



The Forbidden Orchid

By Sharon Biggs Waller

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The Forbidden Orchid By Sharon Biggs Waller

The adventures of a British girl in China, hunting for the orchid that will save her family.

Staid, responsible Elodie Buchanan is the eldest of ten sisters growing up in a small English market town in 1861. The girls barely know their father, a plant hunter usually off adventuring through China, more myth than man. Then disaster strikes: Mr. Buchanan reneges on his contract to collect an extremely rare and valuable orchid. He will be thrown into debtors' prison while his daughters are sent to the orphanage and the workhouse.

Elodie can't stand by and see her family destroyed, so she persuades her father to return to China once more to try to hunt down the flower—only this time, despite everything she knows about her place in society, Elodie goes with him. She has never before left her village, but what starts as fear turns to wonder as she adapts to seafaring life aboard the tea clipper *The Osprey*, and later to the new sights, dangers, and romance of China. She comes to find that both the world and her place in it are so much bigger than she'd ever dreamed. But now, even if she *can* find the orchid, how can she ever go back to being the staid, responsible Elodie that everybody needs?

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

Review

* "Elodie and Ching Lan are feminists of their era, refusing to bend to the rules and limits placed before them."—*Publishers Weekly*, **starred review**

* "A historical romance with a strong female protagonist, sure to find fans."—*School Library Journal*, **starred review**

"The characters are strong and full of life, and the plot combines the perfect amount of both adventure and romance. . . . This book is a must-have."—*VOYA*

"Similar in tone to Libba Bray's *A Great and Terrible Beauty* (2003), this is a perfect read for timid teens who dream of adventure."—*Booklist*

"Well-researched and filled with adventure, romance, and lots of tension—this work of historical fiction has all the elements of an intriguing read."—*Kirkus Reviews*

A Junior Library Guild Selection

Nominated for the American Library Association's Best Fiction for Young Adults List

About the Author

Sharon Biggs Waller moved to England in 2000, where she worked as a riding instructor at the Royal Mews in Buckingham Palace and as a freelance magazine writer. These days she is a dressage rider and trainer and lives on a ten-acre sustainable farm in Northwest Indiana with her British husband, Mark. She is the author of three non-fiction books, as well as the YA novel *A Mad, Wicked Folly*.

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I'd never left Kent in the whole of my life. Edencroft was my life and always would be. I would have loved nothing more than to see Kew for myself. Dash it, I wanted to go farther than Kew. I wanted to feel a real rainforest's mist on my face and smell the jackfruit trees in their native land and not in a glasshouse, no matter how marvelously built.

"I long to go with you, Papa," I blurted out.

"Oh, my dear," Papa said, his voice wistful. "If you were a boy, I'd take you with me directly you asked." He smiled. "The things I would show you! But alas, such adventures are not for you. Besides, I need you here to look after Mamma and the girls. You are my eyes and ears whilst I'm away, and I depend on you to remain my steadfast and dependable Elodie."

I felt ridiculous for showing Papa my heart and for making him voice what I loathed to hear: The only way I could make him proud was to remain home, locked like a fairy doll inside of a glass Wardian case, looking after the other fairy dolls. I looked down the road that led to the train station, unable to meet his eyes. "I know, Papa."

"Please tell you mother . . ." He hesitated and glanced at her bedroom windows, where the drapes remained

closed. "Never mind. Good-bye, my dear." He tapped the roof of the carriage with his walking stick, and the driver clucked to his horses.

"Good-bye, Papa." I stood on the gravel drive and watched until the carriage had crested the hill and disappeared down the other side.

I wouldn't see or hear from my father again until April of 1861, when the bailiffs came to take our possessions away.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Richard Fentress:

Book will be written, printed, or highlighted for everything. You can recognize everything you want by a guide. Book has a different type. We all know that that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Alongside that you can your reading proficiency was fluently. A book The Forbidden Orchid will make you to possibly be smarter. You can feel more confidence if you can know about almost everything. But some of you think this open or reading some sort of book make you bored. It isn't make you fun. Why they could be thought like that? Have you looking for best book or acceptable book with you?

Joseph Lewis:

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Anne Braden:

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Pearl Miller:

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