

The Winters by Lisa Gabriele

5 Stars

Very original.

*“Last night Rebekah tried to murder me again. It had been a while since I’d had that dream, not since we left Asherley”.* A déjà vu moment for me as I remembered the first time I read Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier. I would imagine, like everyone else, the first line of that book is edged on their memory. Having been raised on the original Rebecca and the film, I was somewhat reluctant to sully the memory by reading this novel, but I need not have feared. Lisa Gabriele may have Max Winter and his beautiful island Asherley as the place where the action takes place, but Rebecca is safe. However, Rebekah and the new wife are perhaps not.

Our narrator, *“born on a boat, lives on an island, now an orphan, working for a witch....in the Caribbean,”* meets Max Winter when he comes to the office to hire a boat. He demands that she become his sailing companion for the duration of his visit. It’s not too long before they fall madly in love and she moves back to his palatial home, Asherley. He was a widower when they met, his wife Rebekah had been killed the previous year in a horrific car accident.

Dani, Max Winter’s daughter, proves to be the one thorn she is going to have to deal with from the beginning of their marriage and yet, is this really the case? Is Max Winter the suave, kind man he appears to be?

Lisa Gabriele is a courageous author to take on this iconic storyline and add her own original pitch to it. I loved it! It grabbed me from the opening line and kept me fully engaged ‘til the final sentence. The characters are strong, real and the plot well researched.

A very clever book for anyone wanting something entirely unique to read.

Treebeard

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.