



## The Cavendon Women

*Barbara Taylor Bradford*

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## **The Cavendon Women** Barbara Taylor Bradford

From the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author comes a stunning and dramatic saga of love and loyalty. The aristocratic Inghams have been served by the Swann family for centuries. *The Cavendon Women* follows these two families' journeys from a weekend in the summer of 1926 through to the devastation of the financial crash of 1929.

It all begins on a summer weekend in July of 1926, when, for the first time in years, the Earl has planned a family weekend. Everyone is intrigued by the invitation, and everyone has their own reasons for accepting it. As the family members come together, secrets, problems, joys, and sorrows are revealed. And as old enemies come out of the shadows and the Swanns' loyalty to the Inghams gets tested in ways none of them could have predicted, it is up to the Cavendon women to band together and bring their family into a new decade, and a new way of life.

Told with Barbara Taylor Bradford's trademark attention to detail and passionate prose, *The Cavendon Women* will grip readers as they follow the beloved characters through times of triumph and turmoil.

## **The Cavendon Women Details**

Date : Published March 24th 2015 by St. Martin's Press (first published 2015)

ISBN :

Author : Barbara Taylor Bradford

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## From Reader Review The Cavendon Women for online ebook

### **Karen says**

When we left the Inghams and Swanns it was after WW1. This 2nd book in what is soon to be a trilogy (3rd book due out June 7, 2016) continues a theme of family loyalties. It begins in summer 1926 through the devastating stock market crash of 1929, the major event signaling the start of a 10-year Great Depression.

This is a predictable and at times cheesy read, but that is to be expected when reading BTB books. It is decent escapist fiction with drama and romance and fine detailing of time and place. If you enjoy reading about privileged and beautiful people during the influential Roaring Twenties and a breezy story line, you should enjoy this. As with the first novel, I got confused with the numerous characters. It would be helpful if the next edition includes a list of characters in the introduction (or one can be found online?). I recommend others read the first read book in the series (Cavendon Hall) prior to reading this.

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### **Stephanie says**

I had the pleasure of reading CAVENDON HALL some years ago and decided to give this installment a go.

Ms. Taylor-Bradford did not disappoint.

I love the era in which the book was written. Aristocrats. Intrigue in the 1920's. These elements and others made the book a breeze to read through.

Let it also be said that Ms. Taylor - Bradford is a literary giant without comparison.

Two thumbs up!

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### **Brigid Keely says**

"The Cavendon Women," by Barbara Taylor Bradford, is a book about super rich people complaining about how hard it is to not be super mega rich anymore and how expensive it is to run a manor/estate and "be on a budget" when they have literally millions of dollars worth of "investment" jewelry and art in their vaults. Gosh it's hard to be rich!

The language was incredibly stilted and repetitive and I gave up maybe a quarter of the way in. I kept going thinking the book might get better, but it never did. There's divorced couples, which should be interesting given the time and setting but it wasn't. There were people dealing with the devastating after effects of WWI and the Spanish Flu and that seemed like nothing more than scenery, not anything affecting the characters other than as a bit of bother (oh darn, my brother died in the war, now I'm forced to marry a bitchy heiress instead of my One True Love, how inconvenient). It's like the most boring parts of "Downton Abbey" and random "Masterpiece Theater" presentations, except the only thing we really know about the characters is the clothing they're wearing, their skin color (pale), their hair color (golden blonde or russet), and maybe their

eye color if it's OMG LAVENDER!!!! SO SPECIAL!

I imagine this book will be right up somebody else's alley and I wish you joy in it. I really like reading about this era, both the history of it and fiction set in it but this just really fell flat for me. I might enjoy it better if I'd read the book before it (I wasn't aware there's a book set before it, it didn't show up in the list of published works by the author in the book). Instead it gets a resounding "meh."

It's rare I don't finish a book. This one just feels like a waste of time.

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### **Beth says**

I won this book in a Goodreads giveaway, and if I didn't feel that I owed it a review as a result, I likely wouldn't have finished it. When I pick up a book to read, I'm not inclined to be impressed by the author's NYT bestseller status or other laurels. Instead, I look for an engrossing story to capture my interest as I would in any book by any author, known or unknown. Even though I am a Downton Abbey fan and enjoy Edwardian romances, this book just didn't do that for me. The conflicts are almost nonexistent and are easily resolved, so easily that I almost wondered why the author bothered to introduce them. As a result, the characters' emotions come across as flat, because nothing really challenges them. It's all lightness and ease and fluffy fashion, food and weddings that's liberally sprinkled with repetition (how many times must I be told that Lady Gwendolyn likes to get right to the point?) and salt-and-pepper dialogue (as in please pass the salt and pepper--or tea, or may I take your coat?). I was bored. The writing is competent and the characters are fully drawn, though uninteresting, but the storytelling falls flat.

