



Letter From Home

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World-renowned journalist G.G. Gilman does her best not to think of the past. But one day she gets a letter—sent from the small Oklahoma town where she grew up—that brings it all back. Memories of people she had once known and loved dearly—and of the sultry summer when her life changed forever.

Letter From Home Details

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Author : Carolyn G. Hart

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From Reader Review Letter From Home for online ebook

Ken Bickley says

This book is a complete departure from the usual "cozy" mysteries written by Hart. Mystery it is, but this one is serious. It was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, and would have deserved to win. Set in World War II small-town Oklahoma, it faithfully reproduces the conditions faced on the home front in 1944 as it follows one eventful week in the life of 14-year-old Gretchen Gilman. It's written as a memory, called up by that letter that gives the book its title. I won't divulge any further details, because the climax of the story comes as a total surprise. I'll just say that it is exquisitely written. Highly recommended.

Rachel Lorenz says

Very slow moving. Did not hold my interest. The ending was underwhelming. Also had some editing issues. Would not recommend.

Mary says

Very good read to kick off summer reading. Great plot, solid characters, not a page turner to get to the next page but a page turner to see how everything would play out. Really enjoyed this book!

Tracey says

When I saw this book at the library and read that it takes place in a small town outside of Tulsa, Oklahoma, I was drawn to it. I spent a lot of time growing up visiting family in a small town outside of Tulsa. The description of the town in the book could have been the one that I was familiar with.

Besides the nostalgia of forgotten small towns, the writing was wonderful. The book was an emotional roller coaster. Bits and pieces of typical small town life and joy, mixed in with the oppressive air of sadness from a murder. The townspeople are divided on who is responsible for the murder, while a young teenage girl, with her first job at the local paper, discovers that not everything is black and white.

Jodi Pomerleau says

I liked the story but thought it a bit long. I was pretty sure I had the murderer picked out very early, and I did, but not the correct reason for the murder. It was also apparent that the note left behind was a signal....I recognized it and was surprised it took to the end of the book for that point to be noted. Lies, secrets and failing to communicate all had a dire effect on the circumstances of Clyde's predicament, Grandmother's health, and Gretchen's jealousy. It's a good read but not compelling.

Richard says

I don't care for historical fiction or mysteries, so I was pleasantly surprised how hard it was to stop turning the pages of this novel.

Mary says

Wonderfully written, story of secrets of a daughter, guilt, sadness and horrible loss of parents. All the time the everyone thinks it is murder and suicide, when in fact it was a two murders. Written by a friends point of view and the affects to her family, as well. Terrible and tragic.

Susie James says

I got a copy of "Letter from Home" years ago, partly read it, then set it aside during a transfer of my stuff to a backyard mobile home recently. I could relate to the "old style newspaper journalism" Carolyn Hart writes about as her teenage Oklahoma heroine begins her career! The unraveling of the tragedies within the story she tells as she looks back as an old woman is done in such an appealing manner. -30-

Melissa says

I originally found the premise of a highschooler spending her summer writing for a local newspaper a tad unbelievable, but given the timeframe (WWII) and the dearth of eligible male employees, the situation is a bit more believable, and I loved the premise of the editor as a mentor for the young girl. He was a believable and likeable character. The murder mystery was a bit contrived, but the characters were true to the historical period, the small-town setting, and the over-arching circumstances of WWII.

Nancy says

Was captivated through the whole book. Well done!!

Maureen Mullis says

This is one of the best books I have ever read. The mystery is first rate, but the story the story is fantastic. Carolyn Hart is a fabulous writer, but this novel is far and above the best things she's written. The writing leaves you breathless. Set in 1944 as well as present day, it is a book that has a strong story, excellent writing and a mystery that will leave you thinking about it long after you close the book.

Pat says

An extraordinary depiction of how easily rumors + fear can divide a community in a time of upheaval.

Laura says

This historical mystery was a book club pick and I found it to be an okay read. Seems like a historical fan's beach read. It was fairly easy to get through, but the pacing of the plot was slow. I feel this book should have been edited down a bit because the story seemed repetitive at times. I enjoyed the setting, time period, dialogue, and the story overall, but it definitely wasn't what you would call gripping or compelling. Even the mystery itself was a bit boring though it tied in nicely with the "letter".

Joe Keefhaver says

A very readable mystery novel set in a small Oklahoma town during World War II. How the story ended was a complete surprise to me.

Val says

Very different from Hart's usual storylines. An interesting story.
