



Ever After

Elswyth Thane

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In Ever After, Bracken Murray visits London during the Jubilee summer of 1897 after his wife deserts him. Here he falls in love with an English girl. Meanwhile back in the USA his cousin Fitz rescues a music-hall singer who falls in love with him. '

Ever After Details

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From Reader Review Ever After for online ebook

Katy Sheehy says

The 3rd book in the Williamsburg Series by Elswyth Thane takes place during the Spanish American War, reuniting the three families who have been intertwined since Dawn's Early Light (Spragues, Days and Murray's). Another great read which could be read independently but makes much more sense reading them in order. There is much research history and details in all these books, all the more impressive when you realize that there was no "internet" in the 1940's and her research was done the old fashioned way. Again, highly recommend this third installment.

Pat says

Easily recognizable as a mid-20th century novel. The best description of the Spanish American War from the soldier's point of view that I have read.

Barbara Irene Carter says

The story picks up almost 30 years after the close of the civil war in 1865. Again, the Day and Sprague families are the focus as they struggle with their romantic lives and the social and economic forces that effect the choices that they make. New characters are introduced as well as the locale shifts from Williamsburg, to New York and to England. The Spanish-American War is the conflict that effects the great-great grandchildren of Julian Day and St. John Sprague. Highly recommend this book for fans of this series.

Kate Joekel says

Ever After, by Elswyth Thane, is third in one of my favorite series. This series follows the Sprague and Day families from the American Revolution through WWII. In this book, the families make contact with England and the place that the Sprague family originally came from. These stories are filled with history, description of place and wonderful love stories. I am almost 60 years old, and first read these books more than 40 years ago. Every so often I reread them (in order) just for enjoyment!

Mallory 🛋 says

Rating: 3 stars

Update: I don't know - I wasn't as engaged or drawn in this reading. Too all over the map? Too many characters and relationships to fret over? I couldn't connect for whatever reason. It stood out to me that Dinah and Gwen both were women in bad situations who needed to be "saved" by Bracken and Fitz, respectively. Now granted, they are truly honorable and genuine gentleman. Thane did know how to write her heroes. Her descriptiveness of settings and people is still the best part of these novels.

Favorite quotes: "It's nice to be loved for one's faults and not one's virtues!" - Virginia Murray

"I like to see people have a good time. There's so much unhappiness in the world we can do nothing about, and when the expenditure of a little thought or money does give somebody something pleasant to remember - I like to do it, that's all." - Bracken Murray

"It was an era when most of the big newspapers reflected the personalities of the men who owned and edited them - magnetic, colorful, fearless personalities with the gift of words, who said what they chose and stood by it, and could make and unmake legislators and even Cabinets by the weight and passion of their opinions."

"Murrays fought grimly, savagely, cool-headed and dangerous. Spragues fought with laughter and insults and fierce joy - equally dangerous. Their fathers could have told them. Now they would find it out for themselves."

Rating: 5 stars

Not one but two love stories take place in this novel set just before the turn of the century with the backdrop war being the not-well-remembered Spanish and American conflict in Cuba. As this is the third Williamsburg book, the relationships between and descendants of the Spragues and Days have started to become a little confusing. I often found myself referring back to Elswyth Thane's very helpful family chart in the front of the book (thank goodness she stuck that in there!). Bracken Murray is working for his father's newspaper and coming to terms with the abrupt departure of his wife for another man. When his work takes him to England for Queen Victoria's Jubilee year, he meets and falls in love with the young daughter of an earl. Oddly enough, it's another 12 year age difference, the same circumstance Thane used in "Dawn's Early Light" with Julian and Tibby. Not certain what her fascination is with that kind of a gap and once again, it took me awhile to get used to the idea. However, I did like that both the love interests (Dinah for Bracken and Gwen for Bracken's cousin Fitz) were more independent-minded women than Thane had previously written as characters. Along those lines, I was disappointed with how Sue Day's story ended up. I really wanted her to take a chance at love with Sir Gratian. Why would she want to continue to be near a man she could never have (Sedgwick)? I could not understand how their tie could still be so strong after all those years and why Sue wouldn't have wanted a life of her own at some point. I enjoyed reading Fitz and Bracken's experiences in reporting a war that I knew very little about. This was another great historical romance by Thane and I look forward to the next adventures this fascinating family will face.

