



In the Fullness of Time: One Woman's Story of Growth and Empowerment

Katherine P. Stillerman

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In this sequel to *Hattie's Place*, the year is 1913. Hattie Robinson is married to the widowed Charles Barton and has left her teaching position at Calhoun School to raise Charles's sons and manage the Barton estate. Now she must reconcile her role as mother and wife with her work for woman's suffrage, a cause that ignited her passion when attending the Woman's Suffrage Procession in Washington, on the eve of Woodrow Wilson's first inauguration. As a young bride, twenty-three years her husband's junior, Hattie struggles for acceptance in the community and Barton family. And then, Will Kendrick, her first love, appears, causing old feelings to resurface. When Julia Martin, the widow of Charles's best friend Percy, reaches out to Charles for legal advice in settling her husband's estate, Hattie discovers clues casting doubt on Charles's fidelity, and begins to question her marriage. As Hattie throws herself into her work to gain the vote for women, South Carolina's reactionary politicians Ben Tillman and "Cotton Ed" Smith thwart suffrage efforts in the state at every turn. Even the progressive president Wilson drags his feet, invoking states rights as the only pathway to an amendment. Equally discouraging is the anti-suffragist sentiment among those of Hattie's own gender. When Hattie's sister-in-law Alice learns to drive and purchases a 1916 Saxon touring car, Hattie agrees to go on a road trip to join the peaceful protests in Washington on the eve of President Wilson's second inauguration. Alice also invites Julia Martin to go along, and to Hattie's chagrin, Julia is sitting in the passenger seat when the two arrive from Columbia to pick her up. The journey brings new insight and fresh perspective, enabling Hattie to resolve misunderstandings with Charles and convincing her to continue her work for suffrage, with her husband's blessings. But the road Hattie has chosen becomes even more fraught with disappointing setbacks and delays. In 1917, the US declares war on Germany and the president mobilizes the country in the fight for freedom in Europe, ignoring the oppression of the rights of women at home. Public opinion shifts, casting the women's movement as unpatriotic and subversive. Hattie does her part for the war and agonizes when Charles Jr. and the boys from Calhoun are drafted and sent to the front. She continues to support the suffrage cause, but must cancel a second road trip due to gas rationing. When the war ends, she travels with Alice and Julia and Charles Jr.'s fiancée Pauline, to Washington to join the peaceful protests at the White House, organized by Alice Paul and the Woman's Party. The women become inspired to drive on to New York to join the demonstration against president Wilson, who is speaking at the New York Opera House on the eve of his return to the Paris peace negotiations. The peaceful demonstration turns violent when the police and soldiers, who have flooded the ports on their return from war, begin shoving the suffragists and breaking and burning their banners. Amidst the uproar, Pauline becomes convinced that she has spotted Charles Jr. in the crowd and is determined to go and look for him. Hattie persuades her that they must first go to police headquarters to find Alice and Julia, who have been arrested and detained there. The Susan B. Anthony Amendment finally passes the Senate in 1919. But Hattie and the South Carolina suffragists endure their greatest disappointment yet when the South Carolina legislature refuses to ratify the amendment by an overwhelming majority. They must now depend on the men of other states to ensure their enfranchisement. In August, the Tennessee legislature becomes the thirty-fourth state to ratify, ending the long struggle for suffrage, and making the 19th Amendment the law of the land, just in time for Hattie to cast her first vote in the 1920 presidential election.

In the Fullness of Time: One Woman's Story of Growth and Empowerment Details

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From Reader Review In the Fullness of Time: One Woman's Story of Growth and Empowerment for online ebook

marvin shults says

In the fullness of time

Another good story but maybe a little too much talk of women's rights. But I m sure in that day and time women had to fight hard for their rights. Seems we still have rights we're fighting for.

Shomeret says

Suffragettes are a favorite historical topic of mine. So I was glad to see a request to review another suffragette novel in my e-mail. That book was In The Fullness of Time by Katherine P. Stillerman. I received a free copy in return for this honest review.

There is a good deal of telling and conversing about events that occurred off the narrative stage. When an author does this, it distances the readers from those events. If they are events that are significant in the lives of the characters, the audience may also feel distanced from the characters. We don't find out what the characters were feeling and thinking as we would if we got to experience the events in real time as the characters experienced them.

Another problem for me is that I was most interested in Hattie's sister in law, Alice, because she was more independent minded than Hattie. I often wished that Alice was the protagonist. It's also possible that if I had read Hattie's Place, I would have considered Hattie a stronger protagonist.

There was an aspect of In The Fullness of Time that I considered valuable because I love history. Stillerman describes the political process of how women's suffrage became law in the U.S. on both the federal and state levels, and all the obstacles to achieving ratification. I have never seen a novel that was this detailed about all the practical politics involved in this issue. For me, all the details made fascinating reading. I imagine that I am an outlier, and that most of Stillerman's audience would prefer a book that is more novelistic.

For my complete review see <http://www.bookbabe.blogspot.com/2017/...>

Megan says

I appreciated the book and the details of the suffragette movement as a whole. I think this would make a good book for high school students that are interested in history, and women. I'm always drawn to historical fiction.

This was a giveaway.

