



Julia's Story

Ruth Elwin Harris

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Originally published in Britain as The Dividing Sea.

Four independent-minded sisters come of age in the early 1900s - and four interwoven novels tell their stories, each through a different sister's eyes.

The year is 1910, and the four Purcell sisters have only each other. Their mother has died, leaving them orphans in a rambling country estate. But with the help of the Mackenzies - their guardian and his family, whom the sisters come to love in very different ways - Sarah, Frances, Julia, and Gwen find the courage to follow their own paths in a world that is rapidly changing.

Avid readers and fans of historical-fiction classics will love these spirited heroines - named "the Little Women of our times" by the TIMES of London - and will be thoroughly absorbed by their intertwining tales, full of feistiness, creativity, and young romance.

The Dividing Sea (Book Three) is Julia's story. It tells of her eventful time as a volunteer nurse in France during the Great War and her ill-started love story with Geoffrey Mackenzie.

Julia's Story Details

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From Reader Review Julia's Story for online ebook

Sara says

4 and 1/2 stars

JULIA'S STORY is a touching book that explores some of the deeper issues of living through World War I. I also got caught up in Julia's emotions as second-oldest of the four orphaned sisters. Maybe because her character is somewhat reserved and reluctant, I found myself rooting for Julia. She seemed to need encouragement and reassurance along the way, in her process of understanding her artistic gifts, developing a love relationship, and finding lasting happiness.

Erin72 says

The most interesting of the quartet, although I found the ending disappointing.

Gemma says

The Quantock Quartet has got to be one of my favourite series, but I think this one will be my least favourite.

While I **loved** it, there were certain things I couldn't help resenting. I didn't like the way Julia thought of her sisters, for instants, and I thought she was a little dull as a character. Especially towards the end. But even then, there was something I still liked about her. The final chapter was *so* dissatisfying! I think it was meant to be a happy ending, but all I could think of was how wrong it all went! I kept comparing Julia to Frances, who is my favourite of the four sisters, so that could be one reason I didn't like her as much as the others. Though I haven't read Gwen's Story yet!

Another thing I didn't like about this book, was that there was no *hope*. I started the book with a heavy heart, and ended it so. I knew Geoffrey was going to die! Yes, there was Major Elliott, but who cares about *him* compared with Geoffrey? I had a mad hope about halfway through the book that Geoffrey would turn up somewhere, since he was only 'missing' but, that ended. Geoffrey was why I liked the book so much! I liked his personality and everything. (though I didn't like him as much as Gabrial in Frances's story) Geoffrey shouldn't have died! I just couldn't get over it! The ending was all wrong! But I did like seeing Frances after all those years, with Gabrial, and Gwen. I loved all the things that went on in the book, and seeing everyone in a new perspective. I liked Julia the most when she was at home. She was a knew person then. She was interesting. The way she took charge, and tried her best to make peace with everyone.

I thought the book was beautifully written, and the characters well developed, so I won't say I didn't enjoy reading it. Even *if* I thought the book was a bit depressing.

You can probably tell, I have very mixed feelings about this book. It almost sounds like two different people writing the review!

Charlie says

This was the first time I had reread this series in many, many years, and for the most part I still enjoyed it. I did, however, find these books rather more slowly going than I remember them being. The writing is very descriptive - beautiful! Yet descriptive. And yet there were scenes I remember being powerful and heartbreakingly lacking. An interesting reread of a series I remember fondly, but not sure I would recommend to many younger readers today (even if it wasn't out of print!).

Sabrina says

This book is #3 out of 4 stories of each Purcell sister. I was introduced first to story #1 – Sarah – through a book club. I enjoyed that book, but really wanted to learn more about Julia. So I got my hands on a copy of Julia's Story.

I actually stayed up all night finishing it. I just couldn't put it down. This book moved me in a way that doesn't happen too often. Julia is a fascinating character who experienced some extremely tragic events and managed to slowly work through them. Despite these events, there were times I was able to laugh along with her. It was fun to experience her first crush, to feel the butterflies with the first kiss and to realize the depth of her love for Geoffrey. It was inspiring to watch her exert herself to help those in need. She had a calling and did not shy from it regardless if others disapproved. During her war efforts, I felt her desperation, her anxiety, and her frustration. In reading book #1 I knew how some things would end, but I was so caught up in Julia's emotions, that I began to hope for something different. I was so sad when that didn't happen. I cried a lot with Julia and wanted to hug her. Especially since it seemed no-one really knew the extent of her loss. It was comforting in the end to see she made peace with her situation and to realize she could be happy with her life. She was lucky to be surrounded by wonderful, caring family and friends.

I borrowed this book from the library, but loved it so much that I bought a copy for myself. I know that this is one book I will re-read

Maria says

This is my favourite of the four books and the one I return to again and again. Julia always struck me as the most sensible and normal of the sisters, much less cocooned than everyone else.

Jeannie says

This series is surprisingly well written, when I came home with the books I had a sinking feeling I would be returning all four after the first chapter. Not by a long shot. Each one gets better.

spoiler.....

I had held out a hope that since there was never a body recovered that Geoffrey would somehow turn up. A victim of amnesia? An AWOL soldier to ashamed to come home. Even in the end when Canada was brought up I thought she would go and find him there.

Kassidy Weston says

I loved this book

Daniela says

The next installment is a good one. Looking forward to reading number 4