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### **Donna says**

I knew when I chose to read this novel that it would be light fare, probably peppered with silly soft porn lovemaking scenes with everyone following in love the first hour they meet. And it was. However, my rating doesn't reflect The Cavendon Women being held up to great literary standards. After all, sometimes you want cotton candy, and the writer did a nice job giving me time period details that I enjoy. It receives two stars from me because I compare it to its predecessor, Cavendon Hall. Once again, predictably light fare, but Cavendon Hall was not as repetitive, and I mean excessively repetitive...beat-over-the-head repetitive. Silly characters I expected, but these were just insipid. Why two stars, not one, then? It is because despite all the flaws of the series, I ashamedly admit I still will probably read the last novel of the series when it is available. So Barbara Taylor Bradford must have given something to these women, evidently, that makes me want to check in on them...or maybe I just have a sweet tooth.

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### **Kim says**

[Miles, the heir, has been unhappily married for several years and with no children of his own to show for it. His wife (who is conveniently a witch with a b - never let it be said that the first wife

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### **Lauraelisabeth (fashion-by-the-book) says**

As longtime followers know, I am ALWAYS on the search for something to fill the Downton Abbey void. So when this arrived in my mailbox, I was sure this was it. Fancy, amazing house? Check. Romance? Check. Inter-class relationships? Check. Intrigue, a wide selection of characters, and historical amazing-ness? Sadly, no.

The Cavendon Women starts off on a good note; Cecily, a fashion designer, going back home, to the place she fell in love. But the storyline falls quickly. You may have noticed that I don't have a summary in this review like I normally do. This is because I have literally no idea what the plot was suppose to be. (Maybe "The Story of how a bunch of rich people had sex and fell in love with the perfect people and nothing went bad that couldn't be fixed with a good attitude!")

So the characters: I immediately liked Cecily.... until I realized she and ever other female character were pretty much the same person! None of the characters had any depth to them, and there were way too many of them, so it quickly became confusing to read. And the sisters all had names that started with "D" so I don't even have to tell you how confusing that could be.

The book kept acting like something horrible, terrible, UNTHINKABLE(!) would happen, but nothing did. Ok, so someone died but it was glazed over so you didn't even feel that bad.

Positive things that could be mentioned is that fashion was spoken a lot about, and the author is very accomplished, even being given a OBE (Order of the British Empire) by Queen Elizabeth II for her contributions to Literature.

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### **Ad?le says**

Is there a less than one star? Silly and directed at, I can't imagine. No character development. Starting a dramatic scene with what everyone is wearing, the colour of their eyes and the colour of the room was just ridiculous. Will never pick up a book by this author ever again. I was trapped in a car by the way, and it was read or be anxious about the traffic.

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### **Erika says**

Loved!

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### **Ashley Daviau says**

This was definitely a huge disappointment after how good the first book in the series was! I was really looking forward to continuing the series but after this let down, I definitely won't be reading the final book!

The only thing saving this book from being one star is that it did manage to keep me somewhat entertained

until about half way through. But from then on I completely lost interest and the story really started to go downhill!

The characters became extremely predictable and suddenly everyone was falling in love, left right and center... It was just all too perfectly set up and it quickly became extremely annoying. Quite honestly, I'm surprised I even managed to make it through to the end of the book, that's how annoyed I became with this book!

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### **Kathleen says**

The Cavendon Woman gave you a further look into Ingham and Swann families and how very intertwined the families have been for generations. Barbara Taylor Bradford gives us another wonderful saga of a family's hopes, dreams, sorrows and rise from the ashes of heartache. Love that spans time and brings these two families together by marriage and birth where Love prevails. I am hoping we get more of Cavendon Hall in future... The next generation of Ingham's and Swann's.

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### **Yukino says**

#### **SERIE CAVENDON HALL n. 2**

Rispetto al primo volume, su cui avevo alcuni dubbi, questo mi è piaciuto molto di più. Ma nonostante ciò, non sono proprio quattro stelle piene.

