



## Peyton Place

By Grace Metalious

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*Peyton Place*, published in 1956, has sold over 10,000,000 copies world-wide and remains the fourth biggest selling novel of all time. Its sequel, *Return to Peyton Place*, published in 1959, was a national best-seller for many, many months. Considered scandalous in its time of publication, *Peyton Place*, stirred controversy with its explicit—for the time—depictions of sex and sins in a small New England town. Today, the once shocking novel and its sequel seem tame, and are taught in college English courses as classics of their time, well-written and honest in the evocation of the passions, jealousies, and secrets of small-town America.

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## **Peyton Place** By Grace Metalious Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Metalious's 1956 novel spawned both a hit feature film and a popular TV series that certainly was the forerunner of all the prime-time soapers that have followed. The paperback reprint features an introduction by scholar Ardis Cameron. (For more on the shifting academic publishing scene, see Inside Track, LJ 4/15/99, p. 74.)

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From Kirkus Reviews

Here's an unexpected publication: a new edition, complete with scholarly introduction, of the 1956 success story of a scandal that was in its time the single bestselling American novel, inspiring both a nighttime "television novel" (i.e., soap opera) and an only slightly less soapy (1958) feature film. Metalious (1924-64) was a competent writer with some flair whose punchy workmanlike prose efficiently captured her little inland New England hamlet's earthy (if somewhat unbelievably sexually functional) populace. The characters among others, Allison MacKenzie, round-heeled Betty Anderson, m.c.p. Rodney Harrington, and long-suffering Selena Cross retain a perversely appealing, pulpy vitality. But scholar Ardis Cameron's assertion that this likeably trashy novel offers a valuable corrective to the myth of quiescent domesticity and class consensus, besides gilding the lily indefensibly, confuses its author with Sinclair Lewis, not to mention Gustave Flaubert. *Peyton Place* is, on its own terms, both a perfectly decent popular novel and an honest one. But it never was an important one, and no amount of retroactive puffery can make it so. -- Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Review

"a rip-roaring good yarn. If the term 'page turner' has any complimentary meaning, it applies here...[Grace] Metalious has lasted as a force in American life."—*Washington Times*

"Ten years ago, Ardis Cameron, a professor at the University of Southern Maine, was astonished to discover the title was out of print, and mounted a one-woman campaign to resurrect it. She eventually persuaded Northeastern University Press to reissue the novel, and wrote a Camille Paglia-worthy introduction that casts Grace as a literary Joan of Arc, sword drawn, swinging at the oppressive social conventions of the 50s. The book, says Cameron, "spoke about things that were not discussed in polite society, and allowed people to talk about all sorts of issues -- but particularly their own sense of being different in the 1950s."—*Vanity Fair*

"The most painful thing about rereading this book is the fact that what was clear and present and shocking in those benighted days—hasn't gone away. Sure, the questions are being dealt with instead of shoved under a rug—but they're still around. And debated." —*Courier-Gazette (ME)*

"Metalious is well on her way to academic respectability, too. Ardis Cameron, an English professor at the University of Southern Maine, helped get *Peyton Place* back between soft covers a few years ago with an introduction describing it as "America's first blockbuster" and a key to understanding both the stifling cultural conformity of the 1950s and the first stirrings of rebellion against it."—*The Independent*

"*Peyton Place*, six decades on. In 1999 Northeastern University Press reissued it in its Hardscrabble Books

line of novels devoted to New England. It remains in print today, ever reproachful—and ever steamy.”—*Kirkus*

“Peyton Place is hot, even by today's standards. Everything, including the trees, seem to heave with sexuality.”—*Sunday (Concord) Monitor*

"It's the perfect . . . sit back and relax read."—*The Courier Gazette (ME)*

"Grace Metalious' 1956 novel book brings themes of class privilege, sexual desire and hypocrisy. In revealing the hidden secrets behind the straight-laced facade of a quaint New England town, the book rocked the region's stuffy reputation."—*Associated Press*

"More than perhaps any other New England novel, Peyton Place entered the American lexicon . . . Peyton Place is now being acknowledged as a book that destroyed Northern New England's facade of moral uprightness while simultaneously reinventing book publishing . . . Peyton Place is as relevant now as it was 50 years ago."—*Valley News*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Todd Jacobs:**

Now a day people who Living in the era just where everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not need people to be aware of each info they get. How many people to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Looking at a book can help folks out of this uncertainty Information specifically this Peyton Place book as this book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you may already know.

#### **Leticia Cantrell:**

Reading a book tends to be new life style within this era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of information which will give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world can easily share their idea. Ebooks can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the ebooks. But also they write about the ability about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write for their book. One of them is this Peyton Place.

#### **Joyce Jacobs:**

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic in

the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book can be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the guide untitled Peyton Place can be good book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

**Rebecca McGrew:**

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition details. Even you love Peyton Place, it is possible to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't buy it, oh come on its called reading friends.

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