Front cover copy in blue

Across the top in italics:

“A well written story that pulls the reader into the era and the family. Looking forward to continuing the saga with book 2.” – Reader review, GoodReads.com

The House of Secrets

Julia’s Story

Book 1 of the Belleville family trilogy

[DESCRIPTION ON THE COVER]

Set against the backdrop of World War 2, this is the heartbreaking story of a young girl in love, the secret she must never reveal and the family who betrayed her trust.

J Mary Masters

BACK COVER

Set against the backdrop of World War 2, the wealthy Belleville family must face the tragedies and heartbreak that war brings to the doorstep of their grand Australian home Prior Park.

There is Julia, headstrong and on the cusp of womanhood, who falls desperately in love with an American Army officer against her family’s wishes. For Julia, it is life-changing. For her family, it is a secret they swear to keep forever but can they?

Half a world away, her brother Richard is fighting for Britain, flying dangerous missions across the Channel knowing that the next mission could be his last. He meets the beautiful Catherine Cavendish whose aristocratic parents disapprove strongly of the brash young Australian officer. Is he destined to find happiness with Catherine or will he be haunted forever by Jane, the woman he left behind?

Brought up in Richard’s shadow, William Belleville resents the popularity of his older brother and when there is an unexpected death in the family, it is William who attempts to usurp his older brother’s authority and take charge of the family fortune.

Into this mix, comes James Fitzroy, handsome and charming, who sets his sights on Julia. But can he remain faithful to just one woman or will his roving eye mean more trouble for the family.

And what of the matriarch Elizabeth Belleville, whose preference for her elder son is well known, but who must endure the fecklessness of her husband, Francis, and the disappointment of a failing marriage.

Eventually, the secrets they thought long buried surface to reveal the depths of the betrayals within their midst and the bitter legacy for those who remain.

J Mary Masters has created a compelling story of a family whose lives are entwined in a web of secrets and lies that bind them together until one by one the secrets are painfully and ruthlessly revealed.

Amazon review:

4.0 out of 5 stars

[**Epic Family Drama written with a fresh voice**](http://www.amazon.com/review/R1BD04GJ2KRWIZ/ref=cm_cr_dp_title?ie=UTF8&ASIN=B00VDSTUV8&channel=detail-glance&nodeID=133140011&store=digital-text)

This tale is a well developed family saga initiation with an interesting cast of characters and some deep secret plot lines that you just know will come back to haunt the main characters later. The story and writing are very reminiscent of the epic dynasty dramas of Susan Howatch or Daoma Winston.

The characters are believable, full of depth and colour; and while the plot does follow the predictable saga drama outline with secret loves, arranged marriages, manipulations and betrayals as various family members manoeuvre for position, the writing is fresh enough that the familiar themes seem to be refreshingly recycled and it makes for an entertaining story if this is your reading genre.

……..The story is good and definitely worth an afternoon's devotion.

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ISBN 9780994327604