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Politiano's "Finding Lady Enderly" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Politiano, J. D. (2019). *Finding Lady Enderly*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 400 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800728724

Joanna Davidson Politano has written several historical novels which combine romance with mystery, including *A Rumored Fortune* and *Lady Jayne Disappears*. Raina Bretton is living in 1871 London's poor East End, in a neighborhood called "Spitalfields." She is a destitute rag woman who walks through the city's dirty streets collecting castoffs to mend and sell. Late one day she is approached by a well-dressed gentleman who tries to persuade her to come with him and accept a position at Rothborne Abbey a country estate where most of the plot unfolds. Raina sees little reason to remain in Spitalfields. She believes the one man she loves; Sullivan (Sully) McKenna is lost at sea.

Raina soon learns that she is expected to assume the identity of a mysterious lady. While trying to convince people she is a much different woman, she tries to remember who she really is. She also has some realistic battles with her conscience over her deception. However, ending it could mean danger not only to herself. She prays for rescue. She tries to use her new position to help others. Raina has faith but is not sure that she matters to God. She often feels like the castoffs she sold.

The main themes in the story are that we all have a God-given identity and purpose. Another element is that appearances can be deceiving. With the help of God's word and a loved one who reminds her of what it says, Raina comes to understand who she is in Christ. She also discovers what is most important. Finally, Raina finds the strength and purpose to be the person she was meant to be instead of someone else. The plot and the characters will hold the reader's interest. The mystery may keep you guessing, and the romance is convincing. Public and other libraries with fiction collections will find this novel a popular addition that will hold the interest of readers.

Reviewer

Cynthia Hammell