



Antes de la tormenta

Judith Lennox

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Una apasionante saga familiar que transcurre en los años más turbulentos del siglo XX. Un secreto largamente guardado que puede cambiar las vidas de los personajes para siempre.

Por la autora de Las amigas de ojos oscuros (Novela contemporánea)

Un día de otoño de 1909, el joven empresario Richard Finborough se enamora a primera vista de la atractiva Isabel Zeale. La joven, que guarda un secreto sobre su pasado, no tiene intención de atarse a nadie, pero la intensidad del desconocido Richard finalmente acaba por conquistar su corazón. Las décadas pasan e Isabel y Richard crean una familia durante el turbulento período de la Primera Guerra Mundial. A medida que sus hijos se acercan a la edad adulta, Isabel está convencida de que su secreto está seguro..., hasta que un viejo conocido llama a su puerta y amenaza con destrozarse todo lo que ha construido. Para proteger la felicidad de los que más ama, Isabel deberá reunir el coraje de enfrentarse a su pasado y asumir sus consecuencias.

Antes de la tormenta Details

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From Reader Review Antes de la tormenta for online ebook

Pauline says

I got bored I am afraid. There seemed to be too many disjointed threads. I usually like family sagas but this was not for me.

Yvonne says

"It's not for anything, my dear. It's a journey."

We live life focused on the destination and in the process we miss the entire journey.

Life is a series of twists and turns, dead ends, beginnings and endings. A decision made today may haunt us in the future but that shouldn't stop us from living. All we can do is the best with what we have.

And enjoy the journey. Take the hidden paths. Try the unconventional. Dare to live when most are not even brave enough to breathe.

Rachel Brand says

The best way I can describe this book is as a good summer read. Although the 600+ pages might seem daunting, this is an easy read and I plowed through it in three days. A great historical blockbuster that spans two generations of a family from the turn of the twentieth century until the end of WWII, this is perfect if you like romance, family sagas or historical settings. I'll admit that Lennox didn't exactly delve deep into the emotions of the characters - difficult with such a large cast - and I didn't always feel terribly connected to them, but she was fantastic at capturing the setting and the period. There was so much drama going on in this book, which made it difficult to put down, but I felt that it was quite sad in places. No one seemed to get what they wanted until near the end of the novel and there were so many broken and dysfunctional relationships - which I suppose is realistic for such families where marriages are made for social and financial reasons rather than love. All in all, a compelling, light summer read although nothing new or original. 7/10

Bowerbird says

Probably a good holiday read. I found parts of this book very annoying as it seemed to skip over events. Perhaps because of this I didn't feel the story started properly until about the middle of the book when the family had grown up.

If I could have given it 2.5 rather than 3 stars I would have done so.

The Katie says

I enjoyed the author brought in enough characters that the plot wasn't always obvious. The flip side being is some of these characters I felt didn't get enough development.

Also the end I felt was left with some characters not getting enough closure.(review 2011)

Update-reread August 2016 I nearly forgot everything from the first time I read it. I enjoyed it more the second time around.

Henni says

Judith Lennox er en blanding af Danielle Steel og Kate Morton tilsat en smule Ken Follett. Floden og havet er egentlig en OK bog, men det er ligesom om Lennox har svært ved at vælge om hun skriver en slægtsbog eller en kærlighedsfortælling og hen mod den sidste del af bogen bliver der så også tilsat en masse historie da 2. verdenskrig rammer og Lennox (i modsætning til 1. verdenskrig som også indgår i bogen) fletter en masse historiske facts ind.

Men på trods af stilforvirringen er det en fin historie som afgjort er værd at læse.

Suzanne Siermann says

Nice historical family saga during the interbellum. The book starts with the marriage of Isabel and Richard and continues with the lives of their children. Then a ghost from Isabel's past comes by and the book end again with Isabel Richard.

I really enjoyed reading it.

Littlebookworm says

Before the Storm follows the Finborough family, starting from one autumn day in 1909, when Richard Finborough, finding himself marooned in Devon, catches sight of Isabel Zeale by the harbour at Lynmouth. Richard is captivated by her from the very beginning, however, Isabel is not an easy woman to pursue. The village is rife with gossip about her mysterious past, and as such Isabel keeps herself to herself, shunning Richard's attempts to become better acquainted with her; Richard however is not a man to back down easily. Indeed his persistence pays off and Isabel agrees to marry him; the story then following their lives and those of their 3 children through the turbulent years ahead. However, will Isabel's old secrets come back to haunt her; and can she keep her family together through all the upheavals that come their way?

This is a multi-generational story and one that crosses over three decades, spanning across 2 world wars; there are a myriad of characters and multiple story threads, all of which are woven intricately together. Indeed Lennox does an incredible job of entwining the various strands of the story, and linking the narrative, bringing everything neatly together by the end. Though she often changes between the different characters' perspectives, I always found the story easy to follow; and loved the different layers to the story.

