

The background features a complex network of white nodes and lines, resembling a constellation or a data network. The nodes are of varying sizes and are connected by thin white lines. The background color transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. There are also several small, faint white dots scattered throughout the background.

Lost Roses

Written by Martha Hall Kelly

Published by ninastrattoria

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Lost Roses

By Martha Hall Kelly

Lost Roses Goodreads

The runaway bestseller *Lilac Girls* introduced the real-life heroine Caroline Ferriday. This sweeping new novel, set a generation earlier and also inspired by true events, features Caroline's mother, Eliza, and follows three equally indomitable women from St. Petersburg to Paris under the shadow of World War I.

Lost Roses By Martha Kelly

It is 1914 and the world has been on the brink of war so many times, many New Yorker's treat the subject with only passing interest. Eliza Ferriday is thrilled to be traveling to St. Petersburg with Sofya Streshnayva, a cousin of the Romanov's. The two met years ago one summer in Paris and became close confidantes. Now Eliza embarks on the trip of a lifetime, home with Sofya to see the splendors of Russia. But when Austria declares war on Serbia and Russia's Imperial dynasty begins to fall, Eliza escapes back to America, while Sofya and her family flee to their country estate. In need of domestic help, they hire the local fortuneteller's daughter, Varinka, unknowingly bringing intense danger into their household. On the other side of the Atlantic, Eliza is doing her part to help the White Russian families find safety as they escape the revolution. But when Sofya's letters suddenly stop coming she fears the worst for her best friend.

Lost Roses Kindle

From the turbulent streets of St. Petersburg to the avenues of Paris and the society of fallen Russian emigre's who live there, the lives of Eliza, Sofya, and Varinka will intersect in profound ways, taking readers on a breathtaking ride through a momentous time in history.

I am ecstatic to tell you about one of my most-anticipated reads this year! ðŸŒ€¹ ðŸŒ€¹ ðŸŒ€¹ ðŸŒ€¹ ðŸŒ€¹

Lilac Girls is one of my favorite historical fiction reads, and HF is my favorite genre. In Lilac Girls, Martha Hall Kelly gave us Caroline Ferriday as a real life heroine of her time during World War II. Lost Roses is Carolineâ€™s motherâ€™s story, along with two other women affected by World War I.

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In 1914, Germany is gaining power and war is possibly on the horizon. Eliza Ferriday travels to St. Petersburg, Russia with Sofya Streshnayva, a Romanov cousin. Eliza and Sofyaâ€™s close friendship is formed years prior while the pair lived in Paris.

While Elizaâ€™s in Russia, Austria declares war on Serbia, and Russiaâ€™s tsar is likely to fall. She flees safely to the United States but wishes she could have brought Sofya and her family with her.

Sofyaâ€™s family must flee the city to the familyâ€™s country manor because a revolution is on the brink. They hire Varinka, a young peasant girl, to serve in their household, but she brings danger along with her.

Across the world, Eliza is doing everything she can to help Russians escape the revolution, when suddenly she stops hearing from Sofya.

The book travels between the US, St. Petersburg, and Paris, and illuminates the places and their people during this time of strife, violence, and uncertainty.

Martha Hall Kellyâ€™s storytelling is just as captivating and alluring as it was with Lilac Girls. Eliza Ferriday is a strong, formidable character, and Sofya and Varinkaâ€™s stories will break your heart for different reasons.

Lost Roses

There was a poignant moment when Sofya looked down at her young son Max after seeing a starving peasant baby, and she reflected on Max's luck of being born to her into her family of wealth. The tables are turned on Sofya and her family, and I think about that all the time- the luck one has to be born in whatever country- one that has freedoms, or one that is filled with every day war and danger.

Lost Roses is the glorious story of the lives of Eliza, Sofya, and Varinka. Even though Eliza and Sofya are born privileged, they never lose sight of how they can help others, and there is unequivocal beauty in that and honesty in how Kelly depicts it. This is the perfect book to get lost in. The storytelling grabs you and won't let go.

Thanks to Suzy Approved Book Tours, the author, and publisher for the complimentary copy. All opinions are my own.

