



The Sugar Pavilion

Rosalind Laker

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During the French Revolution, Sophie Delcourt and Antoine, a four-year-old French noble, escape to England, where Sophie must guard Antoine's identity while she builds a confectionery business, joins the British royal circle, and comes to love two very different men.

The Sugar Pavilion Details

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Author : Rosalind Laker

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From Reader Review The Sugar Pavilion for online ebook

Kim says

Young candy maker Sophie escapes to England during the French Revolution with a 4 year old and an elderly aristocrat. She builds her reputation with her confectionery business with a goal of returning the child back to France to take his rightful place as heir. A pleasant book.

Loucy says

Premier livre de l'auteur que j'ai lu (il y a plusieurs années). J'avais adoré.

Nicki Markus says

I really wanted to like The Sugar Pavilion more, not least because its protagonist was a woman of lower social status than usually seen in these kinds of novels. However, the opening chapter ruined my enjoyment overall due to the unbelievable moment when, mid-flight and risking death, Sophie stops to stare in a mirror and tell all about her hair. That was the worst example, but other convenient and/or histrionic events did take place. The story is written in 3rd person omniscient, with which I have no issue when it's done well. Mostly the transitions were clear and fluid, but a couple of times it took me a line or two to realise we were now in another character's head, especially when it was a character not even in that scene. Despite the issues, the story and characters do still have merit and it should appeal to those looking for a little fairytale coincidence in their historical romance.

I received this book as a free eBook ARC via NetGalley.

Misfit says

A Sugary Sweet (that's a good thing in this case) Tale to read. Laker's tale of Sophie Delcourt starts in 1793 at the height of the French Revolution as Sophie is forced to flee to England with her employer's young son Antoine de Juneau and his aging grandfather, as the revolutionaries hunt down and kill any members of the aristocracy they can find. Sophie reaches England in safety by is set upon by villains who attack her party and rob them of everything and leave them for dead. Found by the gorgeous (of course) and mysterious (of course) Tom Foxhill she eventually recovers from the attack and she and Antoine settle in Brighton, England with young Antoine posing as Sophie's nephew. Sophie uses her skills as a confectionery to establish a business in her new life as she is torn by her strong attractions to Tom as opposed to the quiet but strong and loving revenue agent, Rory Morgan.

Laker mixes Sophie's tale in with one of George, then Prince of Wales, and his "wife" Maria Fitzherbert and their on again off again relationship. I have to admit sometimes it was a bit of a stretch the way commoner Sophie was able to step in and out of George's and Maria's lives without so much of a raising of an eyebrow, but otherwise this was a genuinely entertaining tale. As Sophie battles to maintain her independence while being courted by two men who love her, danger from France threatens as a relative of the de Juneau's plots to harm Julian and remove any possibility of his laying claim to his rightful inheritance in France.

The author does a nice job of setting her scenes and includes plenty of period detail, with the clothes, food, etc. To some readers it may be a bit much and it does slow the story down at times, so you're not going to have a sit on the edge of your seat page turning story, but one to sit back and savor at a leisurely pace. Not the greatest entry in the historical fiction genre, but still a pleasant way to spend an afternoon in another century. 3.5 stars rounded up to 4.

Linda says

In 1793, Sophie Delcourt, daughter of a famous confectioner in Paris, is maid for the titled French family Juneau, caring for their four year old son Antoine. As the estate is attacked during the French Revolution, Madame Juneau asks Sophie to take Antoine and try to escape to England. They manage to do this, not without incident and trouble, and live in Brighton, a seaside resort then popular because the Prince of Wales spends much time there. Sophie gets a waitress job to support herself and Antoine, and is given the chance to show her cooking skills when an accident in the kitchen leaves the staff short. With an unexpected windfall of money she sets up a small confectionary of her own, all the time on the lookout for a Juneau relative who may be trying to harm Antoine. Love interest is provided by Captain Rory Morgan whose job it is to catch smugglers along that part of the coast, and Tom Foxhill, an "importer" whom Sophie suspects is a smuggler as well. Laker has written several other romances, all with "real" historical figures in the world of the arts as characters. There may have been a famous Delcourt confectionary in Paris at that time, but I suspect that although she seems to have the details right her characters this time are all fictitious. All in all, I'd give it a B.

Annette says

This is the first book I didn't like by this author. The plot is very weak and the dialogue at some points is boring and naïve.

This is a story of a young woman who flees France for England during the French Revolution with her four year old charge to protect his identity. They arrive in Brighton, which is a fashionable English resort, also known as nestle for French emigres. She finds a job to utilize her skills in confection, which she had learned from her father. Later she makes it on her own.

This author's usual theme is a strong female character, who makes it on her own and easily meets a real prince or a charming gentleman; usually two men fighting for one woman. It gets boring after a couple books.

The story starts a bit slow. It gets interesting once they reach Brighton, but then the plot weakens and the dialogue is boring and naïve.

