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Flowers In The Attic (Dollanganger)
A major Lifetime movie event “the novel that captured the world’s imagination and earned V.C. Andrews a fiercely devoted fanbase. Book One of the Dollanganger Family series.At the top of the stairs there are four secrets hidden. Blond, beautiful, innocent, and struggling to stay alive | They were a perfect family, golden and carefree â€” until a heartbreaking tragedy shattered their happiness.

Now, for the sake of an inheritance that will ensure their future, the children must be hidden away out of sight, as if they never existed. Kept on the top floor of their grandmother’s vast mansion, their loving mother assures them it will be just for a little while. But as brutal days swell into agonizing months and years, Cathy, Chris, and twins Cory and Carrie realize their survival is at the mercy of their cruel and superstitious grandmother and this cramped and helpless world may be the only one they ever know. Book One of the Dollanganger series, followed by Petals in the Wind, If There be Thorns, Seeds of Yesterday, and Garden of Shadows.

**Book Information**

Series: Dollanganger (Book 1)
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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (1,255 customer reviews)
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**Customer Reviews**

Okay, I realize that this novel is nothing resembling great literature. But that just doesn’t matter nor does it affect my pure enjoyment of this series, as it is a well-written, completely engrossing story. Flowers in the Attic is a “fairy tale”. A dark, twisted fairy tale, but a fairy tale all the same. This means that the characters and situations within the story should NOT be expected to be realistic in any form. Anyone complaining about the lack of realism is not seeing it as it should be seen. It takes place in some strange, imagined land that almost mirrors our world but not quite. It starts out all
shiny and happy, describing the perfect, blessed existence of this beautiful family, and then it
descends into a nightmare. Many of the complaints about the shallow characters are accurate but in
my opinion it fits with the theme. The characters here can be silly and melodramatic and
stereotypical. Nobody in this book talks like a real person would. Some of the older male characters
are never developed at all but just kept shadowy, sometimes sinister figures who want to prey on
Cathy and other women. And Cathy...she is the ultimate fragile blond-haired fairy tale princess. Only
the twisted, upside-down version. Others have pointed out that she is not a likeable character. This
is true, especially if you have read the rest of the series. But I don’t believe that she was meant to
be likeable. The abuse she has suffered has made her too messed up to be likeable, and her
increasingly selfish, cruel behavior makes it very hard to have any sympathy for her. So how did the
author manage to make me care so much about a character’s story when I so dislike the character?
It all lies in the telling of it, the subject matter, the horror that goes beyond evil villains and straight
into the human psyche.

Some people are taking this great read too literally. The thing is, I don’t actually think that the details
of the story are as important as what it evokes: the terror and uncertainty of being a teenager. The
bizarre horror of maturing physically and yet being powerless before adult authority. It’s all a
metaphor for feeling trapped, which all teenagers feel. If you think about it, that’s what all Andrews’
books are actually about, and the ghostwriter carries on this tradition, if not as well as Andrews, than
competently. Yes, some of the details are hard for an adult reader to accept as credible, but why do
you think we loved this books as teenagers? Because many teenage girls—and I stress girls,
because I most of what Andrews’ covers doesn’t apply to boys—go through all the things Cathy goes
through—testing sexual attractiveness for the first time, looking at our changing bodies in the mirror,
first period, challenging parental authority, the trauma of first sexual experiences, etc. All those
changes are scary and weird. Of course the added elements are demented and perverse but that
just adds to the fun. Andrews just takes common female adolescence, scary enough on its own, and
projects it onto a melodramatic stage we can emotionally act it out on. Most of us don’t have
incredibly wealthy families, haunted by legacies of “sin”, possess nearly supernatural physical
perfection or get locked up in the attic, but many a girl can project their uncontrollably blossoming
self onto Cathy; many a pretty girl can remember what it’s like to first have people comment on your
beauty, many an abused child can remember the powerlessness of childhood, etc.

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