My reviews are also available on my blog: www.jennifertarheelreader.com ...more

Lost Roses Audiobook

As difficult as much of it was to read, I loved Martha Hall Kelly's first novel, *Lilac Girls*, a heartbreaking story of the horrific things that happened at Ravensbrück, a concentration camp during WWII where unspeakable medical experiments were conducted on women. But is not without hope and it is filled with the strength of women who make a difference. Making it more meaningful, is that it is based on the life of Caroline Ferriday, a woman who gave so much of herself to aid women who survived Ravensbrück. As difficult as much of it was to read, I loved Martha Hall Kelly's first novel, *Lilac Girls*, a heartbreaking story of the horrific things that happened at Ravensbrück, a concentration camp during WWII where unspeakable medical experiments were conducted on women. But is not without hope and it is filled with the strength of women who make a difference. Making it more meaningful, is that it is based on the life of Caroline Ferriday, a woman who gave so much of herself to aid women who survived Ravensbrück. In this prequel to that book, Martha Hall Kelly portrays the life of Eliza Ferriday, Caroline's mother and I could see how much Eliza had inspired her daughter. While I can't say that this one gripped me as much as *Lilac Girls*, perhaps because of the horrors of the Holocaust, it is in its own right a fantastic work of historical fiction, that also is filled with hope and women who made a difference in other women's lives and I loved everything about it.

The story is told with narratives of three women, Eliza, from an established, moneyed family in New York, Sofya, from a well to do family related to the Tsar in revolutionary Russia and Varinka, a poverty stricken girl from the Russian country side. From WW I and the Russian Revolution, from New York, to Paris to cities in Russia, Martha Hall Kelly takes us on a journey back in time from 1914-1921 and to the places where these women's lives cross.

It is clear from her notes on her research and her travel that this is a well researched work of historical fiction. I love that she tells us who some of the characters were modeled on, reminding us that this is a work of fiction, yet it reflects so much about the time and places she takes us to. It is also a story loss, loss of loved ones, loss of home, but a story of friendship, of family and of the generosity and goodnesses of women who care. I can hardly wait for her next book, which will take us to the time of the Civil War with Caroline's great-grandmother's story. ...more

This novel is a prequel to *The Lilac Girls* and features the real life heroine Caroline Ferriday. The world is in turmoil and edging toward World War One. We learn about Caroline's mother, Eliza and two other women that are thrown into the intense situations they faced in 1914. Eliza is the connection between the two novels - *The Lilac Girls* and *Lost Roses*, but this one could easily be read as stand-alone.

The story follows the lives of three women. Eliza who is a socialite and lives in Manhattan. This novel is a prequel to *The Lilac Girls* and features the real life heroine Caroline Ferriday. The world is in turmoil and edging toward World War One. We learn about Caroline's mother, Eliza and two other women that are thrown into the intense situations they faced in 1914. Eliza is the connection between the two

Lost Roses

novels - The Lilac Girls and Lost Roses , but this one could easily be read as stand-alone.

The story follows the lives of three women. Eliza who is a socialite and lives in Manhattan. Her friend Sofya Streshnayva, is a cousin of the Romanov's, the reigning dynasty in Russia. While visiting her in St. Petersburg, Eliza becomes aware that war is imminent and fears for her friend Sofya, who seems unaware of the danger that could come. When war is declared, Eliza heads back home to America.

Varinka Kozlov is a Russian girl, who the Romanov family hire to help in their household. She is the daughter of a well-known fortune-teller and her situation is dire. I tried to imagine the helplessness that she felt when she had to make some dangerous decisions. Varinka and her mom are under the thumb of some dangerous men that are involved in the local uprisings. Lets just say, she has a lot going on. and makes some decisions that will impact all of these women. A story of three strong, determined women and their quest for survival.

While this story is not as fast-paced as Lilac Girls , the characters are compelling and the author's research of the period was evident. There is a lot that happens go in this novel and it took some concentration to keep it all straight. There are some "hold your breath" moments towards the end, and I feared for what was to come. I was still invested to find out how each of their stories would play out.

Review posted to my blog 1/25/19

Thanks to the publisher and blog tour host for the opportunity to read/review.

