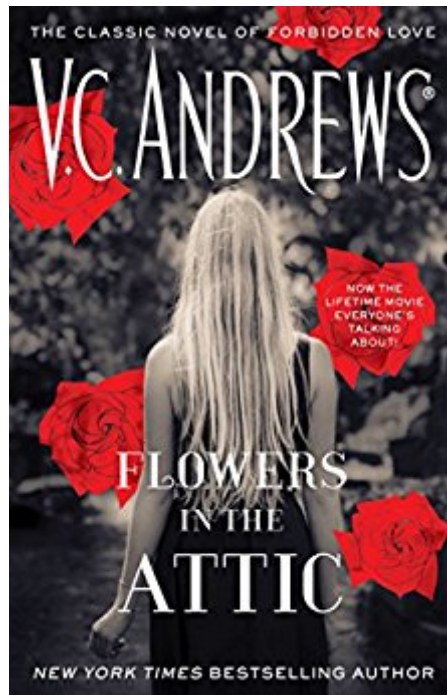




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Flowers In The Attic (Dollanganger Book 1)



Synopsis

A major Lifetime movie event—the novel that captured the world's imagination and earned V.C. Andrews a fiercely devoted fanbase. Book One of the Dollanganger Family series. At the top of the stairs there are four secrets hidden. Blond, beautiful, innocent, and struggling to stay alive—They were a perfect family, golden and carefree—until a heartbreaking tragedy shattered their happiness. Now, for the sake of an inheritance that will ensure their future, the children must be hidden away out of sight, as if they never existed. Kept on the top floor of their grandmother's vast mansion, their loving mother assures them it will be just for a little while. But as brutal days swell into agonizing months and years, Cathy, Chris, and twins Cory and Carrie realize their survival is at the mercy of their cruel and superstitious grandmother—and this cramped and helpless world may be the only one they ever know. Book One of the Dollanganger series, followed by *Petals in the Wind*, *If There Be Thorns*, *Seeds of Yesterday*, and *Garden of Shadows*.

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Customer Reviews

I am so thrilled to have found *Flowers in the Attic*! Randomly, I recorded the 2014 movie and played it in the background while I worked one day and while I wasn't able to give the movie my full attention, the basis of it made me order the book immediately. Now I'm surprised none of my college courses in English ever used *Flowers in the Attic* as required reading. Though I read quickly, I forced myself to take my time with this novel. There are so many questionable moments that required deep thinking on my part--which I loved--and I wanted to absorb them all slowly to truly appreciate the deeper meaning of each major incident within. There are four beautiful, blonde-haired and doll-like children born to Corrine and her husband, Christopher. The book is told from their oldest daughter's point of view, who is the age of 12 when the story begins. Their beloved father dies, So Corrine takes her children to live with her mother and father, whom the children have never heard of before, in a mansion where money is never an issue. The problem is, Corrine upset her father greatly when she married Christopher, who was her half-uncle. Believing she was living in sin and would only create monstrous children, her father wrote her out of his will and banished her from his house. She was only able to come home because of Christopher's death and because her father believed she'd borne no children. In order to win back his affection and come home, Corrine and her mother hide the four children in the attic on an unused wing of the house behind a locked door. They are to stay there until their grandfather's death. Already, just from that little information, there are so many layers to dissolve! Why would Corrine ever marry a blood (even by half) relative? How long until the grandfather dies and the children are free once more? How will four young children stay quiet enough for an entire household, full of maids and servants, not hear them? Would Corrine ever win her father's affection enough to admit her children's existence? Many of these questions I still think over, not because I didn't get the answers but because I want to think of alternatives, ways Corrine could have handled her situation differently. After this beginning gets underway, so many other questions come forward and new alternatives are debated (mentally, if not in the book). Andrews does a phenomenal job of showing the changes in all of the characters through the eyes of Corrine's daughter, Cathy. It's a modern-day fairytale, even set in the 1970s, still relevant today and will be relevant for years to come. You have the princes and princesses of a large fortune locked away in a "tower" of an evil grandmother's making; there's poison and animal friends and hopelessness; there's bravery and curiosity and questionable feelings and actions on every character's part. I finished the book and was overwhelmed with emotions. I debated even reading the second novel, believing it can't be as good as the first and also kind of wanting the not-knowing of what happens afterwards. But, of course, I do want to know. I've already ordered the next book.

I feel that many people judge this book before ever reading it, just based on hearsay. Remember the saying "you shouldn't judge a book by its cover"? This is especially so with 'Flowers In The Attic'. It's definitely not smut, it surely has no obvious moral message, and it is most assuredly a tale unlike any others. This is what makes it so remarkable and unforgettable. This is a modern-day, Gothic fairy-tale and you are not supposed to love the dialogue. You can even hate the dialogue if you like, but I feel that it doesn't take away from the entertainment value of this little gem. Instead, it should be appreciated for its fearlessness in taking beautiful and pure things and dumping big buckets of pain and darkness over them like a giant pale of pigs blood. What you get is innocent sexual awakenings, the cruelty of shattered dreams, and growing pangs never explored in such a context as this. Personally, I thoroughly enjoyed it and grew to have an exceedingly huge appreciation for the boundaries that this author pushed and crossed with easy grace. However, I really cannot tell you whether or not you will love or hate this book... That part is honestly up to you and your sensibilities. I hope you enjoy...

I chose to read this book based on a heart-felt recommendation from my older son. He had been deeply affected by reading it and was certain I would be too. The florid, Gothic tale has many twists and turns before the ultimate plot revelations. I felt that I was being kept overlong in the text. Sexual situations with hints of incest are introduced early on and a mature reader realizes that there will ultimately be a truly incestuous relationship between brother and sister. Much is made of their youthful interest in sex. While the plot is interesting, it could be equally interesting without the incest. In that sense, I feel the story is manipulative of preteen readers, who may be less experienced in both life and literature. I believe my son read this in school. It clearly had a strong impact on him that has lingered into adulthood. I was relieved to see that what he remembered most was the murderous actions of family members who are supposed to love each other. He was shocked to learn that there is no reason to believe that parents must love their children above all else and that greed and cruelty can be passed from one generation to the next. Perhaps, too, he was stunned by the duplicitousness between parent and child. I'd like to believe the family to which he belongs is so different that he simply could not believe in the horrors of the novel.

Before I read this book I watched the movie from the 70's-80's era because the Lifetime version coming out at the time. It seemed interesting so I bought the book to see if there were any real differences from the movie. Just read the book because the things that occur and the detail are so much better than what is described in the movie. The reading was at time a little tough to get through

because there was a lot of repetition, but the context that the characters are placed in kind of requires the author to put in a lot of repetition. (I mean four siblings being stuck in an attic can get pretty redundant.) This novel, being written in the 1970's, is a little before its time meaning it contains some occurrences that would not have been looked upon very highly, so reading a somewhat older novel does not mean that the plot is dry. Overall the plot is really easy to follow and contains unexpected twists that keeps the reader hooked. I am already reading the second book of the series.

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