



Serpents and Doves

Written by G. Lloyd Helm

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Serpents and Doves

By G. Lloyd Helm

Serpents And Doves Book

I was immediately caught up in G. Lloyd Helm's latest release *Serpents & Doves*, and not just because historical novels are a favorite. The protagonist, Stephen Mitchell leaves sunny California for school in Tennessee in the mid 1960's, a turbulent time to say the least. Racism is rampant, political upheaval and war are in the news consistently, flower children and protests. The world is changing faster than can be documented or understood and to experience it with this young man was insightful. I was immediately caught up in G. Lloyd Helm's latest release *Serpents & Doves*, and not just because historical novels are a favorite. The protagonist, Stephen Mitchell leaves sunny California for school in Tennessee in the mid 1960's, a turbulent time to say the least. Racism is rampant, political upheaval and war are in the news consistently, flower children and protests. The world is changing faster than can be documented or understood and to experience it with this young man was insightful. I appreciated the male point of view, the history lesson, and the drama as it unfolded.

Mr. Helm's writing does not disappoint. Stephen Mitchell, and all the characters are an interesting mix of personalities, politics, races and backgrounds. Besides the stress of college life, Stephen must deal with the reality of a changing world and his own beliefs. He starts out thinking he'll become a minister, but that soon changes when before his first year is over, he's experienced racism, bigotry, death and a broken heart.

The end left me wanting to know more about Stephen's future. I hope this is the beginning of a series, because there is so much more history to come – the end of the war, Watergate, etc. Please Mr. Helm, give us the next year or two of Stephen's life.

Highly recommended!

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Serpents And Doves Clothing

I suppose I'm dating myself but I was able to closely identify with Stephen Mitchell, a young man in the 1960s. The '60s was a transformative decade for myself, and one that reshaped America. So much going on – the sexual revolution, civil rights and racism, the Vietnam War and the protests against it.

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Stephen, just graduated from high school, inexperienced and sincere, finds the racism, violence and perverseness at the small university in Tennessee quite overwhelming when he arrives there from his religious-oriented California home.

The mix of characters he finds there are clearly drawn by Mr. Helm, becoming real, three-dimensional people with all the human foibles, weaknesses and strengths that bring them to life.

This coming-of-age tale takes the reader back through all the decades to that fascinating period when America also came of age in so many ways, and lost so much of her innocence.

A compelling read.

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G. Lloyd Helm's *Serpents and Doves* takes you on a journey through the mid-sixties during the turbulent times of the Viet Nam War protests throughout the United States, especially college campuses. Stephen Mitchell, a recent high school graduate from California, enrolls at a southern bible college. His naivety, inexperience with females, confrontation with racism and bigotry, and death during his freshman year changes his innocence. It's an life-learning experience transitioning a boy into a young man.

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The characters are genuine and believable. I can relate to Stephen Mitchell on many of his issues, since I was a college student during this period of flower children, free love, hippies, campus war protests, and long hair and beards. A well-written and realistic historical-type novel all genre readers and generations will enjoy and gain a prospective of what was going on during the mid-sixties in the United States.

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Serpents And Doves In The Garden Of The Gods

Serpents and Doves is a compelling story you will likely want to read in one sitting. Stephen Mitchell, a young boy from California, travels across country to begin his freshman year at a small college in Tennessee. The year, as it unfolds, was anything but normal.

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Conversely, maybe Stephen’s freshman year, in part, was the normal for anyone coming of age in the mid-60s. While Serpents and Doves is a compelling story you will likely want to read in one sitting. Stephen Mitchell, a young boy from California, travels across country to begin his freshman year at a small college in Tennessee. The year, as it unfolds, was anything but normal.

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Conversely, maybe Stephen’s freshman year, in part, was the normal for anyone coming of age in the mid-60s. While Stephen has an epiphany of sorts during his freshman year as he tries to come to grips with bigotry that extends beyond the segregated South and across many multi-racial lines, this reader is hoping there will be a sequel to the book to see how Stephen matures and deals with the feminist movement that will be coming in the 70s and 80s. There are times I would have liked to have reached into the pages and given Stephen a good shake regarding his thoughts and actions towards females only to remind myself-he is only 18.

A pleasant side effect for this reader owes to the fact that the author and I attended the same small private liberal arts college in Tennessee at the same time. While the book is a work of fiction, Mr. Helm was able to use the actual time and place to guide his story. Reading Serpents and Doves brought back some real memories—the BSU, a library workshop (yes—reading shelves is a mind-numbing experience), rushes and pledging, old men whittling on the town square, the segregated town theater (until 1966 maybe?), the dress code at the school for female students, the railroad track, bootlegging, civil rioting, and Vietnam. Because of these shared memories and the story line, curiosity and some “ah hah” moments during the reading make me want to sit down with him and ask “OK, the Pope? For real, was that character based on J.F.? And about Ethan, was he J.F.?”

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Coming of age story where Stephen Mitchell, a naïve Californian, encounters betrayal, murder, bigotry, segregation, suicide, among other things during his first year at a small church college in Tennessee. Serpents and Doves is set in the mid 1960s amidst Vietnam and the Civil Rights movement. His freshman year of college was definitely a different experience for him leaving him feeling battered and disgusted with humanity. He ends his first year of college uncertain if he would return.

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This is the first book I have read by G. Lloyd Helm. Not a typical book I would have selected but Mr. Helm graciously supplied me a copy of the book to read and review and I'm so glad he did. The characters were well written and believable. Serpents and Doves gave me a glimpse into what it was like in the segregated South from someone who was not exposed to. It gives you a different view of the 1960s; while it touches on the big events (ie Vietnam, Civil Rights) it gives you a personal view. And just like Stephen, I found it an eye opener. A good and recommended read.

Quoted from the Dedication page:

Matthew 10:16 -

“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.”

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Serpents And Doves Santana

It is the mid-60s and Stephen Mitchell has just graduated from high school. He is now ready to attend college. A young and naïve church boy, he leaves California for a small church college in Tennessee. He is soon immersed in protests involving The Viet Nam War and civil rights. He learns so much in just one year at school. He learns about friendships, sex, betrayal and the differences between how black and whites are treated.

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Stephen started out being quite naïve and, through observations, learned so much. He had no problem being friends with blacks but that friendship often let to trouble for both. It is a harsh look at what life was like in the segregated South from the perspective of one man who was not raised in segregation. Stephen is an interesting mix of likeability and naiveté. Sometimes you felt like asking him what he was up to. It is hard to believe what life was like during this era, but G. Lloyd Helm does an admirably job of bringing it to life for us in the pages of Serpents and Doves. Rake a step back in time with G. Lloyd Helm and the intriguing Stephen and experience life in the 60s.

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Serpents And Doves Podcast

Santana Serpents And Doves Lyrics

Serpents And Innocent As Doves