

Evergreen Falls: A Novel

By Kimberley Freeman



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From internationally bestselling author Kimberley Freeman comes a captivating new novel about a scandalous attraction, a long-forgotten secret, and a place where two women's lives are changed forever.

It's 1926 and Violet Armstrong is a waitress at the grand Evergreen Spa Hotel, where Australia's glitterati are spending a winter vacation. Among the guests who remain are Sam and Flora Honeychurch-Blacks, a wealthy brother and sister ensconced in the hotel for an extended stay. Violet and Sam have an attraction that is as passionate as it is forbidden as the hotel closes down for the winter season. When a snowstorm moves in, trapping them all, no one could have imagined what would unfold. The group must let their secrets be buried by the snow, but all snow melts, exposing the truth beneath...

Eighty-eight years later, Lauren Beck takes a job at a café in the Blue Mountains, built as the first stage of the Evergreen Spa Hotel's return to grandeur. There she meets Tomas, the Danish architect overseeing the project. As their budding relationship grows, Lauren discovers a series of passionate love letters dating back to 1926 that allude to a whirlwind affair—and a tragic secret. Lauren begins to unravel this long-forgotten mystery, but will discovering the truth finally make her brave enough to take a risk that could change her entire life?

Inspired by elements of her grandmother's life, Kimberley Freeman has created a complex tale of mystery, heartbreak, and love that will keep you guessing with every twist until the very last page.



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Editorial Review

Review

One of Library Journal's Best Books of 2015

"The differing moral and social attitudes of the respective eras are well-defined, and the descriptions of the Blue Mountains in winter are most evocative. . . . The characters are appealing, and they hold the reader's interest throughout. Another terrific page-turner from Kimberley Freeman." (*Historical Novels Review*)

"This is a tale that will stay with the reader for many, many years to come. This deep, intricate mystery about two women in different eras is sheer perfection. Gorgeously written." (Suspense Magazine)

"Rich characters, an in-depth plot, and the fascinating setting made for quite the page turner. Such rich and fully-rounded characters. Romance with a touch of mystery made for an exciting tale. I devoured the novel in two settings! Another stunning novel by Kimberley Freeman!" (*Historical Novel Review*)

"Evergreen Falls offers a more complex and interesting story than is typical of the romance fiction it resembles in style and tone. . . . Freeman's prose rolls comfortably along, her central characters are sweet and easy to identify with, and the story holds enough mystery and suspense to keep a reader steadily turning pages to see what happens next." (HistoricalNovels.info)

"Kimberley Freeman's *Evergreen Falls* is a moving story of family and the dark secrets we sometimes hide from those we love most. Beautifully crafted, intricately plotted, and chock full of unseen twists, this novel will have you guessing until the end, and rooting for the triumph of love along the way." (Allison Pataki, author of The Accidental Empress)

"Freeman skillfully unites the stories of two women who live a century apart but both face the challenge of overcoming difficult pasts, and both under the lighthouse's watchful presence. . . . Freeman's moving tale gives her two heroines the unique chance to make a fresh start in life." (*Publishers Weekly*)

"The author's description of the beautiful Australian coastline will linger with readers long after they finish the book." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

"What a perfect beach read. A sunken ship, buried treasure, a home on the beach by the lighthouse, sister relationships, adventure, and romance. *Lighthouse Bay* packs a lot into its two-pronged story." (atravelerslibrary.com)

Praise for Wildflower Hill

"A gorgeous story of family and secrets and the redemptive power of love." (Kate Morton, author of The Distant Hours and The Forgotten Garden)

About the Author

Kimberley Freeman was born in London and grew up in Brisbane, Australia. She is the bestselling author of *Wildflower Hill* and *Lighthouse Bay* and teaches critical and creative writing at the University of Queensland. She lives in Brisbane with an assortment of children and pets. Visit her website at KimberleyFreeman.com.

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PROLOGUE

1926

They keep saying "the body" and Flora thinks this might make her scream and never stop. Speaking in whispers that are not quiet enough, as men do, they say it over and over. "We can't have the body simply lying in a room here." "If we put the body in the bathing pool, then it might appear to be a drowning." "But when they examine the body they'll find no water in the lungs." And so on. All the while Flora, locked in the grim prison of her mind, unable to comprehend anything since she discovered the poor, pale remains, shivers against the icy breeze that licks through the open door and stalks the tall eucalypts that line the dark valley.

"If the old man gets wind of this," Tony says, punctuating his observation with a short puff of his cigarette, "he'll slam that bank vault shut and Flora here won't get a thing."

She wants to say she doesn't care about the money, that death has never seemed so vast and present and final than in this moment, standing by the remains of a real person who only yesterday breathed and cried. Her lips move, but no sound emerges.

"What do you want to do, Florrie?" Sweetie asks her.

"No point speaking to her," Tony says, shaking his head in the low light of the hurricane lamp. "She's going to need a few belts of whiskey to snap her out of it. Look, the only thing we're certain about is that people can't know. It must seem to have been an accident. A fall while out walking the bush track."

"In the snow? Will anybody believe that?"

"Ask yourself what this person's reputation has been," he says, and—oh, dear God—he pushes the toe of his patent-leather wing tip gently against the body so that it lifts then sags back onto the floor. "Not really a solid citizen." Tony seems to realize Flora is listening and checks himself. "Apologies, Florrie. I'm just being practical. You have to trust us."

Flora nods, in shock, unable to make sense of the situation.

"How far shall we take it, then?" Sweetie asks.

"As close as we can get to the Falls."

Sweetie nods and reaches down to lift the limp legs in his meaty hands. Flora moves to help, but Tony pushes her away, gently but firmly.

"You wait here. You're no use to us as you are, and it's murderously cold. I don't want two bodies on my hands." He flicks his cigarette butt out the door ahead of him, and it arcs into the snow, a brief ember soon extinguished.

Flora watches them go. They lumber into the dark and the cold, until they become small figures at the

boundary of the garden, then disappear down the stone steps that lead into the valley. Rain has begun to fall, fat drops from the swirling night sky landing silently on the snow. She stands at the door, her fingers turning numb, and watches for their return.

The rain will wash their heavy footprints out of the snow, along with the possible track of limp, dead arms that drag between them. But the rain will also wash over the body, a wet shroud, a sodden burial. Flora puts her head in her hands and weeps, for her shock and her disappointment and her loss and for the horrors that are no doubt to come. Poor Violet, she says over and over in her mind. Poor, poor Violet.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Emilie Lechner:

Reading a e-book can be one of a lot of exercise that everyone in the world loves. Do you like reading book therefore. There are a lot of reasons why people enjoy it. First reading a reserve will give you a lot of new facts. When you read a book you will get new information because book is one of various ways to share the information or maybe their idea. Second, looking at a book will make you actually more imaginative. When you reading through a book especially tale fantasy book the author will bring that you imagine the story how the people do it anything. Third, you can share your knowledge to other people. When you read this Evergreen Falls: A Novel, you may tells your family, friends along with soon about yours reserve. Your knowledge can inspire others, make them reading a guide.

Richard Osteen:

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Dennis Bales:

In this age globalization it is important to someone to receive information. The information will make you to definitely understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of recommendations to get information example: internet, paper, book, and soon. You will see that now, a lot of publisher in which print many kinds of book. The particular book that recommended for your requirements is Evergreen Falls: A Novel this reserve consist a lot of the information on the condition of this world now. This book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The terminology styles that writer use to explain it is easy to understand. The actual writer made some exploration when he makes this book. That's why this book appropriate all of you.

Stephen Lee:

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