



# Lighthouse

*Eugenia Price*

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## **Lighthouse** Eugenia Price

From the New York Times best-selling author Eugenia Price, *Lighthouse* is the saga of James Gould, a young man raised in the post-Revolution North who realizes his dream of designing and building a lighthouse on St. Simons Island in Georgia after much hardship and success.

## **Lighthouse Details**

Date : Published July 1st 1999 by Turner (first published 1971)

ISBN : 9781577361541

Author : Eugenia Price

Format : Paperback 352 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Christian Fiction, Romance

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## From Reader Review Lighthouse for online ebook

### Bethany says

Somehow I was under the impression that this was a book about a man who wanted to build a lighthouse he could live in. Turns out, I was right about everything but the living in it part. Kind of disappointing because I think it would be cool to live in a lighthouse... Oh, well.

This book was very... solid and.... um, I don't know. I didn't enjoy very much. I read the whole book with a more than slight disinterest and I didn't smile, outwardly or inwardly, even once while reading. I need humour! Be it subtle, wry, gentle, it's a necessary ingredient to make a good book for me. Ah, and the characters were... forgettable.

The main character fell in love at first sight *twice*. The first time didn't work out, obviously, but he didn't learn his lesson! The second time worked out, of course. Still, love at first sight almost always irritates me in books (as I've mentioned before). It also strikes me as being lazy on the author's part.

Actually, after James (the main character) tells girl #2 he fell in love with her the first time he saw her, this is what she says:

*"What if I had looked like--a witch--ugly, hideous? With crossed eyes and protruding teeth?"*

Exactly! This is why love at first sight is stupid. Anyway, he just replies something inane about being told she was lovely, he doesn't know why he loves her blah blah blah. And then girl #2 admits she wanted to marry him the first time she laid eyes on him.

....To put it mildly, she instantly lost favour with me.

I'm not sure whether I will continue with this series or not. Interestingly enough, though this is the first in the series, it was written last. How very George Lucas-esque

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### Laura says

Good book; interesting man; beautifully written.

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### Patti says

I thought I had read this book many years ago as I have always loved St. Simons, GA, the setting for the story. Having just visited the island and surrounding areas to tour 14 historic churches, I was once again interested in Eugenia Price's historical novel. I am so glad I came home and checked it out. It has been the perfect story to enjoy as spring turns to summer. I learned more about James Gould and his family and the story of how he came to build the LIghthouse at St. Simons while enjoying the romance and setting. I am looking forward to a great beach read of *New Moon Rising*... the second in the trilogy. These books are not Pulitzer Prize winners nor complicated story lines. But they are satisfying reads enjoyed in between the heavy stuff.

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## **Nancy H says**

What a wonderful story! This has been sitting on my shelf for a long time waiting to be read, and now I wish I had read it sooner. It is the first in a trilogy of historical fiction, and is set in several states, with the main part of the story taking place in northern Florida and Georgia. James Gould is a talented builder and timber man whose life is a roller coaster of good times and tragedy. It is fiction but based on the real people who developed islands off the coast of Georgia as well as Savannah. It is definitely a good read.

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## **Beckie Burnham says**

My church book club, Page Turners, picked Eugenia Price's novel, Lighthouse, for our September selection because it is considered a classic for those interested in the historic South and in particular the coast of Georgia. The novel was the third book written by Price, but chronologically it is first in her St. Simon's Trilogy. Set in the years following the American Revolution and filled with real people and places, this is a must read for fans of historical fiction. The novel had been out of print for a number of years, but is now being reissued, along with many of Price's other books.

Most of the characters in Lighthouse are historic. James Gould was a young man with a dream to build a lighthouse. Price follows James from his humble roots in Granville, Massachusetts through his accomplishments in building, timber, cotton planting and of course the building of the St. Simon's lighthouse. Extensive research by the author, as well as a deft writing hand, make this novel beautifully crafted as well as historically accurate. James Gould is a very interesting character. He is single-minded in his work, faithful to his family and fair and even-handed in his dealings with his people, or slaves. But he is also a proud man who takes himself very seriously. Independent and uncomplaining, he also finds forgiveness hard. Many of his virtues become faults when not mixed with mercy and grace.