The book is divided into 4 sections; the first of these focusing on Richard and Isabel and centred mostly around their courtship and early days of marriage. I loved the parts set in Devon and have to say I was so

engrossed in their story, that I did at first find it a little jarring to then find that the second part of the book had moved on by a good decade or so. However, I soon started to find myself growing attached to the new generation of Finboroughs and the continuing story. I would say though that so many of the individual sub-plots were so engaging within themselves, that sometimes I did wish they could have been fleshed out more; however, that simply wouldn't have been possible in a book juggling so many characters and plots and that already stretched to over 600 pages.

Richard and Isabel remain central characters throughout; their relationship a passionate but stormy one, especially when old secrets emerge. Though both of them have their faults, I always found myself rooting for them, willing them to get through the storms. I felt invested in all their childrens' stories, though I think Theo was my favourite of the three; and I also liked Ruby (their foster daughter of sorts) and found the sub-plot of the mysterious disappearance of her father engaging (certainly wouldn't have guessed the ending). Indeed I have to say that unlike a lot of similar books, the story was often unpredictable, with characters suddenly taking a path one wouldn't necessarily have expected. Often new characters were introduced into the mix, changing things up, with some interesting dynamics. Even a lot of the lesser characters were well portrayed, for instance lonely Edward or awkward Gill.

Lennox also does a splendid job of capturing the era that she writes in, showing the changing times; and I thought she especially rendered the second world war very well, not just the effects in Britain but across Europe. One of the characters, Anton, is Austrian, and I thought she really explored his story quite well; both the backstory of what was happening in Austria, as well as what it was like to be an immigrant at the time and branded as an 'enemy alien.' Certainly I found aspects of the book informative and enjoyed the historical detail.

Overall this is a sweeping old-fashioned family saga to be savoured; with a host of memorable characters who'll linger in the mind long after the pages are turned, and a story that will transport you back to a bygone era.

Gaynor Mackenzie-Cooke says

A page turner

Really enjoyed the twisted story. All loose ends were tied up satisfactory. I felt sad when I had finished the book.

Lara says

I did enjoy this book, but found on occasions that it jumped around quite a bit. I also found that the author went into great depth as to how Phillip and Elaine got together, then you didnt hear anything else about them apart from an odd mention. However, all this aside, its a great family saga, and well worth reading.

Yang Shu-yuan says

Bei einer Autopanne begegnet der Frauenschwarm Richard der jungen Isabel, einer Frau aus eher kleinen Verhältnissen. Umso erstaunter ist der Gutsbesitzersohn, als sie ihn zurückweist. Dennoch verliebt er sich in

sie - eine Liebe, die chancenlos scheint und trotzdem in eine Ehe mündet, die viele Stürme des Schicksals überdauern soll. Doch Isabel verpasst den Zeitpunkt, um ihrem Mann von ihrer Vergangenheit zu erzählen. Denn es gibt ein Geheimnis, das sie und diejenigen, die sie am meisten liebt, eines Tages einholen wird ... Mit feinem menschlichem Gespür erzählt Judith Lennox in ihrem mitreißenden Roman von Liebe, Loyalität und der Stärke einer Familie

Karen says

Set in Cornwall and London, this story follows the life and loves of a family and their extended family members.

Interestingly for me, there is a character called Anton Wolff, spelt the same way we spell our surname, quite unusual; another character who is a bigamist, also of interest to me from a historical family perspective. My family will understand my interest in this strand.

The ending was a little too neatly packaged for me, but this was an enjoyable read all the same.

I looked forward to reading it every night, but couldn't quite give it four stars in the end.

Yvette says

I read this book two months ago, and I'm going to read it again. I gave it three stars because while I enjoyed reading the book, I thought there were too many viewpoints, too many characters, and too many storylines - although a couple of them were compelling.

What I loved about this book, and the reason I'm reading it again - the characters. They are numerous and all are flawed in very compelling ways. In particular, the two main characters, Richard Finborough and the woman he marries, Isabel Zeale. In spite of their flaws (or maybe because of them), I really found myself rooting for them, to get through the bad spots. They occupy headspace even after the book is finished, and to me, that marks great characterization and upgraded the book from "meh" to "good".

Rina says

Eine historische Liebesgeschichte

... die über einen langen Zeitraum geht. Vom zarten Kennenlernen bis zur Ehe und mehr. Eine ganz normale junge Frau zog gerade in ein neues Haus ein und lernt dort ein Mann kennen, der sie von Anfang an sehr in seinen Bann zieht. Noch ahnt sie nicht, dass er von einem höheren Stand ist. Doch das stört die beiden Verliebten letztendlich wenig.

Insgesamt eine wunderschöne historische Liebesgeschichte, wo nicht immer alles Friede, Freude, Eierkuchen ist, sondern die alle Höhen und Tiefen des Lebens miterlebt. Daher gebe ich diesem Buch 4 von 5 Sternen.

Leanne Hunt says

This was a long though easy read, full of excellent descriptions of London during the war. Many stories wove their way through the narrative, keeping the action moving forward. While the book did not move me profoundly, it was entertaining and absorbing throughout.
