



The Price of Innocence

Vicki Hopkins

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The Price of Innocence was recently re-released through Holland Legacy Publishing, updating the cover and interior, and is available in paperback and eBook version. The story is historical fiction, with romantic elements, set in 1878 Paris. It is the first in a series of three entitled the Legacy Series.

It is the tender story of Suzette Camille Rousseau, a young woman in late 19th century Paris, who makes a difficult journey from innocence to maturity. After losing a sheltered life with her father, Suzette is thrown into the harsh reality of poverty, struggling as a homeless woman on the streets of Paris. In order to survive, she faces difficult choices that offer little hope of redemption.

Her journey takes her from the charities of St. Vincent de Paul, to a local laundry house where she toils endlessly in filth and squalor. To her surprise, one of her customers is the Chabanas, the most famous brothel in France that only caters to aristocrats. Like a fly drawn to a spider's web, the mistress of the brothel entices Suzette into a world of opulence, comfort, and beauty, but there is a price to pay -- her innocence. Succumbing to a life of prostitution, she meets a handsome English Lord who saves her from the unthinkable.

The author transports her readers back to another time and place, weaving facts of 19th century life throughout the story. The Price of Innocence sets the stage for book two in the series, The Price of Deception, due for release in late summer 2011.

The Price of Innocence Details

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Author : Vicki Hopkins

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From Reader Review The Price of Innocence for online ebook

Bekah says

This is the story of an innocent young girl who loses her father and immediately plunges into poverty. Ruthlessly maneuvered into prostitution, she is saved by an Englishman who whisks her away and hides her in a country cottage and makes her his mistress.

This book went in unexpected directions and I found myself quite upset by book's end, but then I realized this was a set up for the books to come in this series. I believe Robert and Suzette's story is far from over. I was repeatedly disappointed with the character's actions throughout the book simply because I didn't quite understand why they were behaving the way they were. I am sure that more characterization will be flushed out in coming books, but for this book, it took awhile for me to even like Suzette. However, by the end of the book I can see that she is becoming a stronger, less naive young woman.

Robert, on the other hand, is not a favorite of mine and no where near what I envision as a hero. I didn't believe that he truly loved Suzette, though by the end of the book it appears as though he may be getting the idea of what it really might mean to love someone. He has a long way to go as well.

I did appreciate the interesting peeks into the business of prostitution in the late 19th Century and the research and facts that went into the writing of this book. Not too bad of a story. However, I'm not going to run out to find the second book in the series.

Beatrice Rivers says

This book is Recommended by me, with a 4.5 star rating!

Becs says

The writer had me hooked, I didnt want to stop reading. Now that said, I do not like the way it ended though I've learned there is to be a 2nd and 3rd too I believe. I dont know that I will read the sequels.

Beckie Treble says

This was something I wasn't expecting. From the prologue I was expecting a lot of raunchy chapters, but that wasn't the case at all. It was fabulous. Read the entire thing in one day, and I'm already half way through book 2!! This is a series you just don't want to put down!!

Fabulous writing Vicki Hopkins!!!

Reena says

I really disliked this book. It seemed very third person and I never felt a real connection to the characters. Suzette seems very naive to the point of infuriating. It really took a lot to get through this book. I felt there was more details given to the surroundings and environment then to the actual feelings and thoughts of the characters.

Elli says

Although this book has some plot to it, it was mainly based around the steamier side of life and emphasized the particularly two-facedness of the practitioners of the Victorian ideals of life and sex, the societal worthlessness of those who just didn't, for one reason or another, and the unfairness of life. At least that seemed the sum up of the too-strong emphasis. It's not badly written, but, for me, there was really nothing much to write about. Disappointing.

Noelle says

It took me awhile to get to this book, the author did a "self promo" (which I hate) on a thread that I started over at Amazon asking for themes where the h is so down on her luck she has nothing left to sell but herself. Yes, this book fits what I was asking for and that's the only reason I was tempted....then when it was a freebie I went ahead and clicked the button.....and let it sit on my tbr. lol I finally decided that it was time to give it a shot.

*****SPOILERS*****

Suzette (h) at 18 has just lost her father, he died in his sleep on night. Now left alone (her mother died when she was very young) with no one but her neighbors to help her, she doesn't know what to do next. With the help of her neighbors, she goes through her father's papers, one thing leads to another and she finds out that her father was in major debt. Everything had to be sold including the apartment that she lived in, her neighbors were able to take her in but only for a week or so because they were moving out of town. When her week is up she sets off walking with only enough of her belongings in a small suitcase and she heads for The Daughters of Charity, a church that would provide temporary housing for homeless women. When her time there was almost up she was able to find work at a washhouse, part of that job was washing and delivering clean sheets to The Chabanais, a brothel. After a series of events she ends up blackmailed into working there. She spends a few days being pampered (she was a mess after being homeless and 18 hours a day of heavy work) and readied for her first evening of work.

