



The Angry Wife

Pearl S. Buck

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A novel of a Southern woman trapped in the past and two brothers divided by the Civil War, from the New York Times–bestselling author of *The Good Earth*.

Lucinda Delaney is a southern belle ruled by a vision of life that no longer exists. The Civil War has come and gone and her side has lost, yet she is determined to proceed as if nothing has changed—a denial that stokes the flames of her irrational angers. Despite her returned husband’s devotion, Lucinda is sure he is having an affair with one of their slaves. After all, his Union-sympathizing brother, Tom, did just that, scandalously running away with the woman and settling into contented family life in Philadelphia. Over the years, her racist feelings and fears only intensify, and when it’s time for her own daughter to marry, her chief concern is the color of the children.

The Angry Wife is a memorable and impassioned dissection of prejudice, as well as a riveting portrait of post–Civil War America.

The Angry Wife Details

Date : Published May 21st 2013 by Open Road Media (first published 1946)

ISBN :

Author : Pearl S. Buck

Format : Kindle Edition 256 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Novels, Literature

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From Reader Review The Angry Wife for online ebook

Joan says

Great mix of history, fiction, intelligence and emotion

I couldn't wait to reopen book after each closing. So much learned about that period right after Civil War ended - with historical references woven in amongst this fine story of family, love, honor, ambition, growth and loss. Highly recommended.

Mobeme53 Branson says

Although perhaps not her best work, it does give a very good portrait of The South after the Civil War. Written in 1959 she shows remarkable insight into the post war attitudes and lends understanding to the reasons why prejudice against African-Americans is still strong today. The language is a bit stilted and perhaps overly dramatic at times but still worth a read.

Kathleen says

A whole different setting for Pearl S Buck

This book takes place in post Civil War West Virginia. The main character is conflicted between the way he was raised and how he sees the world after the Civil War.

Rose says

Pearl Buck's simply elegant prose and her psychological insights into her characters are amazing. The Angry Wife is set just after the Civil War, where part of Virginia becomes West Virginia and when masters and slaves are adjusting to freedom. Pierce Delaney comes home from the war, having fought for the South, changed and willing to change, to a wife who seemingly cannot comprehend the change. Tensions escalate when Pierce's brother Tom, who fought for the North and survived Andersonville, returns home to complete his recovery and marries one of the mixed-raced servants brought into the house during his absence. How those complications play out makes for a fascinating but at times heart-wrenching read. BTW, I chose this book for a second reading challenge for a book published the year I was born.

Marie says

Pearl Buck.....fantastic author...has tremendous insight into the feeling--loves, joys, struggles, concerns of women. In every book I've read I've found myself strongly relating to the central female character. I've read 3 of her books. Each one is unique in its portrayal of women. Yet each one drew me in to the world of these

various women. "The Angry Wife" takes place in post civil war south and deals with the difficulty of adjusting to or rejection of the changes brought about by that horrible time in our nations history. Excellent. Loved it. "A woman had to think how to do a thing like that. Just to make a fuss wasn't enough." "She rose, spread her skirts and floated out of the room like an outraged swan,"

JT says

This was a departure from Pearl's far East stories, so I felt I had to read it. It's a historical piece of fiction dealing with an American Southern family after the Civil War. The family and those that were close (house) slaves have to deal with all the changes that came after the war: the new employer/employee relationships and the forbidden concept of interracial marriage. Although not one of her best, it is engaging and worth the read.

Patricia Wagg says

Pearl Buck's books are always a reading treat. This is a significant book, which gives insights into the national divisions of the US today. Enlightening.

Julia Prater says

A fascinating read of transition set in post-Civil War West Virginia. Thought provoking in the arena of race relations as well as in the industrialization of the nation, labor issues and the monumental changes of late 19th century.

Rebecca says

Several times I nearly gave up on this book. I was looking for an authentic book on slavery and abolition and this was not that. The characters are so flimsy, the storytelling weak and predictable. I know many will disagree but this was the first book I read by Pearl S Buck and I will definitely not be reading another.

Jean says

This was my first Pearl S. Buck novel and it was very engaging. Written in 1947, the story is about a family divided by issues of race in the post Civil War era and what was considered socially acceptable.

Victoria Evangelina Belyavskaya says

A rare mix of a quiet, and seemingly non-interesting life set in a time of social change, written with the

mastery and deep psychological insight that did not allow me to put the book down for longer, than it was absolutely needed.

Eileen E Cartwright says

Interesting

I never knew, before I discovered this book, that Pearl Buck wrote about anything but China - certainly not the American south after the Civil War. Her take on relations between blacks and whites is interesting. She brings out how terribly difficult things must have been. Also, I confess I knew nothing about the railroad strike of 1877. Here she begins to delve into workers vs rich corporate owners and the beginnings of unions. I was not crazy about the last third or so of the book but all in all it was an interesting read.

Terry S says

Another enjoyable read by Pearl S. Buck. This novel breaks away from her Asian settings with a journey through the freeing of slaves after the Civil War. An engaging story that touches on the struggles faced by slave owners and their freed slaves to deal with a different way of life. It captures the emotions of the various characters as they make their way through new challenges.

Jeannie says

Change and Revolution

I enjoyed this book by Pearl Buck. Like her books on China, she writes of change and revolution, only this time in the southern United States. The main focus is a man who fought in the civil war and came home to a rapidly changing world around him. Though he tried to hold back time, things would never be the same. This story tells of his acceptance that the future would move on without him.

Michele Chapman says

I have read books about the times of American slavery, and learned in school about the Civil War and the abolishment of slavery, but I have not read about, or even thought too much about the time period where the war is over and everyone goes home. Say you owned slaves, what does your life look like? Say you were a slave, what does your life look like? This books gives a glimpse into that transition period by showing us the different viewpoints of its characters over their lifetime after the war is over. Very interesting.
