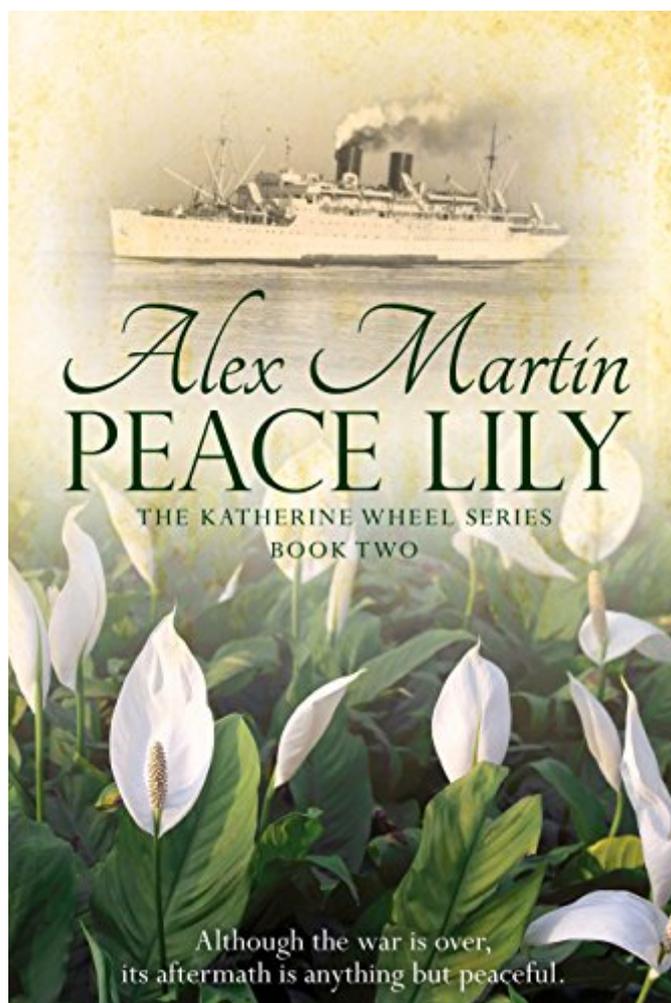


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Peace Lily (The Katherine Wheel Series Book 2)



Synopsis

Peace Lily is the sequel to DAFFODILS and book two of the 'Katherine Wheel' series. After the appalling losses suffered during the First World War, three of its survivors long for peace, unaware that its aftermath will bring different, but still daunting, challenges. Katy trained as a mechanic during the war and cannot bear to return to the life of drudgery she left behind. A trip to America provides the dream ticket she has always craved and an opportunity to escape the strait-jacket of her working class roots. She jumps at the chance, little realising that it will change her life forever, but not in the way sheâ™d hoped. Jem lost not only an arm in the war, but also his livelihood, and with it, his self esteem. How can he keep restless Katy at home and provide for his wife? He puts his life at risk a second time, attempting to secure their future and prove his love for her. Cassandra has fallen deeply in love with Douglas Flintock, an American officer she met while driving ambulances at the Front. How can she persuade this modern American to adapt to her English country life, and all the duties that come with inheriting Cheadle Manor? When Douglas returns to Boston, unsure of his feelings, Cassandra crosses the ocean, determined to lure him back. As they each try to carve out new lives, their struggles impact on each other in unforeseen ways in this heartbreaking romance. Peace Lily is about boundaries in post war romance - boundaries between traditional values and the modern age of the 20th century, between men and women, young and old and in post-war 1919 these are tested as never before. There is a third book in the Katherine Wheel Series featuring the feisty heroine, Katy, called Speedwell, which completes the true love trilogy...for now.

