



## Seven Tears for Apollo

*Phyllis A. Whitney*

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## **Seven Tears for Apollo** Phyllis A. Whitney

Distraught over tragic recent events in her life, Dorcas Brandt travels to Greece in search of peace. But in Rhodes, Dorcas discovers a mysterious warning scrawled on her mirror--a warning that disappears before she can show it to anyone. Dorcas begins to wonder is she's losing her mind. Reissue.

## **Seven Tears for Apollo Details**

Date : Published January 28th 1992 by HarperCollins Publishers (first published 1963)

ISBN : 9780061002564

Author : Phyllis A. Whitney

Format : Mass Market Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Mystery, Romance, Romantic Suspense, Fiction, Gothic, Gothic Romance, Suspense

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## From Reader Review Seven Tears for Apollo for online ebook

### Lynn Spencer says

**B- at AAR, so 3.5 stars here** This month's TBR challenge, reading one of the classics, had me scratching my head for a little bit. Did I want to reach for one of those books that could be considered part of the romance canon (to the degree we have one), or did I want to pick a classic trope or author? In the end, I decided on **Seven Tears for Apollo**. When we start talking about old school romantic suspense or gothics online, certain names tend to pop up. Mary Stewart, Victoria Holt, Barbara Michaels – all have their fans. However, Phyllis Whitney is one of those names that seems to be mentioned almost as an afterthought.

I've read a few Phyllis Whitney novels, all historicals, and I did enjoy them. However, I had yet to read one of her contemporaries and so I gave this one a whirl. Written in 1962, it captures a world that for 21st century readers feels like a curious blend of old and new.

The spineless heroine drove me completely nuts at times, but otherwise I enjoyed this meander through 1960s Greece and I'd probably give it a B-.

This is a partial review. You can find the complete text at AAR: <http://www.likesbooks.com/blog/?p=125...>

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### Katerina says

The plot is taking place in Rhodos and I enjoyed really a lot the descriptions of the surroundings and the small towns. The book has the aura of the 60s and I am pretty sure that Rhodos is not like this anymore unfortunately. The plot itself is a bit strange. It becomes maybe a bit tiring with the constant psychological fight between Dorkas and Fernanda or her husband. I am not sure if I liked it or not. I had a strange taste in the end. I enjoyed the presence of Johnny Orion, as he was the most stable one and without shadows. The fight of evil and good. throughout the whole book. Some characters are clearly from one side or the other and some of them are stepping in the middle. A tiny detail I liked was the name of the main character: Dorkas or in greek Δορκας.

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### Linda says

What pleased me in high school, annoys me now. The lead character is weak willed, namby pamby, and needs rescuing from a man by a man. I just want to scream at her.

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### Ranell says

Phyllis Whitney is a reliable "fluff" author.

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### **Sheri South says**

This must have been a rather risky book for its time (1963), as there was much more of a stigma attached to mental illness than there is today. Falsely committed to a "nursing home" before the book starts, Dorcas has learned to cope by tamping down her emotions and appearing to go along with the wishes of her husband and his foster mother; the alternative is to be separated from her 3-year-old daughter as an unfit mother. Unfortunately, this comes across on the page as a too-passive heroine who doesn't stand up for herself or her child until far too late in the book. I thought, too, that hubby's foster mother, Fernanda, got off far too lightly in the end. One can argue that she was forced to take off the rose-colored glasses and see him as he really was, but given that she had made excuses for him throughout the entire book, I was left with the impression that it wouldn't be long before she mentally re-scripted events to cast him in a more favorable light. Although the ending is somewhat ambiguous, I found myself hoping Dorcas and new love interest Johnny would cut all ties with her.

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### **Deborah says**

See Quicksilver Pool.

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### **Regan says**

Whitney never disappoints. This one was a white knuckle page turner. She's just one of the all time best.

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### **Lauren says**

I did not really like this story very much, it just did not capture my interest like many of her other ones.

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### **Deborah Gebhardt says**

What do you do when you think you're finally free from an abusive relationship, but there is someone watching you? And what do you do when you can't trust the people who are supposed to be helping you?

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### **Everydayreader1 says**

Dorcas Brandt is attempting to recover from tragedy she has experienced, part of which landed her in a nursing home, for a time, because her husband convinced everyone of her mental instability. All she wants is to get her life back on track and take care of her four-year-old daughter. After some unnerving events, following her husband's death, she travels to Greece, but these occurrences also follow her, and it is up to her to decide whether to give in to self-doubt or solve the mystery of these events and move forward with her life.

I read this book as a young girl, and wanted to revisit it. Very much worth the reread. Phyllis A. Whitney will always remain a favorite of mine.

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### **Pam says**

AUTHOR Whitney, Phyllis

TITLE: Seven Tears for Apollo

DATE READ 02/13/2018

RATING 4.5/B+

GENRE/ PUB DATE/PUBLISHER / # OF Suspense/1963/Kindle/224 pages

SERIES/STAND-ALONE SA

FIRST LINES: The museum's statue of Apollo was a copy.

