



The Edge of the Cloud

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Christina and Will have escaped Flambards for London with their heads full of dreams, only to find a whole new set of problems. Not only the basic ones of work and a place to live, but Will's single-minded ambition to design and pilot flying machines, which terrify Christina every time he leaves the ground. Will is certain he can become a success, but what price is he willing to pay for the glory?

The Edge of the Cloud Details

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CLM says

After Christina and Will unexpectedly elope to London, she learns that Will's obsession with airplanes will continue to be his first priority as he not only tries to make a living but continue to build a plane. In addition, Will learns that the disability resulting from his hunting accident is going to impede his flying abilities. Christina is not happy living with her Aunt Grace, helping her with sewing, so gets a job at a hotel where she can see Will when he has a few free hours, and enjoys the freedom beginning to be available to young working women if they follow the rules. At first, she is too busy to miss Flambards but she does miss the horses . . .

Erika says

Omläsning, andra delen av två. Det är ovanligt med serier där den andra boken är bättre än den första, men det här är ett sådant fall. Flickan från Flambards är mycket mera sammanhållen. Borta är ridturerna och rävjakterna, nu handlar allt om flygning eftersom Christina följt sin älskade Will och genom honom följer med flygpionjärernas tillvaro. Det är rejält intressant och lärorikt att läsa om dessa tidiga flygplan, till min förvåning intressantare än att läsa om hästarna på Flambards. Däremot stör jag mig rejält på bristen på ärlig kommunikation mellan Christina och Will, att hon aldrig kan vara ärlig med hur mycket flygningen skrämmer henne. Möjligen ska det här anses vara någon sorts tidsanda, men det känns ändå både orättvist och snudd på osannolikt.

Stuart Taylor says

The sequel to Flambards by KM Peyton, The Edge of the Cloud tells the story of William and Christina's life after escaping from Flambards. Despite their intention to marry, Will is jobless and penniless with no means of supporting a new wife. Armed with a single-minded determination to forge a career as a pioneer aviator and aeroplane designer, Will sets off to Farnborough to seek work as a flyer. Beset by obstacles, Will's quest seems hopeless. When his fortunes do begin to change, Christina realises a new fear every time the fragile canvass and wood flying machines take to the air.

Superbly researched, KM Peyton has no fear of dealing out death to her characters making this a compelling and exciting drama from beginning to end...

This story held a special significance for me because I wanted to use it for research for my new writing project and I was acquainted with David Boddington, the gentleman who built and flew the flying machine models for the television drama based on the KM Peyton Flambards books.

Kate says

It's a strange sequel to Flambards. Christina has run off with Will, but they don't get married. This is a book

just about their courtship; a courtship that is spent with Will mostly flying, working on airplanes, and disappearing to the Swiss Alps for a surgery to fix the lameness he caused at the beginning of Flambards. And while it seems like Christina truly loves Will, her happiness seems more like a glamour. She's always hiding herself, her true feelings, from him. She never wants to make him angry by showing how scared she is. So I'm left wondering who Will thinks that he loves. But at least she finally has a girlfriend in Dorothy, and that's something.

Amy Wilder says

I loved this book, maybe more than the first, because it didn't include the disappointment of Dick's sad story - although there are a couple of very sad parts, for sure. I liked the satisfaction of following the characters from the previous book after they drive off into the sunset, and it was as good a picture of the real trouble with being in love as any I have ever seen.

I don't want to go into more details for fear of spoiling the first book or the second for people who might not have dipped into the series, but it had all the same charms - similar to I Capture the Castle or Ann of Green Gables: the portrait of a world on the verge of becoming modern, but still with one foot in the past - the historical accuracy that gave you a window into the build-up to World War One (or "The Great War") - the narration that gives you a picture of a young girl going through the process of growing up - it's all there. This book has stayed with me and I wanted to read the third but the back jacket flap of book two contained SUCH a terrible spoiler that I couldn't face reading it yet. I'm sure I will - these books have a way of haunting you.

Ariel says

I love these Flambards books SO MUCH I can't believe I never heard of them before. One of my Goodreads pals inadvertently brought them to my attention. I can't remember who it was so please declare yourself if you happen to read this. Then we can share our flaming Flambards love.

The first one is all about dysfunctional family dynamics in an aristocratic English "county" family. Christina is an orphan heiress and her bullying uncle takes her in and expects her to marry her elder cousin Mark and keep up the family estate, Flambards. Much to her surprise, she finds she adores hunting, the uncle's idee fixe. But she doesn't adore the cousin. In fact, she falls in love and runs off with Will, Mark's younger brother, who has deliberately lamed himself to escape the tyranny of hunting and his tyrant father. That's where the last book ended.

In this book, Christina and Will are refusing to go back to Flambards and trying to make their way in the world. Will is heavily involved in the early days of aviation, obsessed with creating and flying airplanes. Christina gets a job in the office of a big hotel to support herself and be near him, forgoing her beloved hunting. (They can't marry because they're underage and the evil bullying uncle won't give consent.) Christina's biggest dilemma in this book is pretending she isn't horribly, constantly, nauseatingly beyond terrified of flying, both for herself and Will. (Talk about keeping a stiff upper lip! Christina makes a frozen mummy at Madame Tussaud's seem over-emotive!) And it's not like her fears are irrational because planes are basically made out of popsicle sticks held together with chewing gum and string at that point. Open cockpits--shudder.

Anyway, by the end of the book evil bully uncle Russell finally dies and Christina and Will finally get married. But just in case you were worried that things were going to be peaceful (i.e. boring), Will enlists in the nascent RAF because WWI is breaking out.