Publishes on April 9,2019 ...more

Lost Roses Barnes And Noble

A beautiful story about the ugly truth of war. A tale full of courage, determination, strength, compassion, Hope, beauty, and love!

Martha Hall Kelly has written A compelling book that is simultaneously elegant and brutal... this is the kinder gentler cousin of "The Lilac Girls". A book I read and liked, but if I'm being honest I liked this book a bit more... I think for me all the characters in this book were more relatable, and I felt compassion for all of them... really the only common thread A beautiful story about the ugly truth of war. A tale full of courage, determination, strength, compassion, Hope, beauty, and love!

Martha Hall Kelly has written A compelling book that is simultaneously elegant and brutal... this is the kinder gentler cousin of "The Lilac Girls". A book I read and liked, but if I'm being honest I liked this book a bit more... I think for me all the characters in this book were more relatable, and I felt compassion for all of them... really the only common thread between this book and the previous is the character of Caroline Ferriday, a character I liked in the first book but I adored even more in this one... so I wouldn't necessarily call this a prequel, and both books can definitely be read as standalones... although I'm guessing after you've read one you will want to read the other they're both exquisitely told historical fiction novels full of strong women living through extraordinary circumstances!

"Lost Roses" is the story of three remarkable women Eliza, Sofya, and Varinka... The book is set during WWI and mainly focuses on the atrocities in Russia... both Sofya and Varinka are Russians, although they come from very different backgrounds and social classes... Eliza is an American, she is from a privileged background, she is also the mother of Caroline of "The Lilac Girls"... Eliza and Sofya became friends while at boarding school in Switzerland, Sofya is related to the Romanoffs family...Varinka was not born into privilege as these other ladies were she came to know Sofya when she went to work for the family... three women from three very different backgrounds and yet all their lives are adversely impacted by war...

One of my biggest takeaways from this book was how untouched America really has been by war... yes, many lives were lost and goods were rationed, but I think that is very different from The many more lives lost, the property damage, the horror of living through war on your soil, not to mention bandits taking over your family home... some of the situations that Sofya found her self in were so harrowing... her fortitude and determination were so admirable, I tried to put myself in her situation and I just don't know if I would have had the strength to do what she did...Varinka really skated the line of right and wrong throughout this book, I felt so much for her because I'm not sure what choices she had... Eliza was strong and compassionate and I admired her loyalty and altruism... such a remarkable story that I feel will resonate with everybody!

This really was historical fiction at its finest, this book made me feel as though I was right there with these ladies during WWI, I felt so much for each and everyone of them and bonus I learned some things

along the way! Absolutely recommend!

δŸŽμδŸŽμδŸŽμ Song Running Through My Head

This song always reminded me of how we are all more alike than different, it also reminds me of the Cold War and Russia...

â€¦ In Europe and America there's a growing feeling of hysteria.

Conditioned to respond to all the threats

In the rhetorical speeches of the Soviets.

Mr. Krushchev said, "We will bury you."

I don't subscribe to this point of view.

It'd be such an ignorant thing to do

If the Russians love their children too.

How can I save my little boy from Oppenheimer's deadly toy?

There is no monopoly on common sense

On either side of the political fence.

We share the same biology, regardless of ideology.

Believe me when I say to you,

I hope the Russians love their children too

â€¦ There is no historical precedent

To put the words in the mouth of the president?

There's no such thing as a winnable war,

It's â€¦

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=wHylQRV...>

*** many thanks to Random House Valentine for my copy of this book *** ...more

The prequel to *Lilac Girls*, this historical novel features Caroline Ferriday's mother, Eliza, during WWI and the Russian Revolution. Eliza is one narrator, her aristocratic Russian friend, Sofya, is another and finally Varinka tells her side of the story as a Russian peasant. The lives of these indefatigable women cross in ways that none of them could have imagined prior to the world changing events of their time. There is opulence juxtaposed with abject poverty. There is elation set side by side with deep despair and all three women suffer tremendously. Eliza, Sofya and Varinka are distinctly different people from different backgrounds but, oddly, their voices sound the same. The plight of the White Russian émigrés has particular poignancy given the immigration issues of today. Moving from the East Coast of the USA to Russia and Paris, this is a plot driven novel that speeds along and reads just as quickly. *Lost Roses* is a

Lost Roses

treat for fans of Lilac Girls. ...more

Lost Roses Audible

I found Lilac Girls interesting but I was not as ecstatic as others when singing its praises. But what I did appreciate was the research that Kelly did so I was curious to read Lost Roses.