Written in 1972, I think Lighthouse would probably not have found a publisher in the secular world of today. Its worldview, with a natural expression of faith from its characters, makes it definitely read like a Christian novel. And in fact it is. Price took her Christian faith seriously. The issue of slavery in the novel is one case in point. It is portrayed as it probably was, with both good and bad slaveholders. But it in no way condones slavery. It portrays slavery as an insidious evil that lured men away from their convictions. Gould is anti-slavery at the beginning of the novel, yet by the end owns many slaves on his cotton plantation. Those with conscience viewed slavery as a necessary evil during the years before the Civil War. A necessary means to an end. But no matter how good the conditions, owning another human was and is wrong. Turning a blind eye did not make it go away. And neither does it today when there are still so many forced into slavery.

Recommended.

Audience: older teens to adults

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## **Terra Kelly says**

This is a fun, easy read that sets the stage for a great vacation on St. Simon's Island.

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## **Melanie says**

St. Simons is where we take our spring holidays so this was a very interesting read.

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## **Katherine Coble says**

I do try very hard to read books with a mind to the different values of the time in which they were written. Reading this one now, hard on the heels of a bloody 2014, on the Eve of Martin Luther King day, was a jarring experience.

Part of the book's story was watching this Yankee transplanted to Georgia come to grips with owning slaves. It's all rationalised very prettily. But he still BOUGHT AND OWNED HUMANS.

Worse, though, are the passages about how happy his slaves are, how he is the best master and the best white man alive. Any time a slave speaks, it is rendered in patois. This is so troubling to me because it's precisely these fairy tales we white people tell ourselves that bleeds into the world and ends up with what we have now.

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## **~mad says**

Excellent re-read!

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## **Kathy says**

Enjoyed reading this first in the trilogy, enough to want to find the second book and continue learning about the Gould family. This story is based on historical happenings beginning in the 1780's up to approximately 1820.

If you are interested in history, lighthouses, St. Simons Island or a person full filling a dream this is a book for you.

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## **Joyce says**

I read Eugenia Price's books years ago. I liked them then. I find much more depth to them now, being decades older.

This is the first of the St. Simons' trilogy. When I first read this book I was likely still living in New England, had not been anywhere else yet. Now I have lived away for over a decade (this time) and long for home. Because of that I think I can identify strongly with James Gould's character, which was in fact a real person.

Almost a decade ago I made a brief side trip to Savannah. I tried and failed to find St. Simons. I did see the light at Tybee Island, and a good bit of historic Savannah, and Charleston, which made reading this book all the more enjoyable, in spite of the changes even since the book was written.

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As to the writing, if one can dare to review Miss Price's superb writing. I'm thankful it is not in the first person. It is from James Gould's point of view, but in such a clever way that others are drawn in as well. In some ways I wish the book were more romantic and less realistic. That is how I remember her books. There were some difficult passages of life, but they were real, and dealt with as such.

There are so many levels in this book. There are cultural differences, character development, relational issues, family, political, personal aspiration, friendship, and the difficulty of maintaining one's livelihood amidst the perils and turmoils of the day. All of these issues are seen within the framework of the individual's faith in God, which is peripheral throughout the book. Only at one point does it come to a head, and that very tactfully.

Such a good read. When it has finished soaking in, I will read the next book in the series, *New Moon Rising*.

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### **Colleen says**

This book was recommended to me by a friend. If you like historical fiction, then you will enjoy this book. Bonus points for if you have ever been to St Simons Island, GA. For those that know me well, my favorite place on earth is Sea Island GA. These 2 islands are adjacent. When I visited there, the island became a part of me. This book allowed my imagination to go back to that beautiful place. I plan to finish the trilogy.

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### **Jackie says**

I was on St. Simons Island in April of 2016 and decided to read this trilogy about the island. Lighthouse is the first book, although it was the last one of this series written by Ms. Price. The story line is about James Gould (the builder of the Lighthouse), his life and the people he knew. Although the book is fiction, Ms. Price did considerable research on the events and people involved at the time. True to real life, there are many hardships and relationships to be discovered. Slavery and vicious attacks by the Creek Indians are part of the life in the early 1800s. I will be finishing this trilogy.

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### **Trina says**

Well, I'm glad to know a little more of the history of the island and the region. It seems like it was carefully researched. But it is all exposition. Things happen, in order, but there's no atmosphere, no interesting description, no character development. There are also big jumps in the timeline that I found irritating. I did want to know what was going to happen, and the protagonists are likeable enough, but definitely in no way a great novel.

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### **Gayle England says**

#### **Fascinating story about real people!!**

This set of stories about the Gould family who make up a fascinating part of St. Simon's Island, GA history are hard to put down. I HAD to keep reading last into the nights. I love the island and enjoyed learning about

a part of its history. If I could, I too would live out my life there. I suggest you get all books and read them sequentially. You will not want to miss a thing! Reading these wonderfully written stories has enriched my life!

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