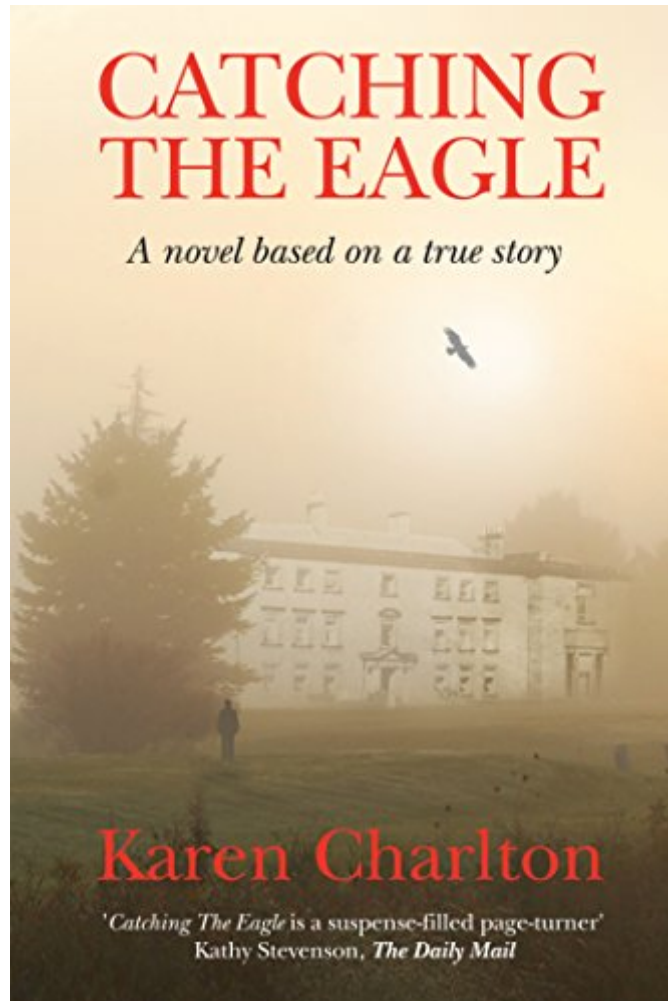




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Catching The Eagle



Synopsis

Easter Monday, 1809: Kirkley Hall manor house is mysteriously burgled. When suspicion falls on Jamie Charlton, he and his family face a desperate battle to save him from the gallows. When £1,157 rent money is stolen from Kirkley Hall, it is the biggest robbery Northumberland has ever known. Suspicion soon falls on impoverished farm labourer, Jamie Charlton, and the unpopular steward, Michael Aynsley. Jamie Charlton is a loving family man but he is hot-tempered and careless. As the case grows against him, it seems that only his brother, William, can save him from an impending miscarriage of justice. But William is struggling with demons of his own. Desperate to break free from the tangled web of family ties which bind him to their small community, he is alarmed to find that he is falling in love with Jamie's wife. Set beneath the impenetrable gaze of a stray golden eagle whose fate seems to mirror that of Jamie's, 'Catching the Eagle' is a fictionalised account of a real trial that devastated a family and divided a community. A SUSPENSE-FILLED PAGE-TURNER "Told with gritty realism, 'Catching The Eagle' is a suspense-filled page-turner, which spares nothing in its descriptions of the hardships and injustices suffered by the poor at the turn of the 19th century. Its ending leaves the reader poised perfectly for the next volume - "for which I can hardly wait." Kathy Stevenson, 'The Daily Mail' AN ENJOYABLE READ "It is a rollicking tale full of adultery, drinking, fighting, gambling. Rich imagery, suspense and some genuinely likeable characters - as well as plenty of murky ones - make this an enjoyable read. Karen is particularly strong at capturing the Geordie dialect and recreating the rural Northumbrian world of the 1800s, where the wealthy lived in comfort and the poor struggled to make ends meet." Laura Fraine, Culture Magazine, 'The Journal' (Newcastle)

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Customer Reviews

My review: Catching the Eagle is a first book in a historical family saga. You are introduced to the characters and the surroundings in a very fascinating way. The title has also a very significant role in book: you meet an eagle who is struggling for keeping its freedom - just like the main characters in the book. Catching the Eagle was an interesting and well-written book with medium pace which is suitable for historical drama, believable characters and it was easy to read. Regarding the plot: Catching the Eagle starts with burglary of a big amount which is gathered as taxes for Kirkley Hall manor house. At the same time you are introduced to the main characters the Charlton brothers and their family. The reader meets Jamie and his beautiful wife Cilla and Jamie's brother William. The steward of Kirkley Hall Michael Ansley is sure that Jamie is the one who stole the money and accuses him for it. Detective Lavender is called in from London to solve the case and find out who is the guilty one in the case. As the detective is investigating the burglary, many things point towards Jamie, but since William is protecting his brother, Jamie gets off charges. The mystery remains, because during the first book the case is still not solved. The author creates quite interesting setting and historical world where the society is much divided - you have the noble class who requires justice and the village people who work hard to survive. I enjoyed to learn more about the Charlton family and their stories. The only thing I had difficulties with Catching the Eagle was the pace of the story, which in my opinion was sometimes too slow.

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