This book follows Eliza Ferriday, Caroline's mother, as she travels with Sofya Streshnayva, a family friend, to St Petersburg in 1914, just before WWI. Once again, Kelly uses multiple voices to tell the story. This juxtaposition works well, for example, when Eliza is able to see the Russian discontent while the

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While we all know the story of the Tsar and his family's captivity, Lost Roses explores the fate of the next tier of aristocracy and how they fared during the revolution. She perfectly captures the anarchy, the treatment of the "former people". I appreciated Kelly's ability to weave historical facts into her storytelling.

As with Lilac Girls, the Ferriday story is the weakest of the bunch. Other than covering the bigotry of the upper classes, there wasn't much tension. Eliza was a true friend to the Russian emigres but her story lacked the drama of what was transpiring in Mother Russia and later in Paris. Sofya and Varinka are both fictional, but it is their characters that interested me most. Varinka, especially, showed the moral dilemmas facing ordinary Russians during the upheaval. Anyone who enjoyed Lilac Girls will definitely appreciate Lost Roses. I will be looking forward to Kelly's next book, which travels even further back in time to the family during Civil War days.

My thanks to netgalley and Random House for an advance copy of this book.

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4 stars for this historical fiction book.

It is a prequel to Lilac Girls and tells the story of Caroline Ferriday's mother, Eliza. The book takes place from 1914 to 1920, The book is divided into chapters titled with the 3 main characters, Eliza, Sofya and Varinka. Sofya is a cousin to the Tsarina and a member of the Russian aristocracy in 1914. Varinka is a peasant girl who goes to work as a nanny to Maxwell, Sofya's son. Eliza is a friend of Sofya's family and lives in New York and Connecticut

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Lost Roses

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I enjoyed this book and found it to be an accurate portrayal of life in Russia, France and the US during this period. My wife read this book before me and was appalled at the way the Russian aristocracy treated the peasants. She did not like it as much as Lilac Girls. But I found it to be an honest portrait of the corruption and extravagant lifestyle that led to the revolution.

Some quotes:

"How is the tsar helping?"

I shrugged. "He believes if he supports the rich, prosperity will trickle down to the people."

Eliza meeting an actor: "Had he marinated himself in cologne?"

"When I went back to the house I found it in Agnessa's ruined townhouse. Kept it alive since I left Russia."

Luba stroked a petal. "Poor lost roses. Liked us, I suppose."

Thanks to Random House Publishing Group/Ballantine Books for sending me this eARC through NetGalley. #LostRoses #NetGalley

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Lost Roses Epub

Turbulent times bring about much upheaval, destroying lives, making people make choices, decisions, that are often life threatening, and ultimately move in directions they never thought possible.

If you have read *The Lilac Girls*, you already have been introduced to Caroline Ferriday. In this book, *Lost Roses*, we take a step back in history and meet Caroline's mother, Eliza. The story focuses on three women, Eliza Ferriday, a New York socialite, Sofya Streshnayva, a relation of the Tsar and a close friend of Eliza's, and Varinka Kozlov, a girl hired by the Streshnayva family to help in the household. It is 1914 and the world is teetering on the brink of war. Tensions are high, people are starving, and in Russia, upheaval is on the horizon as the Tsar is about to be overthrown and life for those associated or related to the royals is not only changing dramatically but also many are finding that their lives are ending.

If you have read *The Lilac Girls*, you already have been introduced to Caroline Ferriday. In this book, *Lost Roses*, we take a step back in history and meet Caroline's mother, Eliza. The story focuses on three women, Eliza Ferriday, a New York socialite, Sofya Streshnayva, a relation of the Tsar and a close friend of Eliza's, and Varinka Kozlov, a girl hired by the Streshnayva family to help in the household. It is 1914 and the world is teetering on the brink of war. Tensions are high, people are starving, and in Russia, upheaval is on the horizon as the Tsar is about to be overthrown and life for those associated or related to the royals is not only changing dramatically but also many are finding that their lives are ending.

