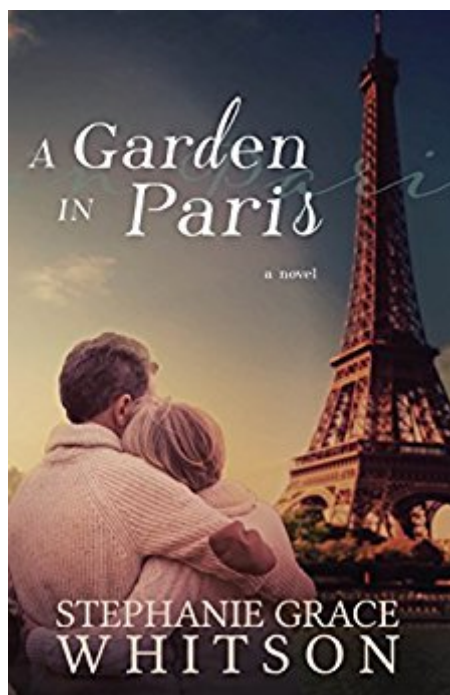


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A Garden In Paris



Synopsis

After 26 years as the trophy wife of a powerful man, Mary Davis is both a widow with no sense of identity and a mother who doesn't know how to bridge the gap between herself and her increasingly distant daughter. When Mary finds a framed motto promising that it's never too late to be who you might have been, she is haunted by the memory of an old flame and guilt over the way things ended between them. In a desperate attempt to reconcile the past and find a new future, Mary returns to Paris, the city where she won and lost her first love. Paris will change everything for Mary and her daughter, in ways neither could imagine.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A Garden in Paris I discovered on my kindle one afternoon, and started reading it, uncertain as to what style of book I was reading. Was it a fiction or a Christian fiction. Even as I came to a close with the story, despite the introduction of Christianity within the pages, the preaching within wasn't overt. The story is about Mary and her life, or the start of her new life. She is a widow and after nearly a year of just going through the motions of life, she has decided to rediscover who she really

is. Who the person was before she married Sam Davis. So she flies off to Paris and rediscovers herself. In the meantime, we have her daughter Elizabeth who is so confused as to the change in the mother that she has always known, and wonders who this strange creature is. Did she not ever know her? In Paris, discoveries and new experiences help Mary rediscover herself, while reintroducing her to her daughter. It took some searching to discover that Whitson writes for Bethany House, a Christian publishing house. But, like I mentioned above, the book is not overtly Christian. So while someone who isn't Christian may be bothered by the elements of religion, there are those on the opposite side of the spectrum who will think that the book was not religious enough. If anything, I could see this book as a successful crossover into a mixed media market. Overall I did enjoy the book and traveling along with Mary as she experiences life. The end of the book just ended and I had to search around online to discover there was book two. I downloaded this book from for my own reading pleasure.

This book left me with a lot of thoughts. Mary doesn't know who she is after her husband of twenty-six years dies. Mary has secrets and regrets. Because of the dynamics of her marriage, Liz, her daughter has no respect for her mother. Mary contemplates killing herself, but decides to write her first love in Paris. She goes to Paris to wait to see if Jean-Marc will meet her in the Notre Dame Garden. She arrives two weeks early because of a fight with her daughter. While visiting all the old places, Mary reflects on her marriage, her relationship with Liz and who she used to be before Sam. Liz has no idea of who her mother was before her father, and learns from the housekeeper some things about her mother. Liz follows her mother to Paris two days after she meets up with Jean-Marc. Liz has to deal with her feelings of the things she finds out about her mother and herself. Mary has to learn to live with herself and who she is after denying herself for over 26 years. My first thought is that when we reach the age when our spouse is gone and our children are grown. How do we go on? Is it possible to recapture the young woman I used to be? What is my relationship with my children? Will it survive, get better or worse? Although the author leaves the relationship of Mary and Jean-Marc up in the air, I leave with a sense that Mary will find her way. This book is well written and provokes deep thought.

Nowhere does it say that this has a sequel and is a series. Turns out it is. And the author left the book totally unresolved with no ending. So to find out some kind of ending, you will have to purchase the next book. Plus, the book wasn't even that enjoyable. French words/sentences were interspersed throughout the book, not necessary! And lots of history/places in Paris, which was

boring. I am very disappointed. And I won't be purchasing the sequel/series. Even if a book is a series or has a sequel, the author should at least have some kind of closure at the end of the book.

The author has realistically described the characters and their personalities as their strengths and weaknesses are revealed. This is a story of dual quests, one of self and one of God. Within the pages there is a lesson of time. I hope other readers enjoy this book as much as I did. I thank the author for an enjoyable yet, thought provoking story.

I thought this might be a sappy read, but it was far from it! It was full of Mary's angst, insight, fears, faith search, and the hope of joy filled living! It made me look inside myself for answers to the questions she was asking. Could hardly put it down! While I've never travelled to Paris, I think I might like to go now! Great book...insightful author!

As I read Ms. Whitson's descriptions of so much of Paris, it made me feel like I was in France all over again. The characters are so real and nothing is predictable, as most books are, and yet every move is logical and fit the personality and drives of each person. The description of how each individual came to accept the Lord is so typical. We fight and struggle against moving toward our God, and then the ease of fitting into the life-changing acceptance of the Lord into our heart is so gentle and yet swift. Personally, I find Ms. Whitson a genius at her trade. I cannot wait to read the second part!!

I loved this book and could not put it down. However, when I reached the end I wanted to scream. We were left dangling. I hate not knowing if she and Jean Marc reunited in their love. How did Luc fit into the picture? What happened to Liz and Jeff? What happened to the Davis business? There were so many unanswered questions that it almost made me sorry to have enjoyed the book so much.

It really is that good! Honestly I could not put this book down. What a wonderful story and so beautifully written. I am drawn to mother daughter stories but this was exceptional. Stephanie Grace Whitson's writing style is so easy and rich at the same time. I can't wait to read more from her.

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