At the beginning of Brighton arrival, there are a few themes well-presented: the world of French confectionary comes alive and is very interesting; the time period of French Revolution forcing many aristocrats to flee their country and making their new home in Brighton; difficulty in finding 'proper jobs' with serving jobs being out of question; the illegal trade of exporting wool and importing silk, tea and other products; the difficulty of law enforcement to bring illegal traders to justice due to locals covering up for them, so they can gain products in reduced prices.

After a strong short part, the story becomes very trivial. If you like historical fiction, rich in historical details, then this is not the book.

@FB: Best Historical Fiction

Michelle says

This book was just OK. I found the writing to be flat and plain, not very exciting or enthralling. I don't recall other works by this same author to be so disappointing. Oh well...the story was interesting and I'm glad I read it.

Karoline says

One of the better of the books by Laker, it is also a longer one, so there is more to the story. The ending, however, I did not care much for and when the main character has a major decision to make, Laker sort of copped out.

Tammy says

A great historical romance about a young french woman that flees France during the revolution and starts a new life in Brighton, England. I look forward to reading more books by Rosalind Laker. Most of her books are out of print, but can be found at the library. Check the author's web site for a list of her books and a brief description.

Janet says

Sophie Delcourt, the enchanting talented daughter of a Parisian confectioner, is forced to flee Paris & finds work at the Chateau of the Comte de Jumeau, however the Chateau is stormed by revolutionaries & Sophie flees the with the four-year-old heir and elderly Marquis.

They manage to reach England but are attacked & robbed but she is saved by the intriguing Tom Foxhill, who is an art collector.

Soon, Sophie finds herself forming a passionate bond with him but she is also drawn to Captain Rory Morgan a preventive officer

She settles in Regency Brighton, with Antoine & gradually strives to make a life for them. Her ambition is to start her own confectionery business.

This often touching story follows Sophie over a few years as we follow her struggle to survive & make a new life for herself & Antoine. You will for her to succeed. The book is so well written, as is the detail of late eighteenth century life. The escape from France had me unable to put the book down until they landed on English soil. I also liked the details of the Prince of Wales & Mrs Fitzherbert, so neatly interwoven into the story.

Sophie has two love interests but which will she choose. There are smugglers & a distant relative of Antoine to add to the intrigue.

I particularly enjoyed that the book gave a snapshot of the lives of ordinary people, so often Regency novels are solely based on the aristocracy & someone 'in trade' wouldn't feature as the heroine

Linda says

Rosalind Laker is my new favorite historical novelist. I just checked this book out of the library. I can't wait to start reading it. I'm going to read The Lady and the Unicorn by T. Chevalier first though.

Like *To Dance with Kings*, this novel is set in France during the Revolution. A spirited confectioner flees from a murderous mob of revolutionaries with the son of her noble employers. She ends up in Brighton, England where she crosses paths with the King, builds her professional reputation and reinstates her successful family business. Of course, along the way, she falls in love with a mysterious smuggler. A romantic and sweeping saga.

Kristin Davison says

I would like to thank netgalley and Endeavour press for the opportunity to read this book.

This is a re-release from 1993 and I still don't like the covers.

The story follows Sophie Delacourt the daughter of a confectioner, and a talented confectioner herself. We find her at the start of the novel, running away from a chateau she works at with the son and father of her employer. She is running away from a revolutionary France towards England, upon arriving in England she is set upon by thieves and rescued by Mr Tom Foxhill.

The novel interestingly changes pov back and forth and some of them include The prince of Wales , later the prince regent and George IV, and Mrs Fitzherbet his "secret" wife. This adds a nice touch and allows a new insight to there characters. I also learned a lot about these characters and the era in the process of reading this novel.

Sjstanley says

I've read several of Rosalind Laker's works--To Dance with Kings, The Silver Touch, etc. This one interested me for the French Revolution cnnxn and confectionery art.

The story moves along easily enough with only a necessary amount of tension, really; I read the whole book in about a day and a half. I didn't care a lot about the characters and kept reading mostly for historical tidbits and passages about techniques, like sugar mold creations and the like.

So... easy read, one step up from brain candy, and historical tidbits, though without the sense of in-depth research that say, Sharon Kay Penman does.

Jest says

Rosalind Laker was recommended to me as an acceptable alternative for someone who has finished everything by Georgette Heyer.

She's not.

I made a sincere effort to like this book. I put my brain on a shelf somewhere and managed to make it through almost 50 pages of description of how beautiful and virtuous the heroine is, and how everyone who meets her is instantly drawn to her because she is so lovely it radiates.

Honestly, it's endearing in fanfiction written by thirteen year old girls but in a published book? Not so much. If this is typical of the genre, then it is no wonder people have such contempt for romance novels.

Donia says

i really liked the book. Sophie is a fighter she fought for her freedom her independence, she always took the right decisions, she even choose the right man instead of the one her heart wants whwn she thought he were working with the criminals.
