



Debutante

Marie Silk

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The family saga begins in Debutante, a prequel to the best-selling Davenport House series. A life of luxury for the Davenports means drudgery for the servants on the grand country estate. This is their story in 1909 America, six years prior to the events of book one.

While her father is away on business, sixteen-year-old Mary Davenport feels confined and alone, despite her privileged life at the family's mansion. As the day of Mary's debutante ball draws near, the servants are conflicted by instructions from Mary's mother to starve her until she fits into a gown that was made too small. Mary is also under pressure to act the part of society while being forbidden from seeing her only friend, the servant boy who works in the stable.

In a shantytown hours away, a young girl named Abigail is hired to sew a gown for a dressmaker's wealthy patron. Abigail gives up her education in order to provide for her impoverished family. Neither she nor Mary is aware of how connected their futures are destined to become.

Debutante Details

Date : Published April 21st 2017 by Marie Silk Publishing

ISBN :

Author : Marie Silk

Format : ebook

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Young Adult

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From Reader Review Debutante for online ebook

Wendy says

“Debutante” the prequel to the Davenport series which I won through Goodreads Giveaways intertwines two stories: the struggle of sixteen -year- old Mary Davenport to adhere to her mother’s orders by starving so she can fit into her ball gown and staying away from the horses she adores, and twelve-year-old Abigail’s determination to provide for her impoverished family in Shantytown.

Short in length and basic in theme the prequel is interesting and wets your taste for more stories in the series as lonely, frustrated and confined Mary Davenport tries to conform to her controlling and class-conscious mother’s dictates before her coming-out ball, while hardworking, tired and undernourished Abigail fights to help her family survive by leaving school and getting a job with a local dressmaker. Marie Silk skilfully juxtaposes the prejudices and restrictive environment of the wealthy against the biases, and impoverishment of the Irish working class. I’m sure the tension felt by both girls in each of these settings will be heightened in future plots as their lives connect.

I enjoyed reading “Debutante” and look forward to reading the rest of the series.

Brittany says

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. What an enjoyable book! The cast of characters is amazing. The writing was great.

Jean says

Curiosity

I have wondered about this series for some time and suppose this prequel was written. for devotees of the main saga . It assumed the reader would know where and when and few descriptions .made it a rather dull and forgettable experience. Not a tempting experience.
Still my curiosity is more than satisfied.

Linda Romer says

Davenport House Debutante by Marie Silk

A lovely story. An introduction into the world of The Davenport's as they prepare for Mary's Debutante Ball. Mary is a sweet girl of 16. You will meet her friends Ethan the stable boy and Clara her hand maid. She also makes friends with Nellie. You will be introduced to Abigail a poor Irish girl who is also sweet and kind. A

great beginning and I'm looking forward to continuing this story. I enjoyed the Authors writing and characters.

I give Debutante 5 stars for the beginning of a great story.
I would recommend this story to everyone.

Eunice Korczak says

Davenport House Prequel

Okay, so I reached volume 7 of the Davenport series and then read this prequel. At the wrong end of the series. That was a good thing; had I read this at beginning, I may not have read the rest of the series and would have missed out on some good reading. The thing that bothered me the most was the excessive use of debutante referring to something other than a person. A young woman being introduced to society is called a debutante for that season. The emergence into society is a debut, not a debutante. The party to introduce the young lady is also a debut.

Virginia Tican says

Well~crafted and a real page~turner all the more special because it carries with it the promise, thrill and excitement of The Davenport House series. As a Prequel, it is Brilliant! The reader is introduced to Mary, Clara, and Ethan then we have Abigail plus all the other servants at Davenport's and Abby's world, too.

Mary Ann says

A Simple Story I couldn't Put Down.

This story and characters piqued my interest right away, in spite of the simplistic prose and lack of sophistication in the voice. I had to keep reading to find out what happened...the very mark of a good read!

Ginger Bensman says

This is a short (82 pages) prequel that sets the scene and introduces the characters of the Davenport House Series. I read Book One of the series last year, so I came to this introduction with the expectation that reading it would be a similar experience—at least for this reader, not so much. The characters were less convincing and the underlying dramatic action wasn't enough to keep me involved in the story. I'm glad I read Book One first or I might have passed up this promising series all together. I would give this prequel 2.5 stars rounded to three, and encourage future readers to skip the prequel and jump right into the series.

