



Gilding the Lily

Rita Bradshaw

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A heartrending tale of two sisters and their quest for a place to belong, from much-loved author Rita Bradshaw.

Lily and Sarah Brown's childhood is an unhappy one. Sarah escapes by marrying Ralph Turner, a Sunderland dock worker, but Lily doesn't trust Ralph - a dark volatile man with a hidden cruel streak. When he tries to seduce Lily on his wedding day, her worst fears are confirmed. Ralph's younger brother John is cut from a different cloth, though, and Lily is increasingly drawn to him. But just when Lily sees a future for them, a terrible incident destroys her happiness. Heartbroken, Lily agrees to accompany the family she works for as a nursemaid to New York. As Lily boards RMS *Titanic* little does she realise that her decision will change the course of her life for ever...

Gilding the Lily Details

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From Reader Review Gilding the Lily for online ebook

Michelle says

I grew up reading authors like Lyn Andrews, Meg Hutchinson, Josephine Cox - all the kind of authors that write very well, and write for a specific time period. That period is quite often before/during/after World I & II. I bought this book, purely because it was about the Titanic - as depicted on the cover - but got a very similar author to the above. However, it wasn't AS good as the above authors.

It wouldn't be a book I would normally pick up, had it not been about the Titanic. I'd never heard of the author previously, and I doubt I would pick up another one of her books, unless it was from the charity shop. While it was a good read, it could have been trimmed slightly, and she does not really stand out amongst the other authors in that genre.

If you're interested in reading about the Titanic, be prepared to wait a while, as the whole Titanic storyline doesn't kick off until about page 300. However, there is a reasonably good storyline, albeit predictable, up until that point. The characters are good, although it does take a little while to get into who is who and who is married to who. By the end of the book, I still hadn't got one or two of the characters 100% straight in my head.

The Titanic section is very much skimmed over as if the author suddenly had no idea where to go with the storyline. Or maybe she did, but had to fill up the pages somehow. In that case, it's definitely not the best Titanic-based book I've ever read, but in no way it's the worse. The title is lovely, and the cover really grabs your eye. Unfortunately, the author cannot stand out from the crowd. But a good book if you're interested in the time period and can pick it up for cheap.

Brenda Anderson says

Another fantastic book from Rita Bradshaw.

Tara Chevrestt says

I really enjoyed this novel. Despite the four hundred some pages, I devoured it in two days.

Sarah and Lily come from a very tense household. Sarah gets herself pregnant and marries Ralph, unknowingly going from the frying pan into the fire. Sarah doesn't realize that Ralph has a cruel, dark side. On top of that, he has a thing for her sister, Lily. Lily wards off his advances not realizing Ralph's determination to get revenge on her. She takes up with his brother John. Meanwhile, family scandal abounds, suffragettes are wreaking havoc in England, her da divorces her mom, and Sarah is dealing with spousal abuse at the hands of Ralph.

Also of note is a lady friend of Lily's named Ellen. She plays a major role towards the end and has her own traumatic tale told throughout.

Something bad happens and it is bad enough to make Lily leave John despite her strong feelings of love for him. She then boards the Titanic. We all know what happens then. The ship sinks, but is Lily one of the fortunate ones? If, perchance, Lily does get her arse on a lifeboat, will enough sense be shocked into her to go back to her beloved John? Would John even have her back? What would the cruel, conniving Ralph do?

The scene in which the Titanic sinks literally gave me goosbumps. However, the Titanic doesn't enter the novel until page 307. As I was most excited about the Titanic aspect (partly due to the back summary mentioning it as well as the picture on the front) I am left feeling just a bit cheated. Despite the advertising, the Titanic doesn't play as big of a role as I had hoped. Still a good story tho.

Susan says

I thought it was a good read. A bit long perhaps....the titanic was what interested me in the first place and unfortunately it doesn't enter into the story until 2/3rds into the book but it was well written and I could really see it as the writer described it.

Overall a good read.

Jacqueline Lawrence says

Wonderful but heart jerking

Yet another wonderful book from Rita Bradshaw, she has a knack making you feel there a witness to the story line in her books, a thoroughly gripping read, tears were shed!

Pippin04 says

I really enjoyed the story and the twists and turns but if I had to read the word "bairns" one more time I'm not sure I could have finished.