Robert, Lord Holland (H) was in Paris for his usual play time. He lived in England and was always the proper and dutiful son when he was home, but in Paris, he would let loose and just do what he could never do at home. One of those things was to visit his favorite brothel, The Chabanais. When the Mistress of The Chabanais asked a special request for him, to break in the new girl, he jumped at the chance. He paid for 3 nights (that's all the time he had left before he had to return home) to spend with the little virgin and he planned to make the most of it. However upon meeting Suzette, he new she was freightend and he somehow got the feeling that she wasn't really there on her own accord. When he fails to take her virginity, the

Mistress finds out and hatches a horrible plan to teach Suzette a lesson. On the 3 night of their time together the Mistress had hired an overwieght letchers man to take her virginity just before her time to meet Lord Holland. As this man is attempting to rape her, she fights back and holds the man off just until Lord Holland arrives. He saves her, beats the guy to a pulp and wisches her out of the brothel. Now he has no other choice but to offer to take her to England with him and to provid for her.

Suzette accepts his help and offers her body as payment to him, he paid for it anyway and he did save her and she feels it's the only way she can pay him back. Not really wanting her to "pay him back" this way, he tried to refuse but he couldn't resist for long and they ended up making love for the first time that night. When they arrive in England he sets her up in a nice cottage on the outskirts of town. He visits her when he can, and as time goes by she falls in love with him. She's just waiting for Robert to ask her to marry her.

Upon arriving home Robert finds out that his father is dieing and he doesn't have much time left. His father tells him that it's time that he marry and that they've (his mother and father) have found the perfect woman for him and have already started the arraingment with the girls parents. Being the dutifull son, he never questions what his father has told him and he agrees right away to marry this girl. He knows that Suzette could never be more than his mistress and he plans to keep her as his misstress forever. Without ever telling Suzette, he marries this girl. At the same time a long lost fiance of Suzettes comes into the picture, Phillippe. He still loves her no matter what she has done to survive and plans to win her back. When he shows her the announcement of Lord Hollands wedding his plan works and she leaves Robert and marries Phillippe.....without ever telling Robert that she's pregnant with his child. Phillippe knows and plans to raise the child as his own. When the child is born they name him Robert and that's where the story ends. There is no HEA, at least not in this book. There is a blurb at the end that book 2 is coming soon and it picks up 5 years later when Robert, Lord Holland runs into Phillippe and young Robert.

When this book started off I thought it might have been a 5*, but some where along the way, I think about the time she left the brothel, the dialoge between the H/h became stilted and sub-par so I deducted a *. Then when I started to wonder who was really the H in the story, Robert or Phillippe and there was no HEA at the end of the book, I deducted another *. I'm also not sure that I want to read another book to find out the answer to both of those questions. =/

Linda Boulanger says

I picked up Vicki Hopkin's "The Price of Innocence" Saturday afternoon and read off and on until bedtime...at which time I got back up and read more until the wee hours of the morning. I could not put it down! I HAD to know what happened next...

Sara says

I Loved this book so much that I purchased the Second book in this series after finishing it. I am now waiting impatiently for the third book.

Kristen Hirsch says

I really enjoyed this book, I downloaded it for my Kindle just out of curiosity and was pleasantly surprised, i quickly fell in love with Suzette! I can't wait to read the next book in the series.

Emery Lee says

Poorly edited.

Libby says

How refreshing to find a book that is honest and factual! This is a real life tale - like it would have been. I consider it to be very well written. Many reviewers have complained that it isn't a romance. Well I think that it is - only it isn't the fairytale kind. The characters are refreshingly real as are their feelings and actions. Not every romance has a happy ending.

Well done to the author! I look forward to reading more from you.

Anne says

This book was not what I expected. Left destitute in Paris by her father's death, Suzette is forced to work in a laundry doing backbreaking work until the Madame of a brothel spies her delivering their laundry. She entices her into working for her, but Suzette manages to keep her virginity by bargaining with the rather decent English Lord who was picked to be her first. What ensues is different than expected and the ending is surprising. I really liked this book. Recommended.

Nia Ireland says

This was a title I picked up for free from my daily BookBub email, I don't understand how a book that makes so little logical sense can be so fun to read!

The storyline makes very little sense, our hero being replaced by another at the very end – following a series of very unlikely events where a young down-on-her-luck woman is rescued from a brothel for being simply too good to work there, apparently unlike every other woman currently working there.

It's a bit of a slap in the face for women's lib, really – all of the women who are not our heroine are pretty awful. Even the nuns who give her charity when she finds herself destitute aren't so great, kicking her back out on the street to give her bed to someone else – otherwise it's a series of cruel madams, prostitutes and housekeepers.

The characters are one dimensional and everything they seem to do is selfish, but if you take the story at face value and don't think about it too hard – it's surprisingly compelling. This really is a testament to Hopkins' ability to spin a good yarn.

The romantic element bounces between predictable, surprising and downright unlikely.

I don't see myself pursuing the rest of this series.

Rebecca Adling says

Amazing ending. This book was a breakaway from standard romance formula and moves more along the line of an epic. It's a bit wordy, but the ending is worth it. If your looking for something with more bite to the characters and story then this is the book for you.