Sofya and Varinka are in peril. Sofya and her family, because of their proximity to royalty and Varinka, daughter of a well known fortune teller, because she and her mother are under the thumb of two evil revolutionaries are in danger. They all find themselves caught up in the turmoil and unrest that threatens their very lives. Meanwhile, in America, Eliza worries and does all she can to secure the safety of Sofya, knowing her friend and family is in a grave situation.

Eliza Ferriday was a true friend. She it is who we come to know not only as a friend but also as a compassionate woman who so understood the plight of her dearest friend, but also that of those who were able to escape and come to America, particularly to Southampton New York. She did all she could to find her friend but she also did all within her power to aid those Russians so fallen from their previous status, to find jobs and new lives here in this country.

The author weaves a story of danger, a story of friendship, of love, done so well that the characters find their way into your heart and mind. She makes them all come alive, giving authenticity to their feelings, their struggles, and their will to live. This is a story of wealth, a story of a fall from that pedestal that many had experienced before the Communists came to power. It is also a brief look into the lives of the peasants living under the Tsar and how their lives were bitter and oppressive. Russia was ripe for revolution, and when it came, no one living there was ever the same.

As always, it is so wonderful to learn of things that are unknown in our history. Ironically, my husband's family owned homes in Southampton not too far away from the places mentioned in this book. It is always so interesting and riveting when one makes that connection to a place they once lived. I highly

recommend this book to all of those who love history and superior story telling.

Thank you to Martha Hall Kelly, Ballantine Books, and NetGalley for forwarding this exquisite story to me.

This book is due to be published on April 9, 2019

You can also see my review: <http://yayareadslotsofbooks.wordpress...> ...more

I am probably one of the few people left on this planet who has not yet read *Lilac Girls*, Martha Hall Kelly's debut novel about real life heroine Caroline Ferriday during World War II. The book has actually been on my TBR for quite some time and I even own a copy of it, but unfortunately, I have struggled to find the time to read it (which hopefully will be rectified soon). Despite not having read *Lilac Girls*, I was still excited to have received an ARC of Kelly's second novel *Lost Roses*, I am probably one of the few people left on this planet who has not yet read *Lilac Girls*, Martha Hall Kelly's debut novel about real life heroine Caroline Ferriday during World War II. The book has actually been on my TBR for quite some time and I even own a copy of it, but unfortunately, I have struggled to find the time to read it (which hopefully will be rectified soon). Despite not having read *Lilac Girls*, I was still excited to have received an ARC of Kelly's second novel *Lost Roses*, which is the prequel to *Lilac Girls* and tells the story of Caroline's mother Eliza Ferriday. This time around, the story is set against the backdrop of World War I, though technically, the Great War only plays a peripheral role, as most of the story takes place in Russia, with a narrative revolving around the events leading up to the Bolshevik Revolution in 1918 -- a peasant uprising that eventually overthrew the imperial dynasty and ended the rule of the Romanov family. Central to the story is Sofya Streshnayva, cousin to the tsar and also Eliza's best friend, who is forced to flee with her family to their country estate in the woods when war erupts and things become too dangerous for the ruling class. While staying at the estate, the family hires a young peasant girl, Varinka -- the daughter of the local fortune teller -- to help in the kitchen and also take care of Sofya's newborn son Max. Unbeknownst to them, Varinka brings with her tremendous danger that will end up changing the family's lives forever. Meanwhile, after having returned to her hometown of New York, Eliza endures a tragedy of her own, but through it all, she continues to do her part in helping the Russian immigrants who successfully fled from the revolution to America, while at the same time, she continues to hold out hope that her friend Sofya and her family will also be able to escape the turmoil wrought by revolution as well as the vestiges of war.

