



The Golden Thread

Louis de Wohl

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The Golden Thread Louis de Wohl A Novel About St. Ignatius Loyola

Louis de Wohl As in his other popular novels, Louis de Wohl, with humility and deep religious conviction, takes us into the mind and heart of a saint, giving at the same time an enthralling picture of the era in which he lived. Here is a skillful weaving of the story of St. Ignatius Loyola's conversion and pilgrimage with the colorful and dangerous history of Spain and Italy in the early sixteenth century. The life of the very human, very great Basque nobleman who founded the Jesuit Order, makes for one of de Wohl's finest novels. Seriously wounded at the siege of Pamplona in 1521, Don Inigo de Loyola learned that to be a Knight of God was an infinitely greater honor (and infinitely more dangerous) than to be a Knight in the forces of the Emperor. Uli von der Flue, humorous, intelligent and courageous Swiss mercenary, was responsible for the canon shot which incapacitated the worldly and ambitious young nobleman, and Uli became deeply involved in Loyola's life. With Juanita, disguised as the boy Juan, Uli followed Loyola on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to protect him, but it was the saint who protected Uli and Juan. Through Uli's eyes we see the surge and violence of the turbulent period in Jerusalem, Spain and Rome. Louis de Wohl has again created an exciting and spiritually inspiring novel for all readers of historical fiction. Louis de Wohl was a distinguished and internationally acclaimed Catholic novelist whose popular historical novels on saints have been best-sellers worldwide, selling in the millions. Other available titles include Lay Siege to Heaven, Citadel of God, Set All Afire, The Restless Flame, and The Quiet Light. Many of his books were made into films.

The Golden Thread Details

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Ocean Gebhardt says

I didn't mind the story at all, but it definitely wasn't a biography of Ignatius of Loyola, fictionalized or not. Ignatius was a secondary (or tertiary) character. In fact, you can start on page 304 and read to page 310, and you'll pretty much have his story. The rest is a cute novel about a Swiss knight and the (seemingly too young) girl he falls in love with.

Jennifer says

I wanted to like and get more out of this one... The writing and story were good, I just was expecting and wanting the story to be told from the viewpoint of Ignatius and learn more of what he went through spiritually during his conversion. That wasn't touched on very much. I did enjoy the story about the main characters, but I was expecting the bulk of the story to be about St. Ignatius and his inner world, and not mainly about two people that followed him around on pilgrimage (even if their lives were very much changed by the experience).

The Hofs says

Not the best De Wohl but worthwhile.

Jozo Mandi? says

Odli?na knjiga! Lijepa pozadiska radnja! Toplo preporu?ujem :)

booklady says

Fictionalized account of the life of Íñigo López de Loyola. De Wohl tells the story from the perspective of the man who wounds the founder of the Jesuit order. It's an interesting idea but keeps us at arm's length from the enigmatic Basque Lord-turned-beggar. However, given the complexity of the man and his mission, the time and the innumerable intrigues, it was an unenviable challenge. But then, to really understand the saint, you have to do The Spiritual Exercises, not read a biography about him.

Gilbert says

I got this book as a gift since my friend knew I admired Saint Ignatius, founder of the Jesuits. I, too, thought this would be a great read and get to know what it might have been like for Ignatius in his day.

What I quickly found out at the beginning of my read is that the tale was being told by another character who happens to be the one to cripple the leg of Ignatius with a cannon ball. That's not bad, but the first hundred pages are dedicated to telling the fictional tale of the main character, and hardly any Ignatius introduction at all. I wasn't interested in reading about a knight fighting for his dignity and life. I skipped part one after 40 pages.

Part two gets you to Ignatius lying in bed, crippled, and looking for something to read. I was hooked since this event is where Ignatius had his first revelation and conversion experience. It was all good and decent reading until part three.

Part three you have the knight, I forgot his name, being bewildered about his strong love for the pre-teen girl he saved and had taken along for the journey. As soon as he decides that he can not keep having her along his side due to inconvenience and safety, he also ends up admitting, out loud to her, that he was in love with her but alas, must continue his journey.

I had to stop. This didn't seem historically plausible. I doubt men were confessing love to pre-teens. Yes, they were marrying young girls back then but I doubted that love stories developed frequently between old men and little girls. The writer seemed to be validating that "back in the day" there were love stories occurring very naturally between men and girl children.

Sorry, I didn't have the stomach to go on. The writer could have made it interesting in making the child the knight's lost daughter, not a out-of-the-blue soul mate.

Any how, there are better books out there, so don't use your time for this one.