Favorite quotes: "A house you came to love was like a person, and loved you back, and then you belonged to it forever after."

Misfit says

Ever After is the third book in Thane's Williamsburg series, and begins in 1896. Bracken Murray (son of Cabot and Eden in Yankee Stranger), married the wrong woman, and she's left him for a wealthier lover and living the high life somewhere on the continent. Bracken journeys to England with his aunt and sister, and while there sets eyes on fifteen-year-old Dinah, youngest daughter of the Earl of something or other (book's at home), and he knows she is the **one he will love until he dies**. Problem is, she's still in the schoolroom with her governess, and a non-entity as far as her family is concerned until she's officially *out*. Bracken knows he's got to wait a couple of years before he can even speak for her...

"Must go slowly. Must behave like an uncle. Has she got uncles? ...How long must I wait? How careful must I be?"

"Some day he would put the chain around Dinah's neck himself, and when that day came he would also be entitled, please God, to collect a kiss as his reward"

And even when Dinah is grown up, there's still the philandering wife to be dealt with - even with hard evidence of adultery, divorces aren't that easy to get...

There are also side stories with cousin Fritz and his love of music and a singer from *gasp* the wrong side of the tracks, as well as Bracken's sister and one of Dinah's older brothers. I really enjoyed this book a lot, especially getting to see more of the extended Sprague & Day families (oh sniff, Sue and Sedgewick). The events in Cuba feel a bit flat for me (skimmed a bit), but I loved the return to England and Dinah and the big finish (what a man, I'd love a Bracken of my very own). I've already placed a hold at the library for the next book in the series.

One final comment and that is for a cover image I found on Amazon. WTF were the publishers thinking?

Gaile says

This is actually a very good book and I would have given it four stars if not for what I think is a dispensable session on the Spanish American War and Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders. This session was fun to read. At the same time it veered away from the central plot and had no relevance to the rest of the book. The only reason I can think that Ms Thane added this is that she has to have her war.

Bracken Murray is a war correspondent for his father's newspaper, The Star in New York City. The main family still lives in Williamsburg.

Bracken's sister Virginia is to be presented in London to Queen Victoria. since the family once owned an estate in England, it is decided Bracken and Aunt Sue will accompany her to England and look into the lost estate. They not only find the estate, they also find neighbors. Bracken finds Dinah. Virginia finds Archie. Either Dinah or Archie appears to think the two Americans will be very interested in them.

There is also two other love story running through this book, that of Fitz Sprague and Gwen, a singer who meet in New York city where Fitz, a family misfit has gone to write music. Again Gwen doesn't feel like she belongs in Fitz's very happy and filthy rich family.

This plot weaving in and out of three romances is very diverting but when it diverted too far to the Spanish American War which was only necessary for The Star newspaper, I was strongly tempted to turn pages to get back to the main theme. Perhaps other readers will not mind the session on the Spanish American War. I, for one became impatient with it.

Linda says

Really enjoy this

Jane Irish Nelson says

[

It is now the late 19th century, and the next generation takes the center stage as the Murray family goes to

London for Virginia to take part in the Season, and be presented to Queen Victoria during her Jubilee. But since their mother Eden can

Tweety says

happy sigh

Elswyth Thane's series is such a lovely series so far. I've just got to savor the memory of this story :)

It's 1898 and Eden and Cabot, their son Bracken his sister Virginia and their cousin, the black sheep of the family Fritz, are the center of this branch of the Day/Sprague/Murray families.

Eden and Cabot are worried for their son Bracken who's exotic wife has left him for a man with a larger purse. Bracken himself is glad to see the last of his selfish, unfaithful wife, but now in a time when divorce is nearly unheard of, Bracken fears to never be free from Lisl and her demands. Now he has no zest for life anymore and black fits of depression come over him, not unlike his father before him in *Yankee Stranger*. Until he visits England with Virginia and meets Dinah, who isn't even out of the schoolroom yet..