With the story narrated mostly from the alternating perspectives of Eliza, Sofya, and Varinka, each woman lends a distinctive voice to this captivating tale of endurance and survival during a turbulent period in history. Going into this book, I had very limited knowledge about the Bolshevik Revolution and the resulting turmoil in Russia at that time, so I definitely appreciated the tremendous research that the author Martha Hall Kelly did in order to bring that historical event and all the other ones to life. The storytelling here was top-notch, as I truly did feel like I was being transported back to that time and place, living through the harrowing circumstances that Sofya and her family faced. The portrayal of the horrors and violence suffered by those caught up in the uprising felt so real that I actually felt a chill run through me while I was reading those particular scenes. Sofya was the type of character that I couldn't help but root for, with everything she goes through and still finding the will to survive for

her son's sake, an admirable trait many of us with children can relate to. With Varinka, I felt her inner moral struggle and though I pitied the situation she was placed in, I still couldn't help being upset over the role she played in the events that transpired. As for Eliza, I actually felt that her story was the least interesting of the three, though I did love her fierce personality and compassionate spirit. I love stories with strong female protagonists and this book didn't give us just one, but several indomitable women (and I include not just the above-mentioned 3 women, but also Luba, Caroline, Mamka, Eliza's mother Carry, etc.) whose courage, determination, and tenacity amongst so much destruction and adversity made this such an unforgettable story for me.

This is historical fiction at its finest: well-researched with the historical events incorporated seamlessly, plus a compelling story as well as wonderfully developed characters – a balance that is not easy to achieve in books like this one where it is necessary to strive for authenticity historically while still maintaining great storytelling. Emotionally, this story resonated with me deeply, especially with its portrayal of family, love, hope, friendship, and most significantly, resilience. The one warning I would give is that the descriptions of the atrocities of war were gut-wrenching and, truth be told, difficult for me to get through, but I understand the necessity of including these scenes for us to understand the devastating impact of such history and as a lesson to never let them happen again.

In her Author's Note, Martha Hall Kelly mentions that she will be writing a third book – another prequel, but this time the story will go back further in time to the Civil War, continuing the story of the Woolsey women with Caroline's great-grandmother Jane Eliza Newton Woolsey and the establishment of the first nursing services in America. I'm looking forward to Kelly's next book and for sure, I will definitely have read her first one – Lilac Girls by then!

Received ARC from Ballantine Books via NetGalley ...more

Lost Roses Characters

Won this ARC in a GoodReads Giveaway. Lost Roses is a prequel to the excellent Lilac Girls and focuses on Caroline's mother Eliza Ferriday and her work in assisting White Russian Emigres as well as a another pair of storylines about her good friend Sofya who gets caught up in the revolution and a peasant girl Varinka who is working for Sofya's family just prior to it. If you loved Lilac Girls (and I did) then you will love probably love Lost Roses as much as I did.

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I am fascinated by the the legacy of strong principled women in Caroline Ferriday's family tree and I am excited to learn more about them all. The author is evidently working on another female ancestor who was an abolitionist and activist just prior to and during the Civil War so this is an amazing family and I am really excited to read the next book! ...more

I was very excited to get my hands on this due to all the high praise of the author's previous work, Lilac Girls. I had not read that book (as I had genre fatigue at the time), but I jumped at this one because I felt like WWI fiction isn't as prevalent and I spent a great deal of time studying Russian history in college.

The story is told in what is now a familiar format from three different perspectives. An American socialite, Eliza, a cousin to the Tsar, Sofya, and a poor villager, Varinka. I I was very excited to get my hands on this due to all the high praise of the author's previous work, Lilac Girls. I had not read that book (as I had genre fatigue at the time), but I jumped at this one because I felt like WWI fiction isn't as prevalent and I spent a great deal of time studying Russian history in college.

The story is told in what is now a familiar format from three different perspectives. An American socialite, Eliza, a cousin to the Tsar, Sofya, and a poor villager, Varinka. I went back and forth a lot with these characters, but ended up being confused the most by Varinka.

The Good - This was a very well researched book, where I felt it almost got too bogged down in detail at times, but since I'm a huge history nerd that didn't bother me. What I liked the most was that these were voices we don't hear from a lot. I think this era of history is even more "important" than the 30's and 40's because this is what sets the stage for all that is to come. So often, (in my opinion), this era is overlooked and I think it's a shame because there are so many wonderful stories to be told.

