

A Certain Age

I picked *A Certain Age* by Beatriz Williams, one of our new arrivals, for my review this month. The novel fits right in with our display of the decade of the 1920's. This story is part historical fiction, part romance. It involves family secrets, an unsolved murder and scandal during the 1920's. It is based on the Strauss opera, *The Rosenkavalier*. The title could refer to the ages of the characters but it also could relate to the age of the times. After the horrors of WWI the 1920's is a new world waiting to be explored.

Before each chapter there is a quote from Helen Rowland, a journalist and humorist. I was very much surprised that the author mysteriously starts out her first chapter with a newspaper article from the trial of "The Patent King". Who is the Patent King and why is he on trial for murder?

The story alternates between the main characters, Sophie Fortescue and Theresa Marshall. Theresa is a forty-four year old socialite, living on 5th avenue in New York. Sophie is the innocent daughter of the Patent King. She welcomes the new found independence that women have gained with the new laws of the century. She has always had an interest in working with machines.

Theresa is having a love affair with Captain Octavian Rofrano, a handsome twenty-two year old aviator and hero of WW I. The story gets really interesting when Theresa's brother Ox, short for Edmond Jay Ochsner, asks her to find a cavalier to propose to Sophie. Theresa picks Octavian as the cavalier to present Sophie with the family engagement ring, a tradition that has been in the family for hundreds of years. From that moment on more characters are brought into the story and more surprising twists, divided loyalties, and dangerous revelations are brought to the surface.

I thoroughly enjoyed the writing style of Beatriz Williams, a new author to me. She is very descriptive of the happenings of the 1920's and brings them into her story in a very clever way.

I hope you will enjoy this story as much as I did. You will find *A Certain Age* with our new arrivals. Happy Reading!