Virginian is spoiled, and everyone knows it, even herself. But they all love her anyway and she in turn shows love for them. For her coming out, her brother Bracken and aunt Sue bring her to England to come out and be presented to Queen Victoria during her Diamond Jubilee. But instead of doing what every one supposed she would, she turns down every proposal she gets.

Dinah is the sweet sort of girl who somehow understands people very well, and is willing to make sacrifices for them. She was just the sort of bundle of innocence Bracken needed to remind him that not all women were wicked like Lisl.. Who was horrid.

Back in America, Fritz goes to New York at the bidding of his dear aunt Sue, and there he finds himself and his place in the family. He was my favorite character. He went from banging out tunes on the piano and making up songs to working in his uncle Cabot Murray's newspaper and finding a troubled actress with the voice of an angel who he knows could sing his songs and make them take off.

There the bare bones of the story and I won't say anything more except that I hope the fourth book, *The Light Heart* lives up to my dreams.

Defiantly read these in order, and as close together as possible so you don't forget who's who.

PG And adulteress, murder and medium swearing.

Barbara says

I just love every one of these I have read. I also love talking about them to my 80 year old friend who is so exited to loan them to me and share. She says she as never loaned these books out before, because they are her favorites. She's had them since the 50's.

Terry Stanton says

Very light yet satisfying read. Loved the description of battle scenes during the spanish american war. I like how Thane moves inside the character's head and walks the reader through the angst and fear of facing death. And the bar has been set for the measure of a man. Bracken Murray is divine.

Emma Jane says

It took me a LONG time to finish this book. And I mean a long time. *cough* As in, almost a month. I know, shameful. Of course, I did read three or four books during that time, but still, that's no excuse.

I enjoyed the first two books in this series immensely and read them both quite rapidly. While it may have taken me longer to get through this one, by no means does that mean it was not equally amazing! I LOVE this series madly. And just so you know, I will never stop ranting about how utterly amazing and talented Elswyth Thane is.

Ever After continues to follow the Day and Sprague (and now Murray) families into the late 19th century. The story centers around Eden and Cabot's son Bracken, as well as Sedgwick's son Fitz. They are both reporters for Cabot Murray's newspaper, and the story follows their adventures and love lives as Bracken travels to England with his sister Virginia and cousin Sue (yay! Sue was in this book!) and when they both go down to Cuba to cover the Spanish occupation. While I did thoroughly enjoy their stories, I must say the book as a whole did not touch me quite as deeply as the previous two have. Part of it was because I'm not so enthralled with the 1890s and the Spanish-Cuban war and all that as I am with, say, the American Revolution. (Did someone say American Revolution?!!) There was also a long part around the middle when Bracken and Fitz were in Cuba where it got very military, and I'm not going to lie, that bored me. But most of it kept my interest, and it was certainly VERY well written. Even the military parts. How does Elswyth Thane know what it's like to be in battle? How can she describe army life so well? I really don't know, but my admiration for her is growing with every book of hers I pick up. She's just that awesome.

A lot has changed in the years between Yankee Stranger and Ever After, and many family members have died (*sniffle*) and things are starting to get more modern (they have telephones now! WHAT), but there is still in the writing something reminiscent of that first day when Julian Day stepped onto Virginia soil, when the whole saga first began.....oh dear, now I'm tearing up.

So even though I didn't love it quite as much as the first two books, Ever After is still an amazing historical novel, and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Janna Craig says

This is one of my comfort books. Not all the books in the Williamsburg Saga are, but this one definitely is. And yes, I know that Elswyth Thane presents a rose-colored view of the late 19th century world in this book, but her characters are just so alive and so irresistible that I'm okay with a skewed perspective in this one.

Stephanie says

This was one of many novels I picked up for free at a library to create a drawing out of (see the drawing here). Not having a clue what the book was about, or who the author was, I just started reading. And I never stopped. I was swept up in the love story between Dinah and Bracken, and admired how sweet and loving it felt.

What I found the most interesting and enjoyed the most was that the love stories were considered "scandalous" for their time, but in today's society, it's innocent. The behaviors of courtship may be outdated, but the love is very much real.

This novel is part of Elswyth Thane's Williamsburg series, however, it seems to be able to stand on it's own without one reading the other books. I highly recommend reading it if you enjoy love stories.
