



The White Butterfly: A Novel About One Woman's Quest to Chase Her Dreams (Claybourne Trilogy Book 2)

Mary Christian Payne

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Butterflies symbolize hope to Lady Lily Claybourne. They also symbolize transformation from one stage of life to another - a more beautiful one. *The White Butterfly* is a fast-paced romantic novel set in Post-World War I. England. It is the story of one woman's struggle to find herself and to become self-fulfilled in a society that rarely recognizes women as equals to men. Lily Barton Claybourne has a deep-seated need to be the best she can be in life. Her compassion and ability to forgive are strong components of her personality. But, the aristocracy isn't interested in her dreams of a better society.

She has married into a family where the old, tried and true traditions are held on to very tightly. Lily thinks it is all foolishness. Her husband, the Earl of Gloucester, Kit Claybourne is a wonderful man, but he too is mired in the past traditions of his heritage. He was raised by an iron fisted mother, who appears on the surface to be a sweet and charming woman, but who still makes the rules that are adhered to at Claybourne Court. Lily loves Kit, but it is very hard to live with him. In nearly every facet of their lives together there is a dichotomy. Over and over Lily is told that what she wants to do is not 'the done thing'. She feels she is nothing but an ornament on Kit's arm. After two very grave illnesses, Lily emerges as a different person. She is tired of being told that nothing she does is right. The primary concern in the Claybourne family is that nothing ever be done to mar the image of that great and ancient name. Yet, Lily discovers that there was one, significant mistake made in 1903, that has now returned to haunt them. With strength and determination, she makes the decision to let go of the ties that bind her to aristocracy's strict rules, and to follow her own path.

With the support of a sixteen year old, she gathers her courage and makes a radical change in her life. This engaging novel presents the reader with characters who are neither all good nor all bad. They are real human beings facing the struggle that often comes after a war has torn the foundations from the world they once knew.

About the Author

Mary Christian Payne is an accomplished business woman, who has held high ranking, management positions with Fortune 500 companies, in New York City, St. Louis, Missouri, Orlando, Florida, and Tulsa, Oklahoma. She is a recipient of the Mayor's Pinnacle Award in Tulsa, for directing a highly successful program at The Women's Resource Center at the University of Tulsa. All of these positions involved significant amounts of writing. She has also acted as a speech writer for high profile political figures, and for executives of major corporations.

She is now a retired Career Psychologist. She was the founder and President of Transitions Counseling Center, in partnership with her father, the retired CEO of a four billion dollar retail organization. She has taught seminars throughout Oklahoma. Mary Christian is a world traveler, and has spent extensive time in England, thus creating an excellent foundation for writing novels set in Great Britain. The era of World War II has always held tremendous appeal for her, and she is a committed Anglophile. The daughter of an Army Major during World War II, she grew up hearing countless stories of that tumultuous and romantic time.

She lives with her husband, Jim, who is a Pharmacist, and their two beloved Maltese Terriers in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. She is also the mother of two, adult children, and three grandchildren.

All three books in the trilogy are now available:

Book 1: The White Feather -- [amazon.com/dp/B00K1MNNQK](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00K1MNNQK)

Book 2: The White Butterfly -- [amazon.com/dp/B00KLM7OJ2](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00KLM7OJ2)

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