Sharon says

Okay historical fiction centering around a woman suffragette. Slow moving, book 2 in a series. First book was "Hattie's Place".

this was a goodreads giveaway

Joni Haynes says

This is not the kind of book I usually read, but I misunderstood what the book was about because of the title. I won it from Goodreads, and started reading. I was surprised to learn as much as I did about the women's suffrage struggle as I did. It was a novel, but stuck closely to historical fact...and I found that I had been given very few of the facts in my history classes in school. The characters in the book are well drawn and different from each other, but they seem to mesh. My only complaint is that the story skipped from 1920 to 1969, with nothing in between...and there was a lot I would have liked to know about the happenings during those years. All in all, it was a very readable book!

Ian Miller says

A story that basically follows Hattie and a number of women in South Carolina as they struggle through the suffragette period in the US, and a number of other issues. It also follows Hattie as she grows into a marriage, and has to face a former flame, and other issues, including a husband who seems rather distant much of the time. The very close background of the women's lives is presented in great detail, but surprisingly little is presented further away. Thus meals, frocks, flowers, etc are presented in great detail, so much so that the story tends to be buried by it. There are also a rather large number of characters that make relatively small contributions, which makes the overall story a little difficult to follow. So I found that I had a very intense picture of the kitchen, say, but nothing of the county.

Perhaps because of the detail, I found the whole less engaging, although women readers probably will not find the same. Conversations tend to involve long paragraphs that pour out information, but first, most of it was arguably not relevant much of the time, and second, I am sure people of the time did not talk like that. I also found the characters to display surprising little emotion. A man finds out someone has shot his best friend and staged it as a suicide. He continued on calmly as if nothing had happened, and simply asked a stupid question. Hattie finds out her husband has given an extraordinary amount of money to his old flame yet gives no outburst, or even gentle criticism. On the other hand, the political hurdles and the obstructionism are clearly shown, so the author shows up the deficiencies of the political processes of the time, and maybe still. I would have preferred more attention given to the primary purpose of the story, but it may well be that many women would find the auxiliary detail the best part of the book.

Danielle Urban says

In the Fullness of Time by Katherine P. Stillerman is a historical detailing the very life of one woman, Hattie

Robinson. She lives during the time period of the women's suffrage movement. A very important and trying time for women everywhere. Not every woman wanted to get involved due to the consequences men tossed their way. But others like the protagonist kept going. Luckily, she had a husband, who understood and gave her his blessings to continue work for the movement. An exciting adventure awaits readers. I was fascinated, hooked, and lured deep in the South. Women fighting to have the right to vote. I loved the female protagonist. Hattie is an incredible woman that all women can easily like and relate to...overall, I highly recommend this book to all.

Barbara says

What I Liked

- Well-researched and informative about women's suffrage movement, which I knew little about despite identifying as a feminist since the 60's
 - The author personalized the information about women's suffrage through an engaging story of several southern women involved as activists
 - Most significantly for me, the book enlightened me regarding the origin of southern attitudes, especially those about losing the Civil War and the resulting bitterness that kept racism alive—and as a side-product also kept women down (for if one accepts women as equal beings, then one may have to accept blacks as equals as well)
 - The novel held my interest with various characters' "secrets"—Hattie's feelings for a former love, her husband's attraction to an old love, Julia's accidental murder of her husband, Hattie's husband learning Julia's secret as well as her dead husband's financial secrets and then secretly doing what he could to help Julia
 - The story included characters whom I cared about—Hattie (a former teacher who married a widower with four children and who is 23 years her senior), Alice (Hattie's outspoken sister-in-law who is a passionate activist for women's suffrage), and Julia (a former love of Charles and a seemingly typical charming southern belle who becomes an activist for women's suffrage)
 - I loved the letter sent by Charles Jr. about his fallen comrade
- . Well written

Reservation

- The merging of these two story lines—the progress of the women's suffrage movement and Hattie's personal growth is not entirely successful in my opinion. I cared about both stories a good deal but finally felt a bit shorted by both. I was surprised, for example, to read about the imprisonment and suffering of women who fought for women's suffrage—all "off stage" instead of dramatized. That incident seemed to have helped turn the tide politically, and I would have liked to read more about the determined women who participated—women who were unfortunately outside the main story line of this novel. Considering Hattie's story aside from the women's suffrage movement, I wanted to know more—and feel more—about the "secrets" of both Hattie and Charles and more about the difficulties of a young woman marrying a man two decades older and bringing up another woman's four sons.
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Valery says

In the Fullness of Time: One Woman's Story of Growth and Empowerment by Katherine Stillerman follows the story of Hattie. In this follow up book to Hattie's Place, Stillerman further explores the role of women in society during the suffragette period, while Hattie herself becomes involved in the movement. After marrying Charles, an older widower with four sons, Hattie's life is quite full and she finds little time to herself. When her former flame, Will comes back into life, Hattie is confronted with conflicting feelings and personal challenges. Charles himself, is questioning his role in the marriage when his former love Julia, re-emerges. Hattie is a tour de force however, and remains a champion for women's rights, education, and societal involvement through all of her many family challenges. A riveting historical fiction novel that explores voting rights while melding with a strong personal story. Highly recommend for an educational and emotionally fulfilling read.
