



Claire's Song

Sunny Alexander

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After a painful breakup and a romantic reunion, all Kathleen Moore and Claire Hollander yearn for is an idyllic life filled with adventures and unique ways to make love.

They are living happily in their Queen Anne Victorian home, nestled safely in the storybook town of Canfield. Surrounded and supported by friends Gayle and Robert Sutherland, Helen and Sam Hughes, and Sherriff Linc Hathaway, they may have at last found the life they have longed for.

Just when it seems they may be able to dance through life, a major obstacle divides them: Claire, a bit of a screwball, and famous for having occasional tantrums when she doesn't get her way, wants to have a baby—and what Claire wants, Claire will do anything to get.

Meanwhile, Kathleen is haunted by the long-ago memory of being separated from her siblings and placed in foster care. The location of most of her siblings has been discovered, but two are missing. Obsessed with the whereabouts of the infant twins, Rose and Charlie, Kathleen refuses to have a child until they're found, and their fantasy of a perfect life is shattered.

Grasping at what may be the last chance for their relationship to survive, they enter a contest to win six sessions with a world-renowned couple's therapist, Dr. Imajean Friend, whose unique style is to uncover and reveal their hidden secrets.

As Claire's Song unfolds, we discover that Claire and Kathleen—and even their closest friends—are harboring dark, painful secrets...secrets that keep them from embracing life and fully connecting with those they love.

Claire's Song Details

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From Reader Review Claire's Song for online ebook

Diane says

Wonderful sequel! the storytelling is heartfelt,engaging and well written..recommend the series to everyone because it's really good!

Kennedy says

'Flowers from Iraq' was much more interesting and engaging. I did not feel the continued connection with the main characters. Maybe because the story was more about the secondary characters. Dr. Imajean Friend, Sherriff Linc Hathaway, Gayle and Robert Sutherland, Helen and Sam Hughes and a new character not in the first book, Rose. In particular, Claire and Kathleen just did not seem as interesting.

Diane Wallace says

Wonderful sequel! the storytelling is heartfelt,engaging and well written..recommend the series to everyone because it's that good!

Jenna says

I really enjoyed (and would strongly recommend) the first book in the series, Flowers from Iraq, but I found the sequel to be a much more difficult read. It's not that 'Claire's Song' deals with more difficult subject matter, and it's not that it's poorly written, it just lacks the focus that 'Flowers from Iraq' offered in abundance.

The first book was entirely about Kathleen Moore. We see glimpses of her as a child, spend some time with her as a teen, then follow her through her adulthood. We have the time to really learn about this person, we get to grow with her and empathize with her and really care about who she is and how things will turn out for her. 90% of the book is told from her perspective, and the parts that are told from other characters' perspectives are still directly related to Kathleen.

'Claire's Song,' on the other hand, is an ensemble piece. It follows Sam, Helen, Gayle, Robert, Linc, Stephanie, and even a new character (Imajean Friend) as much as it does Kathleen and Claire, and it tries to do this with about 70 fewer pages than the first book had. As a result, I never found I had the time I needed to really know these people, let alone become fully invested in them (with the exception of Stephanie), and I found myself sorely missing both Kathleen and Claire every time the story shifted away from them.

Another problem I had with the book was the sheer volume of flashbacks it used. For the first half of the book, every chapter had at least one flashback, sometimes more. I would estimate that approximately 25-30% of the book was composed of said flashbacks, and it really hurt the pacing. One of the strengths of 'Flowers from Iraq' was the way it avoided the flashback problem; it used therapy as a method of talking about Kathleen's past in the present tense, and I found that to be significantly more powerful than the few flashbacks that were actually included.

Finally, there were two very large violations of the "show, don't tell" rule. In one, a pair of characters tell one another some very painful secrets, but we're just given a brief paragraph of the exchange that says something along the lines of "they shared their secrets, embraced and made love." A powerful moment lost. In the second violation, one of the central issues of the book is resolved when an enormous revelation is made between two characters, and all we see is a short paragraph where one hands the other a packet of papers. No tears, no embraces, no conversations, and barely a mention of it later. It left me feeling...just...empty. I should've been wiping tears from my eyes and laughing in joy, but I wasn't.

Again, I want to state that this is not a badly written book. There are valuable insights here and some beautifully communicated emotional journeys that all played a role in the overall message of the story. It just felt like there was entirely too much going on. In 'Flowers from Iraq,' you had an ocean of knowledge and emotion centered around a singular person, but 'Claire's Song' offers numerous ponds. Both are lovely, but I sincerely missed the depth of the first novel.

I also want to point out that my 2-star rating is based on Goodreads' system, in which 2 stars = "it was ok." I believe the book is better than just okay, but I can't quite say "I liked it." I do not in any way consider the rating to mean "worse than average," because that certainly wasn't the case. It just wasn't my cup of tea.

Margaret L. Hedman says

I loved this book.

I loved Claire's Song. This is the follow up to Flowers from Iraq. Very moving. Beautifully written. Family is everything, no matter how you make it.
