



# Restoring the Castle

*Olivia Stowe*

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## **Restoring the Castle** Olivia Stowe

Ally returns to her home in Virginia to restore herself and stays to restore the castle that was her home. But returning also means discovering her mother's forbidden relationship, murder, and the secret of her own conception.

The bombing of a U.S. embassy building in Amman, Jordan, has left cultural affairs officer, Ally Templeton, wounded, both physically and emotionally, and without a job and a fiancé. On top of that, her eccentric, man-hater mother, Miranda, a former personal assistant to major symphony conductors, for the third time has tried to burn down the scaled-down replica of a Transylvanian castle she has been living in in the Blue Ridge Mountains of northern Virginia.

Ally, still reeling from personal tragedy, returns to Virginia to a mother who is fading away, a mystery of disappearing men, and a rekindling of the question of who her father was. Determined to take control of her life, Ally decides to restore the castle and to do the contracting herself. Subcontracting, however, brings her a pair of men, one older and one younger, vying for her attention and affection, each of whom has issues of his own that threaten to entangle Ally ever deeper into increasingly more sinister mysteries.

## **Restoring the Castle Details**

Date : Published August 18th 2012 by Cyberworld Publishing (first published July 28th 2012)

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Author : Olivia Stowe

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## From Reader Review Restoring the Castle for online ebook

### Stephen says

Enjoyable mystery/romance and with missing men and a dead body there is more mystery than full blown romance in this novel. Many subplots and family mysteries also as Ally has never known who her father is.

Well written and moves along well. Highly recommended to anyone who enjoys a gentler cozy style mystery with quite a bit of stuff going on. I always enjoy Olivia's books. Olivia Stowe

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### Debbie (Doc) says

2.5 stars rounded down to 2

Ally has just returned to her home in Virginia after a terrorist bombing that killed Chad, her fiancé. She has decided to take a leave of absence from her position as Cultural Affairs Officer in Amman Jordan. Her mother is ill and the castle where she grew up is in bad disarray. After two fires, the castle is all but demolished. Ally takes it upon herself to begin restoring her childhood home. The question of who her father was keeps resurfacing and would have made for a great storyline. Rumors of missing men are haunting her since her mother's name keeps surfacing with the increased rumors. Determined to take her life back, Ally begins the daunting tasks of hiring subcontractors since she has decided to be the contractor for the castle.

This book had such a wonderful potential, but unfortunately, did not live up to it. There were so many directions that the author could have taken.

There was a surprise that literally popped up without an explanation. The focus was on the details of the reconstruction and not quite on Ally or other issues between her and her mother.

The writing switched between historical romance and modern day and was lacking focus. The book ended abruptly with the reader expecting more.

If you like a novella that is part historical fiction part modern day, you may be in for a treat. This just wasn't for me.

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### Jennifer Love says

I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads, and I thank the author and Goodreads for the opportunity of reviewing this book.

"A mysterious tale of love and loss, with quite a twist when I was least expecting it! The author weaves together a web of characters that left me wanting more."

Restoring the Castle receives a 2 out of 5 stars review from the Not-So-Closet Bookaholic. It has all the makings of a wonderful novel, but lacks the depth. It looks as though Olivia Stowe has been at it for a while, and it is my hope that she continues on with her writing and dives a little deeper into her next novel. You are, however, blessed with your own thoughts and opinions, so never just leave it up to a reviewer! If you like

fiction with a modern day historical twist, then you should absolutely give this one a try!

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### **Glenkes says**

And unusual character setup and intrigue upon mystery in a castle ruin incongruously located in the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia.

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