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Customer Reviews

Peace Lily (The Katherine Wheel - Book 2) (Book 2) by Alex Martin An excellent sequel to Daffodils! Although a great standalone book, Peace Lily will mean much more if you read the first book in the series. While Katy and Jem hold primary place in Daffodils, their friends, Cassandra and Douglas bring their love and struggles to add another layer of thoughtfulness and complexity to this book. Best friends through WW1, Katy and Cassandra must redefine their friendship as the world changes in the aftermath of the war. Can Katy return to service or has her new independence and self confidence changed her too much to make that possible? Will Jem be able to accept this new version of Katy in light of the changes that have occurred in his life, both physically and emotionally? Can Cassandra and Douglas really join such different lifestyles to make a relationship work? While juggling these questions, as well as others, Alex Martin manages to maintain the tension and the love in place while enabling us to vicariously experience a society in the midst of societal transformation, sharing both the pain and potential that are an inevitable part of such upheaval. While lacking the intensity of Daffodils, Peace Lily brings a more thoughtful approach to life and love in a changing world.

Even though this was the second book in a series, it can certainly be read as a standalone book. Katy Phipps and Cass Smythe come from two very different worlds but show how their worlds have collided. The journey of the two girls through the war in Daffodils shows how they are alike and how they are different. The war changed so many things and so many things were left unchanged. But Katy accompanies Cassandra across the ocean for a trip to Boston. The story details their adventures of love and friendship in Boston. But when things go very wrong and Katy returns early, Jem, Katy's husband, stands by her for all time. Katy wants to dream of a better life but seems to always have roadblocks thrown in front of her. Martin's character development and descriptions bring these families to life. I felt myself cheering for their successes and crying for their setbacks. While there wasn't nearly the historical references in Peace Lily, I recommend this book for anyone looking for an enjoyable read. I'm hoping that there will be another book in the series and Martin has left that door open.

Great sequel but can also be a great stand alone read. The story starts off where DAFFODILS ended and I enjoyed it just as much. The story is captivating and moves quickly. I'm looking forward to ordering the next book to see how this story continues.

Peace Lily continues the story of the characters from Martin's first book, Daffodils. The aspect I appreciate most about this novel is the way the characters are as real as the people who live next door and who have experiences to tell that might remind one of grandparents or great grandparents. There is a subtle reality in the depiction of their lives that reminds one of a favourite TV drama. Martin has cleverly juxtaposed the democratic freedom of American life with the antediluvian British class system that was so under threat with the equalising force of the war. Similarly, she depicts the new role of women - quietly and without fanfare but as a fierce point to be made. It is a timely reminder of the after-effects of World War I upon the social and economic structures of the world at that time, as we remember the centenary of that dreadful event. Martin has a style reminiscent of writers like Rosamunde Pilcher or Alexandra Raife and Peace Lily is 5 star novel, with a promise of a third in the series. More than recommended.

Daffodils sequel Peace Lily is as enthralling and fresh as its predecessor. Characters, Katy, Jem, Cassandra and Douglas have moved into the aftermath period of WW1. Katy finds life frustrating and tedious. She'd been a mechanic maintaining much needed ambulances on the battle front in France. Now her skills are no longer needed. Life is a struggle for returning soldiers, especially Katy's disabled husband Jem, who cannot obtain work or a home for himself and Katy. Cassandra finds herself torn between her American fiancé, Douglas, and caring for her aging and difficult aristocratic parents. Douglas struggles to fit into post war Britain and its strange stultifying class system. At the same time he's floundering to cope with his insufferable future mother-in-law. All this is contrasted with Douglas's home of New England and his overbearing father, self-serving sister, vapid mother and dutiful youngest sister. We get a window on life in this very different society and how life was lived there. Throughout, the extensive research is well woven into the story giving it flavour and colour. There is so much to enjoy in this story of struggle and courage. A vein of love, warmth, honour and steely determination threads through this early 20th century tale. The historical details, the setting and the characters meld together to create a wonderful atmosphere that draws the reader in and doesn't let go. I wanted to read and read, and yet I didn't want it to end. Peace Lily is a wonderful tale that I wholeheartedly recommend, and I'm waiting eagerly for Speedwell the next

book in the series. I know it will be an absolute corker too!

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