



## The Cazalet Chronicles: Five Novels in One Collection

*Elizabeth Jane Howard*

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**The Cazalet Chronicles: Five Novels in One Collection** Elizabeth Jane Howard

**The complete multigenerational saga of an upper-middle-class British family before, during, and after World War II.**

As war clouds gather on England's horizon, the Cazalet siblings, along with their wives, children, and servants, prepare to leave London and join their parents at their Sussex estate, Home Place. Thus begins the decades-spanning family saga that has engrossed millions of readers.

*The Light Years:* Hugh, the eldest of the Cazalet siblings, was wounded in France and is haunted by recurring nightmares and the prospect of another war. Edward adores his wife, a former dancer, yet he's incapable of remaining faithful. Rupert desires only to fulfill his potential as a painter, but finds that love and art cannot coexist. And devoted daughter Rachel discovers the joys—and limitations—of intimacy with another woman.

*Marking Time:* Narrated primarily through the voices of teenagers Louise, Polly, and Clary, the second novel details the continuing story of their fathers. With the outbreak of war, Edward is determined to do his bit for England. But Hugh, injured in World War I, must sit back and watch other men fight for their country, including his brother Rupert, who enlists and goes missing in action.

*Confusion:* As the world reels in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor, the Cazalets are dealt a tragic blow, and a new generation struggles to find peace with each other, a peace that seems to prove as elusive as it is in the larger world.

*Casting Off:* The war is over, but for the Cazalets—and England—the challenges continue. Against the backdrop of a crumbling empire, the family soldiers on in the wake of disappointment, heartbreak, and tragedy. But the family comes together again as three generations of Cazalets struggle to hold onto Home Place, the beloved Sussex estate that has been their refuge and their heart.

*All Change:* In 1956, the death of eighty-nine-year-old matriarch Kitty "the Duchy" Cazalet marks the end of an era—and the commencement of great change for the family. And Home Place, the beloved Sussex estate where the Cazalets have gathered for years, is now a beloved relic that, with its faded wallpaper and leaky roof, has aged along with its occupants.

A rich historical read for those who love E. M. Forster, Evelyn Waugh, or *Downton Abbey*, this is the story of a family "[rendered] thrillingly three-dimensional by a master craftsman" (*The Sunday Telegraph*).

## The Cazalet Chronicles: Five Novels in One Collection Details

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## **From Reader Review The Cazalet Chronicles: Five Novels in One Collection for online ebook**

### **Elze De Vries says**

Meeslepend en verslavend. Ook nu ik alles uit heb blijf ik mij afvragen hoe het de meesten van hen verder is vergaan, vooral Louise, Polly en Clary.

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### **Peggy says**

The enjoyed all 5 books and ended it with wanting more!

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### **Susanne Sorensen says**

good read. however, by book 4 i was ready to be finished with the series.

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### **Jane Griffiths says**

I'm afraid I fell into this five-volume family saga at the start of a two-week holiday, and couldn't stop until I had finished them all. I thought it was brilliant. She said apparently that she wrote it to chronicle the changes in women's lives brought about (mainly) by the Second World War. It did that. But as a chronicle of English life quite frankly I think it knocks Trollope into a cocked hat. Not least because the servants are not ancillary to the family story, but part of it, because they were part of the family. And that of course was a big part of the change. The young men were called up, and the young women went into the factories and other war service, and never came back to serve in the great houses. And those who had the wealth that had enabled them to own and live in these houses were often exposed as not really worthy of this fantastic privilege. Oh and like all good English novels it is about houses as much as it is about people. And some people were gay, and some had mental health problems, and there were the general issues about sexuality that plague English life to this day. Though how people did not clock that a woman with cropped hair who wore men's shirts and ties and called herself Sid was lesbian I'll never know. It's a wonderful portrait, on several levels and in several aspects, of married life too, and the sexuality of that. There are too many characters. A lot of children, who rather blur into one after a while. There were times when I couldn't quite remember who was who with some of the more peripheral characters. But these are small things. It was terrific. Elizabeth Jane Howard's sometime stepson Martin Amis credits her with helping him to be a writer, and talks about her "penetrating sanity" (I think it was) which I find excellent. We should all read Elizabeth Jane Howard.

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### **Virginia Latra says**

If you liked Downton Abby you will enjoy this series as well.

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## **Charlene A. Lester says**

### **Family struggles**

This series of 5 books is very well done although at times it seems to drag a bit. Don't give up on it though because it picks up.

Good read

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## **Mary Lou says**

If I could give it 6 stars I would. As I closed this book for the last time it was as though I were closing a chapter on my own life. This book was my reward at days end and I savored every page. It is about a British family pre-WWII until 1958. The Cazalets are a family of mother, father, 3 brothers, 1 sister and their offspring. You will journey with them through the war, their loves, their sadness, their joys. It is one of the best books I've ever read.

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## **Janine says**

OK the family detail was lovely and the writing pleasant to read but I just kept waiting for something to happen. And despite five books, not very much did! Time passed, individual's passed but there were not really key moments other than pre/post war. Gentle passage through time.

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## **Amy Beck says**

Warning: this review is full of spoilers!!

After pre-reading reviews here on Goodreads, I was determined not to let the mental organization of character names deter me from enjoying the book. I, therefore, accepted names and relationships as they arrived--and there were many--and tried not to stress and just become familiar as I continued on.

At first, however, the confusion of characters kept me somewhat disengaged. The author's style and technique throughout the novel of referring to people without always cluing me in as to whom I was following, but rather picking up from what felt like the middle of a private thought, was frustrating. I often felt almost as if I'd interrupted them when I arrived on their page. I'd be three pages later before I was sure exactly which character was being discussed. Gradually, as I continued on, the storyline became more and more engaging as I became familiarized with each person and their situation. Into the novel, I felt completely absorbed and involved in the lives of these characters. There was charm, insight, frustration, and so much more...endearing each one to me. All the heartfelt components that fully filled out each personality were realized, and I grew to dearly love this family with all their promises and shortcomings.

I wanted this story to continue on for each character. My main wish is that, hopefully, Edward dumps that atrocious Diana and, in my wildest dreams, has the guts and receives forgiveness to return to Villy and become a real father to their son. I've seen this happen in real life--where an abandoned spouse forgives the repetitive, wayward husband and their marriage is successfully rekindled. My biggest disappointment was how my faith in wise and wonderful Archie eroded in minutes after a shocking revelation that I could never have anticipated. Clary was possibly my favorite character of all. Her stunning writing ability, and her almost blase innocence combined with her energetic, creative mind enchanted me. I looked forward to her relentless faith and the ongoing adventures she imagined her father endured while MIA. Even while everyone else gave up, Clary's convictions did not waver. She was so touching, and she was so precious and precocious.

Mostly, I want to remember how desperately I wanted the Easter Bunny, Santa Claus, or maybe Tinkerbell to wave a magic wand and have a white knight rescue the family and make the heartache go away... I kept thinking perhaps Louise's wealthy lover step in and save the family home.

For me, the sign of a good or great book is when you want to know what happens yet you never want it to end. That's the emotion this series of novels kindled and "Kindled" in me.

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### **Miss M says**

All 5 books on sale for \$2.99

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