What didn't work for me - I went back and forth on these characters a lot. Likeability isn't an issue, it was more believe-ability. I felt some of Eliza's story was rushed in parts (most likely to try and keep the story

Lost Roses

moving since it already clocked in over 400 pages). I've seen some complaints about Sofya and her family caring more about parties and things than the plight of their people, but to me that was historically correct. It's hard NOT to want to yell at them because they are so blind to the suffering of their people, but when you're sheltered from that your whole life, how can it be expected of them to think differently? (Although, admittedly I felt it troubling as well.). Also, Sofya's trek across wartime Europe with a cart and a horse was a little farfetched. Especially, given her upbringing, Varinka is the one that puzzled me the most. I had difficulty juxtaposing her character before Max and after Max. There were plenty of opportunities for that right to be wronged and her stubbornness seemed odd to me, particularly as she moved to Paris.

Overall, this was a good book, but not anything I would yell from the roof tops about - and that's okay. Many, many others loved it and I'm sure there will be many more!

Thanks to Netgalley, Martha Hall Kelly and Random House Publishing Group - Ballantine for the opportunity to read and provide an honest review of this book.

Review Date: 4/2/19

Publication Date: 4/9/19 ...more

Lost Roses Kirkus

When I found out that a prequel to Lilac Girls is coming out, I was very excited and I could not wait to get my hands on it. And, oh boy, I am so glad I got a chance to read it early, before the publish date. Lost Roses was as good as the author's first book. I enjoyed it so much that I read it in one day. I simply could not put it down. I love historical fiction, and any book about the Romanov family will make my heart skip, but this one made my hear skip and flutter all over the place.

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Martha Hall Kelly's writing is exquisite. It sucked me in from first pages, and I just could not get enough of the characters, the beautiful descriptions, and the emotions it made me feel while reading this book. Lost Roses is a story of three women from three different worlds. Eliza, an American, is best friends with Sofya, a Russian aristocracy, family to the last Romanov tsar. Verinka is a Russian peasant girl living in poverty during Russian Revolution. These three women so different from each other have more in common than we could ever imagine. The author masterfully intertwines their lives together and tells a story that will keep the reader on his/her toes until the end. There was not one dull moment in this beautiful story and I highly recommend this book to all the historical fiction genre lovers.

Thank you NetGalley, Random House Publishing Group/Ballantine Books, and the author, Martha Hall Kelly, for giving me an opportunity to read and review this wonderful book in exchange for my honest opinion. ...more

ARC kindly provided by the author after I shyly asked if she could send me one:) (All my opinions are my own)

I was very excited to continue the story of this amazing family and learning about Caroline's mother Eliza. (view spoiler)[I was a bit disappointed Sofya wasn't a real person, but that was just me wanting to look her up and see maybe pictures or more about her life, not anything to do with the book itself (hide spoiler)]

The writing: 4 stars

Characters: 4 stars

Plot: 4 stars

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Bad timing only in the fact that I'm in the middle of a book slump, I could concentrate while reading, it was just getting the motivation to do it (which I don't need to tell you sucks :() was the problem. The slump was even affecting another book I was loving as well (determined to finish that one soon too).

Rambling haha but This book was a balm for the slump, and helped me claw my way out of it some. It feels good to finally finish a book and love it whole-heartedly after many duds and feeling stressed cause of work.

This was just as well done and endearing as its predecessor was. These are women should be praised and celebrated for everything they have done and I wish my school had taught us about them in our history classes (they say you learn all the good stuff after high school).

A visit to the Ferriday house one day is definitely in order

I loved the characters of Sofya and Luba, strong and resourceful, not giving up even when everything seemed hopeless. I don't want to spoil anything about the family but... my heart broke for them all.

Varinka was.. something. I had a love/strong dislike relationship with her. At the beginning I felt sorry for her and wanted to drop Taras (and later Vladi) into a room with the Hulk and Black Widow... then throw in Scarlet Witch's powers for good measure.

As time went on, I had less sympathy for her in one regard and was sincerely worried for her besides the obvious. I was willing her to make a decision good for her but at the same time... I can't get into it much more without spoiling but I'll just say the tension was high in the air especially here.

