

## **The Forgotten Room**

One of my favorite authors, Karen White, has written a historical novel in collaboration with two other well-known authors, Beatriz Williams and Lauren Willig. The title of this novel is *The Forgotten Room*.

This is the story of three women in three different time periods in New York City. It covers three generations from mother to daughter to granddaughter. All these characters have a connection to a certain mansion in Manhattan's Upper East Side.

In 1892, during the Gilded Age, Olive took a job as a housemaid to a very rich family, the Pratts. Her main purpose was to revenge the death of her father who had been the architect for this mansion. How the staff was treated and the upper class behaved reminded me of the television series, *Downton Abbey*. Olive falls passionately in love with an artist. A certain room on the seventh floor of the mansion becomes a hiding place where secrets are kept for generations to come.

In 1920, during the Jazz Age, Lucy Young, short for Jungmann, takes a secretarial job in a law office. She is Olive's daughter. Her purpose is to uncover some well kept secrets about her family, mainly who her father was. She moves from Brooklyn to Manhattan and rents a room on the seventh floor of a boardinghouse which used to be the Pratt's mansion.

In 1944, during WWII, Kate Schuyler, Lucy's daughter, is a doctor caring for wounded soldiers brought here from the battle fields in Europe. The hospital is the former stately Manhattan mansion on the Upper East Side now called Stornaway Hospital. When Captain Cooper Ravenel is brought in with a badly injured leg there is no room for him in any of the regular hospital rooms. Kate offers to put him in her room on the seventh floor. As he recovers from his injuries Kate and Cooper discover they have a family connection. The story also involves a ruby necklace which is passed through the three generations.

I was so intrigued with the stories of the characters and how they all were connected. I felt compelled to finish the book in a couple of days just so I could learn what happened to Olive and how those events influenced the lives of Lucy and Kate.

*The Forgotten Room* is a beautifully written story by 3 authors: Karen White, Beatriz Williams and Lauren Willig. You will find this book in our new books section. I guarantee you will not be disappointed.

**Happy Reading!**