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Butterfly Island



Synopsis

From the bestselling author of *The Moonlit Garden* comes the sweeping, romantic tale of one woman's quest across two continents and one hundred years of history to unearth her family's deepest secret. Diana Wagenbach is the sole survivor in a withering family tree fraught with secrets. When the first in a trail of clues is handed down to Diana by her great-aunt on her deathbed, along with a plea to assuage their family's guilt by revealing all, Diana obliges. She follows the clues—a picture here, a letter there, a pressed frangipani flower in a book—that carry her away from her philandering husband in Berlin to a charming manor in England and all the way to a tea plantation in Sri Lanka. Diana unravels the dramatic tale of her great-great-grandmother, Grace Tremayne, with the aid of Jonathan Singh, a local historian and writer—and someone with whom she feels a deep bond that sparks into romance. As Grace's tragic past in exotic colonial Ceylon is revealed and the family's sins come to light, Diana finds inspiration in her ancestor's courage and begins to rethink what happiness—and love—is worth, and how the surest route to peace is in setting the truth free.

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Customer Reviews

Ms. Boman once again wove a tale that had the reader trying to piece together pieces of a puzzle right until the very end. Reads very similar to Moonlit Garden, but I must confess, I enjoyed Moonlit Garden far more as there were more pieces to the puzzle and the story had more depth. Still, if you like stories that vacillate between modern and colonial times this is a good read.

Anytime a book can let you travel to another time and place while teaching you something about a culture it's a great book. Not knowing a lot about tea, for example how it's grown was very interesting, and to intertwine it with a captivating story line was a plus.

I absolutely loved this book! Beautifully written, and brought to life in my mind's eye. A great history lesson, and I would now love to visit Sri Lanka. Highly recommend.

I really enjoyed this book and I have to say it took me in directions I hadn't anticipated. Good characters and a really intriguing story. Highly recommend.

A remarkable read for those of us whom enjoys historical fiction. A typical male dominated time period when all women could do is to surrender to the dominate male s"

Lovely book with an added touch of history and culture. Mystery and romance abound. A little bit of intrigue for everyone! I loved this book and it was easy to get lost in the pages and forget the time. I will definitely be looking for more to read by this author.

Butterfly Island by author Corina Bomann and translator Alison Layland is a wonderful story which is written layered in time, history, and characters past and present. The story is beautifully written and the imagery of the places was very integral to the telling of the multi-generational story. I did not understand fully about the book's title, Butterfly Island, until I was in part two. During the telling of the story you will be in several places in Europe, from Berlin, to London, and to Sri Lanka. You will read of a beautiful tea plantation and of ancient customs which were thought to be forgotten. This book is best read when you are in a mood for a slower paced novel. This is an experience which is telling a family story, reaching back to find answers to a family mystery, and helping the present day Diana

Wagenbach discover secrets about her family history. As I read the book I made a short notation of some of the characters so I could keep the family connections straight. This might be helpful for other readers as well. The story opens with a letter to Grace from her younger sister Victoria which was written about 1888. Something has happened to separate the sisters. Then in the 1945 prologue we meet Beatrice (a granddaughter of Grace) requesting shelter at the home of Daphne Stanwick, (daughter of Victoria) an aunt she has never met and Emily, a cousin. Beatrice is pregnant, her mother and husband have been killed during the war and she is in need of help. In chapter one it is 2008 and we meet Diana, (a great niece of Emily) and her unfaithful husband Philipp. Diana receives a call that her aunt Emily in London has suffered a stroke. Aunt Emily has asked that Diana come to see her while she is still able to speak. We find out there is a secret which needs to be told. I enjoyed this story and felt emotionally connected to some of the characters before their story had been told.

Wonderful book, I have enjoyed each of C. Bomann's books rich in history

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