My sense is that Will is going to die in the next book because otherwise we'd just have to hear about how happy they are all the time, which wouldn't be much of a book. Or we would have to lose faith in their love. Of the two, I'd much rather he die so I can cry about it. Anyway, I can't wait to find out what happens next. Peyton is such a wonderful writer, she brings them all to life and makes me care about them all.

I would just like to say I would NOT have gone up in an open cockpit airplane made out of popsicle sticks and Elmer's glue no matter how much in love I was or how much I wanted to impress my boyfriend. Never. And if I loved horses as much as Christina, I would find a way to keep them in my life. But again, her intense conflicts are part of what make the book so compelling.

Mathew says

Although I wasn't sure at first, the second in the Flambards trilogy turned out to be a highly accomplished, tense read. Taking up from hours after Flambards, Christina and Will look to make a new life away from the decaying stately home and in the new world of aviation. Still though, for me, Christina remains trapped and completely at the beck and call of Will's passion for planes. Just as this was beginning to become frustrating, Peyton cranked up the tension and the last quarter of the book was gripping.

Sarah says

I really love the way K.M. Peyton writes! I find her descriptions really evocative and the way she delves into her characters' thoughts and feelings very real - the conflicting and sometimes irrational worries and dreams and emotions. I also loved the details about a very interesting point in history, the development of flight and the stirrings of social change, from the strict class hierarchy of Victorian times to a new era where anyone could make something of themselves, even if they were 'low born'.

However. I found Will and Christina's relationship quite frustrating, and as that was the main thrust of the plot, it was a little unsatisfying to read. Christina got this idea into her head early on that the main thing Will liked about her was that she "didn't fuss". So for the whole rest of the book she was just bottling up and trying to conceal all her perfectly normal concerns for his safety and perfectly valid fear of flying, just because she didn't want him to think ill of her. Knowing his history, e.g. passionate fear and dislike of horseriding to the point where he set out to deliberately cripple himself so that he'd never have to ride again - SURELY knowing that she could expect him to have a little understanding for her feelings!? I just didn't get why she was so besotted with him when he made it VERY clear how much more he loved flying than he loved her, and treated her like a good mate at best and handy unpaid assistant at worst. But then even in the previous novel I never really got on board with their relationship. Oh well. Perhaps it's for the best.

Annabelle Solt says

The second of the series. William is totally involved in his aircraft career, Christina is working at the hotel.

They are waiting until their 21st birthdays to be able to marry. WWI is approaching.

Shahd Bensaoud says

It was nice but not my favourite type of novels!

Deborah says

Christina spends most of this book either miserable or terrified, so it's not exactly a fun read. But the descriptions of the pioneers of flying are first-rate - KMP really captures the sense of being on the brink of enormous change, of young people pushing the boundaries.

Of course, this is 1913-14, so the enormous change and the boundaries aren't what most of the characters think they are. The reader may feel a sense of doom hanging over Will, Christina, and their new friends, but it's a different sense of doom, because we know what's going to happen in the summer of 1914.

Christina is in love, so she has emotional highs as well as the lows; generally, her good times are when she and Will are both on the ground, and her lows come when one or both of them are up in the air. This happens a *lot*, but at least we're spared the cruelty and violence of *Flambards* itself.

Dusk Peterson says

While I was rereading this novel, Milton's comment about Adam and Eve kept popping into my head: "He for God only, she for God in him." Then I got to this bit in the novel: "To her, he was her whole world, the only person, her reason for living; to him, some times, she thought she was just someone to hold the screws and pass the hammer."

For me, the only thing that made this aspect of the plotline bearable is that the author was aware of this essential inequality of the characters' relationship and addresses it. Still, I was left uncomfortable with the fact that it never seemed to occur to either the hero or the heroine that it might be possible for them to fulfill her dreams (a love of horses) at the same time they fulfilled his dreams (a love of airplanes). I would like to say that this problem arose from the author remaining true to the period she was writing about, but the same "Give up my dreams so I can be with him" plotline occurs in Ms. Peyton's contemporary Pennington series. The most charitable interpretation I can place upon this is that the author was being true, not to the period she was writing about, but to the period of time when "The Edge of the Cloud" was written, namely the late 1960s.

Leaving that aside, this is a well-crafted historical novel. It's a little heavy on exposition for my tastes, but that's because Ms. Peyton is a psychological fiction writer, delving deeply into the minds of her protagonists. The climax of this protagonist's psychological growth is cleverly combined with an important period detail. Along the way, readers get to experience the drama and danger of the early years of British flying, combined with a love story.

For those who don't know, the first three *Flambard* novels were excellently adapted for British television as

"Flambards." The DVD is well worth seeking out.

Josie says

So, the second book in the Flambards series, but the only one that doesn't actually take place at Flambards - and there's airplanes in it instead of horses... Having read all four books, this one is a bit of the odd one out! Will and Christina's relationship frustrated me, as he basically gives her no time or attention, doesn't really act as though he loves her, and freely admits that planes come before her. Yet she puts up with it all, and just goes on about how much she loves him (when she's not thinking about how much flying terrifies her). I feel like, had he *SPOILER!!* lived, their relationship wouldn't have lasted any longer than *SPOILER!!* Christina and Dick's in the fourth book. Which, I think, is something she acknowledges later, that she's always made the wrong choices in regards to men.

Lynn Smith says

Number 2 in the Flambards Series sees Christina and Will having fled Flambards exploring the world of flying and of the start of the First World War.

Melody says

This is alleged to be the sequel to Flambards, and the characters have the same names- but the only one who bears the slightest resemblance to the character in the prior book is Will. Christina has become a trembling, mealy-mouthed package of fear and mousiness. There is a lot of detail about airplanes and Will's love of same- but if one wants early aviation detail, one would be far better served to read the magnificent memoirs penned by St. Exupery. I kept reading this just to find out how it ended. But I'm not happy about it.
