



Touched

Carolyn Haines

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The Deep South never gets any deeper than 1920s Jexville, Mississippi, of Carolyn Haines' novel *Touched*. Dirt poor Mattie is the arranged bride of the town's barber Elikah, who is prone to deliver vicious beatings to his young wife. When a little girl is struck by lightning at a party and not only survives, but seems to have attained the ability to predict the future, Jexville is turned on its ear. The townspeople believe that the child is probably in league with the devil and that she and her mother are a danger. Mattie befriends the pair, earning punishment at the hands of her husband before winning freedom for herself and her newfound friends.

Touched Details

Date : Published July 1st 1997 by Plume (first published 1996)

ISBN : 9780452276703

Author : Carolyn Haines

Format : Paperback 384 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Mystery, Fiction, Historical Mystery, Gothic, Southern Gothic

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From Reader Review Touched for online ebook

Barbara says

Very well written! I loved the main character and I couldn't put the book down. It's about overcoming oppression and becoming independent.

Stephanie says

This was my first time reading anything by this author and I was surprised by how much I enjoyed her book. I say "surprised" because 'Touched' is not a dark urban fantasy like my usual fare tends to be. I learned about 'Touched' from a book blurb via one of my RSS subscriptions that piqued my interest enough to check it out from my local library,

Within the first chapter it was obvious I had a good story in my hands. We're introduced to the town of Jexville, Mississippi whose townsfolk are sweltering under the heat of summer and oppressive beliefs. It's 1926 and things like dancing, laughing, and being a woman of strength and individuality are not welcomed. It is into this environment that 16yo mail order bride, Mattie, comes to be married to the town barber, Elikah, a man as handsome as he is twisted.

Anyway, not to write a spoiler, I'll just say that this book touches on how evil can lie disguised under righteousness and religion and that fear and bigotry can lead to disastrous, final actions. If, like me, you've never read a Carolyn Haines book I'd say this is a good place to start, the story is a page turner and the characters of Mattie, Duncan, Johanna and Floyd are the kind that will stay with you even after you've read the last page.

Grade: A+

Miranda says

I think I read a different book to everyone else who reviewed this. Given that 'Season of innocents' by the same author is one of my all time favorite books I have to say I was a tad disappointed with this book. It starts off really well and I was immediately drawn in and the last chapter or so are very good drawing to an exciting conclusion, however the middle part of the book dragged for me. There is a lot of pages where nothing much happens and too many unrelated and unnecessary parts to the story that could have been skipped. I liked the main idea of the lightening strike and the premonitions but I would have liked more focus on that rather than some of the other plot lines. I don't think it helped that the copy of the book I have is fairly thin but the print is so small it made it quite a chore to read. Not a terrible book but I wouldn't recommend to a friend!

Kelly Marsters says

Loved it

Carol Frazer says

Don't miss reading this book!

Dora says

There is so much going on in this story. It definitely drug in parts, but I was too far into to stop reading and not know how it ended. I wish I had felt more connected to the characters.

Pottermom218 says

One of the best books I have ever read.

Cheryl says

This was a good albeit slow book. I enjoyed some of the characters but some of the story line seemed disjointed at times. I liked it but wished it had a swifter pace.

Joanne says

I read this book a long time ago, it stays in my mind as a book that I would like to read again. It was quite captivating.

Lila Beckham says

I tend to like the "dark side" of Carolyn Haines and in my opinion This was one of her better books. I could really relate to the main character and the storyline was a good one. I would highly recommend this for those wanting a few chills up the spine ;)

Tyler Vogel says

Riveting

An intense and riveting story. As much as I love the author's Sarah Booth Delaney series; this book was

impossible to put down. What I wouldn't give for her to write a sequel to this one.

Yvonne Barlow says

What a read! Plot-driven with characters who stray from stereotypes. Difficult to put down and very easy to pick back up.

Juli says

dnf

Laura says

Haunting, dark, chilling. I finished this book late at night and will admit I had a hard time getting to sleep after. Yet, I thoroughly enjoyed it. I have now read enough of Carolyn Haines to finally figure out why I keep coming back for more. Her plot lines often have holes or take needless twists and turns that frustrate me to no end, but her characters never disappoint. Haines develops such real, 3-dimensional, tortured characters. This novel was perhaps the best example of that with Mattie and the McVay family. Mattie comes from an abusive past and even worse present, and latches on easily to the carefree, headstrong Johanna and her special daughter Duncan. What results from this friendship makes the novel compelling and worthwhile. I don't know in quite which category to place this book, but I would recommend it to someone who likes supernatural tales or horror.

Jen Lozano says

This is just such an amazing book. I was looking for a contemporary book, but a friend of mine gave me this one. At first I didn't want to read it because it looked old, but omg, I was so surprised, I ended up loving it, the characters were so freaking amazing and I even cried. This is the greatest example for me when it comes to the phrase "never judge a book by its cover".
