



# One Last Dance

*Eileen Goudge*

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**One Last Dance** Eileen Goudge

**A shocking murder forces a family to come to terms with its past**

Each of Lydia Seagrave's daughters is unhappy in her own way. Although a successful novelist, Daphne is professionally stunted and bored with her doctor husband. Her sister Kitty, the owner of a small California tea room, feels empty without a child. And Alex, the youngest, is a recent divorcée who is having trouble just paying her rent.

When the three girls return home for their parents' fortieth wedding anniversary, they hardly expect to be confronted with murder. Their father is dead, and Lydia was found with the smoking gun. As she goes on trial the three sisters struggle to solve the mystery of why their mother, a seemingly devoted wife, would murder their father in cold blood, uncovering family secrets that threaten to tear them all apart and confronting their own unhappiness along the way.

This ebook features an illustrated biography of Eileen Goudge including rare photos from the author's personal collection.

## One Last Dance Details

Date : Published November 29th 2011 by Open Road Media (first published May 1st 1999)

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Author : Eileen Goudge

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## **From Reader Review One Last Dance for online ebook**

### **Mary says**

The Seagraves are among the most enviable couples living in Miramonte, California. On the eve of their fortieth wedding anniversary, and just as much in love with each other today as they were on the day they married - until the night Lydia Seagrave picks up a gun and shoots her husband. Novelist Daphne - the couple's oldest daughter - returns home and is forced to contend not only with her father's murder but also with her undeniable feelings for the only man she has ever loved - the District Attorney who is prosecuting her mother.

The Seagraves' youngest daughter Alex's loyalty lies with her father, and she is determined to vindicate him no matter what the cost to her relationships with her sisters and her mother. Alex is convinced that her mother is a murderess, and that Lydia deserves to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Kitty - the middle daughter - sets out to vindicate her mother and enters headlong into a passionate love affair with a younger man.

As the devastated sisters come together to unravel the truth about their family, they must also confront the lies and betrayals they have unwittingly taken part in. They must rebuild from their shattered illusions a life that is honest...even at the risk of being painful for them all.

I actually have two copies of *Blessing in Disguise* by Eileen Goudge on my bookshelf already, although *One Last Dance* is the first book that I've read by this author. I really enjoyed this book because I do enjoy reading books with family relationships - generally dysfunctional families - at the heart of the story. I give this book an A! and I am definitely looking forward to reading more books by Eileen Goudge in the future.

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### **Judith Jones says**

I was mesmerized by the storyline and did not want to put this book down even to sleep. I just loved the story and it kept me interested from the start. Loved the family interaction and the secrets that families keep from each other not realizing the hurt that they can cause, I also liked the ending and will be reading many more books by Eileen Goudge. She is the best!!!!!!

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### **Richda McNutt says**

I was surprised at how thoroughly this book drew me into its world. While having several elements of "chick lit," I found it to be weightier and much more engrossing. At its heart is the mystery of marriage. Just before the lavish celebration of their forty-year anniversary, Lydia Seagraves fatally shoots her husband. And her three adult daughters have no idea what led to this act, but are determined to find out why - and so are we. Through these characters we explore some of the different constructs that are included in specific marriages: denial, suppression, compromise, the lack of talent for effective conflict, the form of loyalty that leads to resentment, and an overwhelming love that can prove to be destructive - even fatal. Goudge has fashioned an engrossing novel, and one that may lead you to examine your own marriage - do so at your own risk.

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## **Amy says**

This book manages to cram in every single horrible cliché of "chick lit": adult women who still lust after their first-love/teen-aged "bad boy" boyfriend who has grown up to become a respectable, totally hot guy (who is conveniently either still single or divorced and still pining after his old girlfriend); women who make a mess of their lives and are grateful for a man to "scoop" (literally) them off their feet and save them from their problems; men with "smoky eyes and broad shoulders"; name-dropping references to designer clothes and shoes; unrealistic dialogue; plot lines with holes so large that you can drive a truck through (seriously? You can only get pregnant when you are in TRUE LOVE with the guy you are sleeping with?); characters who have been complete assholes their entire lives but who suddenly have an epiphany and discover their inner decent human being; characters who are one-dimensional and written in such a way that you are obviously supposed to either love them or hate them (there are no shades of grey); and a tidy, predictable ending that you can see coming from 150 pages away. If this is the kind of writing that appeals to you, you will love this book. For me, I've come to the conclusion that I'm too old for this kind of crap.

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## **Celeen says**

### **Ties of Sisterhood**

This is the story of three sisters and their interpretation of their childhood. Tragedy strikes their family when they are adults so they are forced to accept and adapt to their new reality. Each sister has her personal issues to deal with as well as the family secrets that must be addressed. While they struggle with these secrets, they begin to realize they need to get past childhood memories and roles to find happiness and acceptance. I enjoyed this book, characters and storyline, and would recommend it. A perfect summer read!

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## **Lisa says**

Good story!

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## **Jodi says**

Let me start by saying I wasn't sure if this was going to be a book for me. I purchased this years ago & had forgotten about it. The beginning was entirely too slow for my taste....I did, however, decide to stick it out & was delightfully glad I did. A down home novel about life, secrets, love found, and love lost. Secrets....they can destroy a life, destroy trust, rip a family apart. Hope....it can bring you joy, or it can bring you much pain. This book has a bit of it all-secrets, hope, joy, pain, heartache, sadness & despair.

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## **gail lewis says**

The word for this book is “comfortable”. There were no real surprises, and it was relaxing and enjoyable watching this family unfold and refold. The characters were real and likable, and I strongly identified with two of the sisters.

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### **Donna George says**

#### **Love this author**

Her books are like potato chips. I can't stop. She is one of best and I want a new one

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### **Alison Bradley-carver says**

#### **Unexpected**

While this book had a good premise, the main event was completely unbelievable. Also, the book requires a much stronger editor; it should have had much extraneous wording deleted. Also, it randomly changed characters in the middle of a chapter which was very confusing.

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### **JudiAnne says**

Eileen Goudge has written some good novels in the past, however, about 100 pages into this one I started skimming pages. Characters and plot that were annoying causing me to care nothing about either. The author tried to create a lot of melodrama with endless descriptions in every scene. One word...boring!

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### **Diane says**

Ok read! interesting storyline that had predictability written all over the plot twists right from the start (paperback!)

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### **Cindy Clennon says**

Eileen Goudge has been one of my favorite authors since I read 'Garden of Lies' many years ago. One Last Dance is the story of a family facing an unimaginable situation -- one parent murdering the other. The family's three daughters, who are each dealing with their own issues, have to come together to figure out what happened and why. Their journey of understanding brings all of them closer and helps them put their

own houses in order. A touching and enjoyable read!

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### **Charlene Rowe says**

#### **Hard to put down**

I really enjoyed this book. The characters were richly crafted as were the storylines. They flowed to conclusions that were not left dangling. I agree that it was hard to get into for the first chapter but then it grabbed me and became hard to put down.

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### **Margaret Shumaker says**

#### **Enjoyed this**

I Loved the premise: a woman in her 60's, married for 40 years, shoots and kills her husband. This infringements story of that family, of the husband and wife and their three daughters. I loved learning the secrets of this family and how the murder made them all open their eyes to some hard truths.

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