Sono passati sei anni e adesso siamo nel pieno degli anni 20 "gli anni ruggenti". Con la scusa di una riunione di famiglia Charlotte porta tutti gli Ingham e gli Swan sotto lo stesso tetto. Così Myles e Cecily si rivedono. E da qui parte tutto. Le protagoniste qui sono le donne di Cavendon. Bello davvero. Non me lo aspettavo. Finalmente ci lasciamo tutte le spiegazioni sul rapporto padrone/servitore fedele. E finalmente lasciamo spazio ai sentimenti, agli intrighi e al fascino della vita di quegli anni. Il libro anche se ha una trama intrecciata è molto semplice. Le situazioni si risolvono in un baleno. Ed è questo quello che non mi ha fatto dare le stelle piene. Materiale ce n'è, ma davvero a parte la situazione Miles e Cecily che dura tutto il libro, per il resto in due pagine viene risolto il problema. Come come spegni cervello è perfetto. Descrizioni luoghi, vestiti e modi di vivere di quel tempo perfetti. E poi ora voglio sapere come va avanti. L'idea di scrivere la storia tutte le generazioni degli Ingham e degli Swan mi piace parecchio. Siamo passati dagli anni 10 del primo libro. Passando per la prima guerra mondiale e per arrivare ora al crollo della borsa del 29. E non finisce qui! Un terzo libro è già uscito e quest'anno uscirà un quarto. Devo recuperarlo al più presto!!!

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### **Sandi \*~The Pirate Wench~\* says**

Setting: England late 1920s

3 1/2..maybe Stars

The women of Cavendon have always stood up to be counted for in good times or bad, and in The "Cavendon Women" whether the Ingham family or the Swann's, owner or servant, there is no tougher times than the late 1920s.

The story opens with the Earl planning the first family reunion in many years, bringing Cecily Swann back to Cavendon.

When Cecily lost her childhood sweetheart, Miles Ingham, to another woman, Cecily heartbroken left for London, and became a renowned fashion designer, But when it is revealed the famed Cavendon jewels have been stolen and financial ruin is possible, the women band together to keep the family and their home together.

With their cleverness, the Cavendon women prove that loyalty, family devotion and love make them powerful indeed.

This is the sequel to Cavendon Hall...or maybe there will be a third book, but I enjoyed this one a tad better than the first. The things I liked were, characters that were appealing, strong loving women, a lot more power and emotion was put into the story as well than the first book. What I wanted more of was, historical detail to evoke the era as it would have added color and flavor to the story and all that was happening around these characters to round it all out. And although I didn't get that, the remarkable characters made up for it.

But..barely

(There was also a nod to Emma Harte from A Woman of Substance)

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### **Shannon says**

Do people honestly think this is a well written book? I read it because I stubbornly needed to know what happens with the characters, but the writing is just awful. Instead of letting the reader decide if someone is being truly genuine, the author says 'this character was being genuine'. Every major emotional obstacle is easily smoothed over. Haven't been friends for six years? Bring it in girl - I've missed you! Or hey, our sister is pregnant and getting married - to which the other characters reply by CHANGING THE SUBJECT. And the worst of it all is the world's most annoying nickname that didn't even exist in the first book - Daphers. Every time a character utters that nickname, it feels like forced intimacy. I sincerely hope this is the end of the line for the Cavendon women, but regardless, it's definitely the end of the line for Bradford and I.

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### **Sarah says**

I think I gave this book a fair shake at 31% completed before dropping it like a hot potato. It, unfortunately, has all the problems of book one and even slides down another notch by killing one of the nicer points of that same book. So here ya go on why I dropped this one...

The one bright point in this whole debacle of a book is the author still takes her time in the descriptions and beauty of 1920s rural England. The estate of Cavendon is beautifully described, and the fashions of the era are also lovingly brought to life. I could see everything in my mind's eye, no problem.

Sadly, everything else in this book that I was exposed to sucks. The characterizations.... Oy vey! Just like in book one, everybody is two-dimensional (at best!) and stereotyped. There were no "Daphne" and "Hugo" equivalents in this book to save this side. Everyone was either super beautiful, courageous, loyal, and true to the family OR you were evil, ugly, and an egg-sucking traitor.

Even just having a dissenting opinion was enough to label you a traitor to the family and enough to get the cold shoulder from everyone. The individuals with this dissenting opinion was villainized and ostracized as soon as those opinions were voiced. Talk about "family loyalty".... I mean if you can't have a different

opinion and still feel loved with family members, than who can you with??

Then there's the story itself. We're right back to the inane melodramas of the first two thirds of book one, only without the powerful events like Daphne's "devastating" event. The biggest plot points by the time I quit was petty theft and marrying outside your class. Maybe in another work, these might have been enough to carry the story, but not with this work or author.

I'm sorry to say that these two works were my introduction to the author. Sad to say, they don't shine a good light on her as a writer. Maybe she was just in a slump when these works oozed out of her pen, but don't start with them if you haven't read the author before. Horribly flat characterizations, inane plot points, and just bad writing bog this work down, like book one. Pass on this one.

Note: Book received for free from publisher in exchange for an honest review. (Again, very honest, was I!!)

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