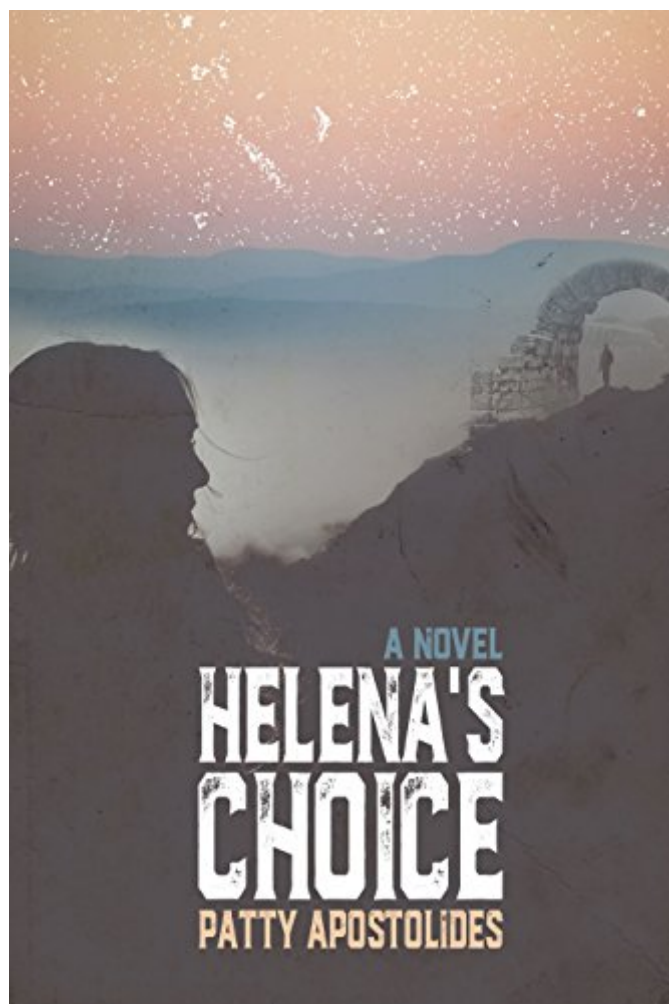


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Helena's Choice (Historical Romance)



Synopsis

Helena Cadfield returns to Oxford in the summer of 1837 after being away three years at a Parisian boarding school. She looks forward to seeing her father, Dr. Cadfield, as well as Allan Murphy, a young man whom she has had a crush on all these years. A letter from her father awaits her, apologizing for not being there to greet her. He explains that while in Greece, he excavated the foundation of her Greek mother's family property in Nemea, with the intentions of rebuilding the war-damaged mansion, and discovered ancient treasures in the process. He asks that she join him in retrieving the treasures. Her joy in going to Greece is cut short, for at the bottom of the letter is a note from the local Greek priest, informing her that he found her father dead with the letter in his arms. He sent the letter after burying her father. Allan Murphy, a physician, shows up at Cadfield House to give his condolences for her deceased father. He treats Helena not as the tomboy she used to be, but as a beautiful young lady that she has become. He is interested in courting her. Helena is happy with Allan's attentions, but is caught in a dilemma, for she must see about the property in Greece. Cadfield House now belongs to her father's cousin, Mr. Weldon, the next heir. She is penniless, for her father did not leave a will. Determined to become financially independent, Helena takes a position as a governess in hopes of earning enough money to travel to Greece. Her charge is a strong-headed girl who does not want a governess. Helena asks Allan to wait for her, but will he wait? When she arrives in war-torn Greece as a governess, where King Otto of Bavaria rules, she encounters Dr. Aristotle Mastoras, an archaeologist. The archaeological society in Athens has hired him to excavate on her Greek property. They join forces in finding the treasures on her property. Working alongside the Albanian laborers and Aristotle, Helena finds peace. Yet she must battle the dark forces that threaten to take everything away from her. She hires her bandit cousins, musket-yielding mountain men, to guard the place. In addition, the burgeoning love she feels for Aristotle threatens to topple all her carefully laid out plans with Allan. Excerpt Helena turned around to the sound of a man's deep voice. He was the tall, bearded man who had sat eating at the table with his plump partner. He stood there, looking expectantly at them, his strong arms crossed over his wide chest. He appeared powerful and virile. She caught herself staring at him and then dropped her eyes in confusion. Why would a common laborer want to help her? "This servant wants to play the saint and feed those beggars in the khan," Sophia sneered, wagging her head. "They cannot even pay for their nights' rest." "Whether they are beggars or not, they are people, and their children are hungry," Helena replied firmly. "Maybe it's not their fault that they are under these difficult circumstances. They must have something to eat. I came to get them some bread. I would gladly pay for the food." The bearded man nodded authoritatively to Sophia. "Kyria Sophia, get me a clean

plate." Helena blinked at the man's command. Sophia stared at him as if he had offended her, then sighed and obliged him. She muttered darkly as she handed him a plate. Helena watched as the man placed all of his untouched food on the clean plate and then grabbed his partner's plate. His partner sputtered his protest, his mouth full. "Be quiet," the bearded man laughed, pulling the plate away from his partner's grubby hands and scraping the food into the receiving plate. "You have enough fat on you to feed off of for days. We can make up for it in the morning." Helena's heart soared as she watched him carry the laden plate of lamb, bread, olives, and cheese to her. He was remarkably handsome, even with the beard. His beautiful dark eyes were steadily observing her and they had

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Customer Reviews

I so enjoyed this novel. Patty Apostolides captivated my attention as the characters came to life in the 1800's. The Greek and English lifestyles, completely different, were defined in a personal and emotional way. Please keep writing these beautifully written stories.

A smooth journey in the past. Wonderful images, powerful feelings. Beautiful descriptions for the demanding. I found the story intriguing and unanticipated plot twists mind-blowing, a rare for this genre. Great job done. Five stars from me.

This book started out OK, but the last chapters were complete rubbish. It seems like they told the author that she needed 50 more pages and it didn't matter what went into them. What an absolute waste of time and money.

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