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The Wardrobe Mistress: A Heart-wrenching Wartime Love Story



Synopsis

From the Festival of Romantic Fiction's Best Historical Read and USA Today bestselling author, comes a wonderfully evocative wartime romance perfect for fans of Lucinda Riley and Kathleen Tessaro. London 1945, and as victory unfurls throughout Europe, a young war widow steps aboard a train in search of a new life. The fighting may be over, but for Vanessa Kingcourt the heartache has only just begun. Taking up a new job as a wardrobe mistress, with no experience and no budget for supplies, Vanessa must use her intuition to create beautiful, elaborate costumes from whatever scraps of silk and thread survived the blitz under the watchful eye of her employer, and husband of her oldest friend, Alistair. It's a seemingly impossible task, one that will unravel secrets sewn deep into the very fabric of her past, but a welcome distraction from her growing feelings for Alistair. Will she dare to love a man who can never be hers? What readers are saying about *The Wardrobe Mistress*: "Beautifully told, this is a lush, descriptive story about life after World War II" Cayo Costa, 5 stars "A journey that will pull your heartstrings and leave a lasting impression." Nik Book Lover, 4 stars "Really enjoyed this novel - many layers of intrigue, a sumptuous theatre setting and the background of WW2 all make for a complex novel of split personalities, shadows behind the curtains and never really knowing who, or what, is just out of sight, stage left. The writing was strong and lyrical throughout and the plot unfolded with all the flair and panache you might expect of a top London theatre. Bravo Ms Evans - encore!" The Book Trail, 5 Stars "Full of intrigue, great characters and an epic storyline. Natalie has definitely done it again! Just want to pick it up, don't want to be at work!!!!" Book Club at Mim "It's the kind of book you know you need to put down but can't. I highly recommend *The Wardrobe Mistress*, especially to fans of historical novels." Goodreads "I absolutely adored this beautiful book. The author's writing is a treat to the senses, bringing scenes alive with her stunning prose. I lived this amazing book. Highly recommend this colourful, poignant tale to everyone!" Renita D'Silva, 5 Stars "It's full of mystery and intrigue, and the characters will surprise you time after time." Goodreads "Betrayal, secrets long hidden, love, hate, war and peace. If you like historical fiction, you should like this too." Wexler and Company "The *Wardrobe Mistress* was an absolutely gorgeous read with vivid imagery, beautiful, polished writing and a lovely story that stole a little piece of my heart. I loved the setting of the theatre and enjoyed the eccentric cast of characters that worked there. This was an emotional read filled with intrigue and tension and I really liked how it all came together in the end." Novel Gossip "I really enjoyed Natalie Meg Evans's other books and was very excited

when I saw *The Wardrobe Mistress*! There is nothing like losing yourself in a well-written, gripping historical novel. Hello Dollface, 4 stars
What readers are saying about Natalie Meg Evans
“Natalie’s books are a treasure trove of vibrant, vivid stories, memorable characters and pacy writing!”
Tracy Rees, bestselling author of *Amy Snow*
“Another awesome book from Natalie Meg Evans! Love, love, love this author! Cora’s story is all her own and just as exciting. Can’t wait for more of this author.”
Nik Book Lover
“Travelling between modern day and World War II, Evans evokes the splendour and tragedy of an earlier era.”
For the Love of Books

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Customer Reviews

The Wardrobe Mistress was an absolutely gorgeous read with vivid imagery, beautiful, polished writing and a lovely story that stole a little piece of my heart. It’s set in England just after the end of World War Two and Vanessa is a young woman who has had a painful and troubling life. The only clear memory she has of her father is going to the theater with him where she met the wardrobe mistress after an enchanting evening. Years later, she is determined to try and unlock the secrets of both her father’s past and her own so she decides to try and get a job as a

wardrobe mistress herself. There was an air of mystery surrounding Vanessa and her past and Evans slowly and painstakingly reveals the secrets throughout the book, keeping me engaged and waiting on pins and needles the whole time. I really liked her as a character and wanted her to find answers and her own happiness. Her romance with Alistair was fraught with drama and complications, which always draws me in deeper. I loved the setting of the theater and enjoyed the eccentric cast of characters that worked there. Evans writes beautifully and I could easily picture the theater, she truly brought everything to life. This was an emotional read filled with intrigue and tension and I really liked how it all came together in the end.

The Wardrobe Mistress was a beautiful book. The beginning is a little harried, but the other 3/4 more than makes up for it. The characters are an amazing array of those quirky theatre types. And the mystery surrounding the main character keeps you on your toes. Of course, there is a dashing love interest whom I actually really liked. Set it in the time of post WWII London theatre, you've got a recipe for success!

I absolutely adored this beautiful book. The author's writing is a treat to the senses, bringing scenes alive with her stunning prose. I lived this amazing book. Highly recommend this colourful, poignant tale to everyone!

The Wardrobe Mistress is an epic saga that takes you on a great journey through the London theatre world during the post war years. After almost devastation the Farren Theatre is bought back to life by former Captain Alistair Redenhall & is the heart of the story. It's a book full of great characters, an awesome storyline - another great read by Natalie Meg Evans.

Having read all of Natalie Meg Evans books I waited with great anticipation for the Wardrobe Mistress to become available and as totally expected I have not been disappointed. Her books just get better and better! I love the era of post WW2 London and find her descriptions of places exactly as I would image them to be. Her characters all became very real to me within the first few pages and as always I found myself completely immersed in their lives and emotions. Well done and when is the next one coming out!!

I read The Dress Thief by Ms. Evans and loved it so I was really looking forward to reading The Wardrobe Mistress. I had high expectations for this book and I must say I was left disappointed. The

writing is totally different from *The Dress Thief*, it's much less polished, and the story doesn't have a good flow. The dialogue between characters often felt awkward and stilted. I liked the setting of the book, London Theater just after WW2, when the city started to wake and renew following the devastation, but this was the only thing I liked about *The Wardrobe Mistress*. The characters are not very endearing. I found myself questioning their motivations, especially Alistair's. He is the owner of the Farren Theater that our MC, Vanessa, works at. He is estranged from his wife, Fern, who wants to divorce him. On the one hand he is falling for Vanessa but on the other hand he doesn't want to give Fern a divorce. Does he want to have his cake and eat it too? His actions annoyed me quite a bit, it appeared to me that Vanessa was more in love with Alistair, and wanted him more than he wanted her. This is not the type of romance I enjoy. Also there are way too many unnecessary secondary characters that don't add anything valuable to the story, but make it more confusing to remember who is who. I wanted to like this book because I loved Ms. Evans' other work but all the flaws made it impossible. I may have enjoyed *The Wardrobe Mistress* more if my expectations weren't so high. *ARC provided by the publisher via NetGalley

It's a delicious story about recovering the way of life one remembers from before WWII. The way the characters try to live up to society's view of them is interesting in this day and age. The hidden angst of the love story that is woven into the every day lives was enticing. Definitely worth it

Interesting little love story with so many different facets involved in a simple relationship of love. Loved the protagonist: Vanessa and her mysterious childhood.

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