CHARACTERS Dorcas Brandt, young widow; Gino Nikkaris/fine art dealer

TIME/PLACE: 1963, Greece

COMMENTS It has been many years since I read Phyllis Whitney ... and I was not at all disappointed. In fact, this exceeded my expectations ... a solid story, well-developed characters, plot twists and written well. Definitely holds up over time. Dorcas is a young widow and mother of a 6-yr-old daughter. She travels with a friend to Greece and learns more about her husband's nefarious dealings in the art world.

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### **Irvina says**

Enjoyed this when I was a teen, but very shallow.

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### **Janette says**

needs a stronger heroine!

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### **Arismere says**

Em Sete Lágrimas para Apolo, a protagonista, Dorcas Brandt, na esperança de fugir dos estranhos incidentes que a atormentam desde a morte de seu misterioso e violento marido Gino (ela crê estar sendo perseguida pelos homens com quem o marido mantinha negócios ilícitos envolvendo objetos de arte) viaja para a ilha de Rhodes com sua pequena filha, a "madrasta" de Gino e um conhecido desta. Para pavor de Dorcas a perseguição continua em Rhodes e de repente ela se vê envolvida em algo muito mais complicado do que esperava.

Bem, este é um dos romances menos conhecidos de Whitney e um dos raros em que a história se passa fora das Américas. Foi difícil para mim não compará-lo com os muitos livros de Mary Stewart que também se passam na Grécia e que são fantásticos, tanto no desenvolvimento da trama quanto na ambientação. Whitney não consegue se sair bem em nenhum destes quesitos.

O enredo de Sete Lágrimas é fraco e a personagem principal é tão depressiva e insegura que se torna

irritante. Eu entendo que ela é uma mulher frágil tentando se recuperar de um casamento abusivo, mas não consegui sentir muita empatia por ela, além disso, até o fim do livro não compreendi porque uma mulher como ela se casou com alguém como Gino.

Meu maior problema com a história, no entanto, diz respeito a relação de Dorcas com Fernanda Ferrar, a pessoa que ocupava o lugar de mãe na vida de Gino. Fernanda me deixou muito irritada com a sua convicção de que Gino era um anjo perfeito, marido amoroso e que Dorcas era uma pessoa desequilibrada emocionalmente e psicologicamente.

Fernanda supervisionava a vida da filha de Dorcas com Gino como se fosse sua avó, passando por cima das decisões de Dorcas, que na maioria das vezes agradecia por este cuidado e não revelava a Fernanda o terror que fora seu casamento. O que acaba por acontecer é uma constante batalha de vontades geralmente ganhas por Fernanda. Dorcas sempre acaba por voltar atrás acatando as decisões alheias, alegando para si mesma que a pessoa em questão tinha bons motivos para dizer ou fazer o que fazia, que ela é quem estava errada, que ela deveria repensar tudo... minha nossa, isso me deixou muito irritada. Páginas e páginas com esta mulher realmente incapaz de fazer algo por si mesma sem mudar de ideia porque os outros assim desejavam, especialmente Fernanda. Dorcas não é uma mulher, é uma ratazana!

Difícil de entender também é porque Dorcas acreditou que Rhodes seria um lugar seguro, uma vez que era a terra de origem de seu falecido marido e onde ela suspeitava que ele mantinha negócios. Nem se quer ela tenta descobrir em que o marido estava envolvido, na esperança de resolver seus problemas, obcecada apenas com a ideia de encontrar a esposa do melhor amigo de seu pai, que tentara ajudá-la a fugir de Gino mas que fora atropelado e morrera (que dúvida que Gino fora quem atropelara o pobre homem). Depois da morte do marido a mulher se fora para Rhodes.

Sobre o mocinho, ele aparece pouco e não é realmente importante para o desenvolvimento da trama.

Repetidas vezes desconfia das palavras de Dorcas e não acredita que ela esteja sendo perseguida ou que corra perigo. Não é possível simpatizar muito com alguém que não apoia a mulher por quem diz estar apaixonado. Bem, talvez se ele tivesse tido mais cenas no livro teria sido mais fácil simpatizar com ele ou até mesmo sentir algo por ele que não indiferença.

Sete Lágrimas para Apolo tem uma trama lenta, detendo-se em descrever o estado psicológico da protagonista e sem envolver na parte descritiva (você não sente que está no lugar, infelizmente) e o romance é mais do que morno; o casal de protagonistas carece de charme e interesse.

Sou uma fã de Whitney, embora confesse que alguns de seus livros me frustraram; este Sete Lágrimas para Apolo é um deles, mas mesmo assim recomendo. É uma literatura mais do que interessante se comparada com o que temos visto a venda por aí.

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## Maura says

This is another one of those really old romance/suspense novels. This one actually has the heroine affected by many issues that are at the forefront of our society today - mental health, domestic abuse and PTSD (although it was never known as that back then). And another character in it is a writer who travels the world gathering material for her non-fiction adventure books - perhaps Whitney injected a little of herself into this one, as she was known for visiting the locations around the world where she set her novels. Made me wonder how much of the behavior of this fictional diva resembled Whitney herself.

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