Marie Silk says

Mary searches for strength to endure the drama-filled days leading up to her debutante ball. Abigail is suspended from school while her family faces hunger and homelessness. A special connection is shared between the two girls who have never met.

Carol She's So Novel?? says

What on earth did I just read???

Written as background to Ms Silk's Davenport House series, this appeared to be a tale of three different young girls - with only a tenuous connection between Abigail & the other two. I'm surprised this is being marketed as Young Adult as the tone & subject matter was very young - reminded me of fairy tales I used to read.

While Abigail's story was interesting, the story & relationship between the other 2 girls seemed improbable to the point of being farcical. & don't get me started on well born Mary's friendship with a young groom.

The final chapter - disjointed & seemed to come completely out of left field. Apparently if you have read books in the rest of the series it all makes more sense.

A reminder of why I don't normally care for novellas. I'm glad obtained while free on Kindle, as the price now seems steep for an hour's read.

Lana Kortchik says

I'm a big fan of Davenport House series and was so sad when I finished the last book because I didn't want it to end. Imagine my excitement when I discovered there was a prequel. It was wonderful to read about all my favourite characters when they were younger. I loved this heart-warming story that is beautifully written and well researched. This novella gives a perfect taste of what's to come in the series. I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys historical fiction with memorable and relatable characters. Davenport House is the perfect series to get into with so many wonderful books already available. A great read and highly recommended.

Tiffany says

This was a very cute little welcome to Davenport House. It was a short story that is, I believe, set six years before the first novel. I do love reading historical fiction so this was a nice welcome back, so to say, to that genre. It was in a three point perspective, so you had Mary, Clara, and Abigail. I enjoyed how all the girls lives we're tied together, especially Abigail's unbeknownst to them.

Was it so good that it made me want to read the series? Ehh. I wouldn't mind reading the first book just to see, but I'm not dying to read it.

Check out my Blog: <https://tiffanyreadsalot.wordpress.com>

Brie says

I won this book in a Goodreads First Reads contest.

I had n idea it was a novella and I hate novellas. They always are too short. Because of the short length I just could not get into it and gave up reading it. Something silly to say when it is such a short book. I am passing it on to a friend who is interested in it and the series it is a part of.

Tony Parsons says

1909, Mrs. Margaret Davenport (wife/mother) ordered Cecelia (housemaid) to get Mary Davenport (16, daughter/sister) ready for the (seamstress) to design her dress.

Mr. Davenport (husband/father) thought his daughter was way too young for a suitor.

Pottsgrove, PA. Mrs. Baker asked Abigail “Abby” (12, Irish) to do the stores dishes & she would give her some fresh baked bread to take home to her family.

Abby also worked for Mrs. Stein (dress shop).

Mrs. Price (mom, housekeeper) was showing Clara Price (daughter, attending maid) the ropes.

Ethan (servant boy, stable hand) & Mary were growing quite fond of each other.

Dr. Jones came to see Mary,

Someone noticed Mary’s ball gown was gone.

Mary & Ethan hurried to the stable.

The foal soon emerged from the mare.

Mrs. Davenport wanted to see Mary’s new dress.

The servants worked ½ into the night to get the house ready for the debutante ball.

Mr. Davenport was helping to greet the guests that were arriving.

Those in attendance were: Mrs. Whitmore (mother), & Penelope “Nellie” Whitmore (daughter),

I did not receive any type of compensation for reading & reviewing this book. While I receive free books from publishers & authors, I am under no obligation to write a positive review. Only an honest one.

A very awesome book cover, great font & writing style. A very well written family saga book. It was very easy for me to read/follow from start/finish & never a dull moment. There were no grammar/typo errors, nor any repetitive or out of line sequence sentences. Lots of exciting scenarios, with several twists/turns & a great set of unique characters to keep track of. This could also make another great family saga movie, or better yet a mini TV series. To be continued. There is no doubt in my mind this is a very easy rating of 5 stars.

Thank you for the free author; BookSends; Amazon Digital Services LLC.; book
Tony Parsons MSW (Washburn)

Cindy says

I don’t think this added any value to the series. I actually read this last, and I am glad I didn’t read it first.... it

might have dissuaded me from reading the series.
