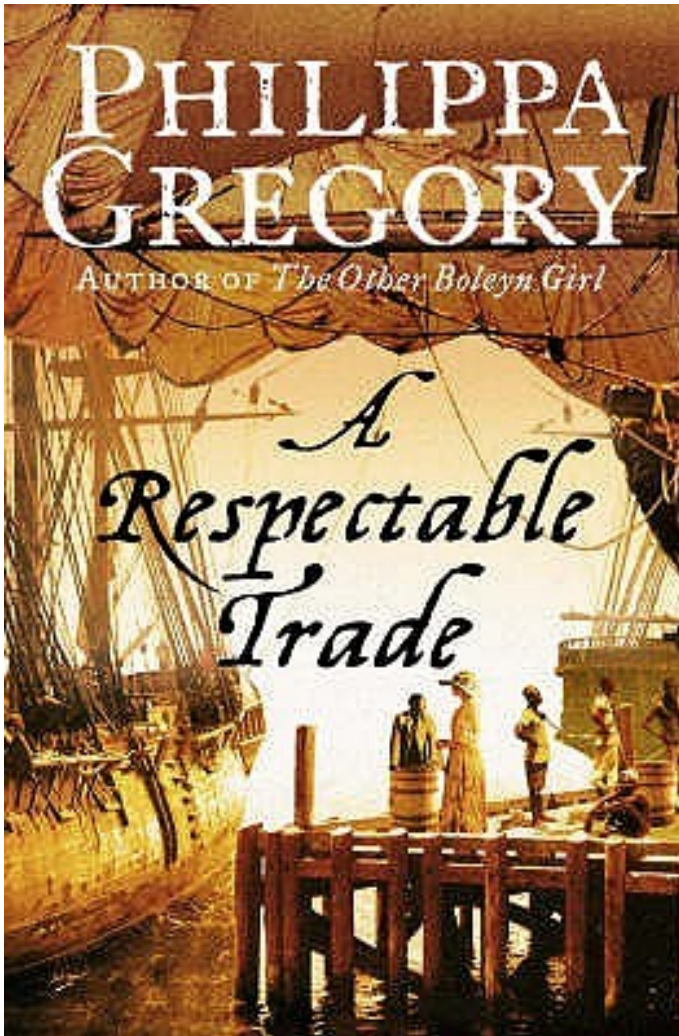


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**Philippa Gregory**

**A Respectable Trade**



Title: A Respectable Trade

Author: Philippa Gregory

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 510

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## Description

Set in 18th-century Bristol, this novel charts one man's efforts to move to the wealthy sector of the city - at any cost. To this end, he becomes involved in slave-trading. This is a tale of his ambition, and the plight of one African in particular, brought over to be trained as a model slave.

## Insightful reviews

Roberto: I always compare Philippa Gregory to Celine Dion: despite their undeniable talent, people always enjoy dismissing them as inferior artists and I am left to wonder why. Having read "The Other Boleyn Girl" which was very pleasant to read, I decided it to read another book with a different theme from the accomplished british author: This time its theme is the slavery trade in the 18th century. And I am glad I did it because I found it a most wonderful depiction of a most shameful period of time. Prepare yourself to find very poignant and heartwrenching scenes in this novel given its theme. I also enjoyed the fact that, though we know the character´s motives sometimes are very( enormously) wrong we still understand them as Philippa Gregory created her characters in a very believable way. Very well.

Ria: When Frances Scott agrees out of desperation to marry Josiah Cole shipping trader she thought her life would be moving upwards from having to rely on the charity of family after her parents died, with the only other option open to her is governess posts. But what she doesn't know is that Josiah is in his fever to land a rich wife and progress in trade is dealing in uninsured trips to "acquire" slaves.

When first confronted with his initial consignment of "ignorant" slaves for her to train up and teach in English ways ready for sale to her affluent friends she is at the start enthusiastic but when she comes to realise the harsh reality of the conditions they have suffered on the voyage and continue to suffer at the English traders hands, rape, beatings, starvation and other degrading tortures her eyes are finally opened to brutalities of the trade but stuck in a loveless marriage where she is dependent on Josiah and his carping sister Sarah for everything including the food she eats and the clothes on her back she is powerless to help either herself or the slaves.

Then one day she finds her growing friendship of her "pupils" developing into something more when she falls in love with the enigmatic yet charming Mehuru.

How can Frances ever escape the shackles of her empty marriage and how would her burgeoning relationship with a man of caste be viewed upon in the circles she now moves in? Add to that Frances' failing health and the money worries of the scheming Josiah as he overreaches himself in more and more schemes to make money their outwardly happy world looks set to collapse.

A riveting read by one of the Queens of the historical novel, Philippa Gregory, a wealth of detail and vividly drawn characters and situations this is a must read for her fans and an eye opener to those not versed in the subject content of the slave trade.

Katee: I had started this book several years ago as part of a book club but never finished it due to feeling bored with the first half of the book. I decided to reread it to see if I could get through it this time.

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I must say that the first half of the book is a little boring in terms of its slow pace, but the first half of the book does speak more to the struggles of trade and slavery and societal values and traditions than the second half of the book. In the second half of the book, I feel that events seemed to be rushed, like the love interest between the main characters of Frances and Mehuru (the love interest also felt contrived), and that it didn't speak truly to the slave trade. That being said, I did cry at the cruelty and coldness of the society towards Frances and Josiah, and then the cold relationships between Josiah, Sarah, and Frances.

Zoe: one among Philippa Gregory's early books and person who does not fail to deliver. The ebook is decided in 18th century Bristol, in line with the slave trade. realizing Bristol particularly good and realizing it really is darker history, this e-book helped my wisdom of the slave alternate improve further. partially it's a harrowing read. younger women, childrens and males pressured to paintings in another country and wear ships that have been purely intended to carry three hundred slaves, yet have been in its place crammed to the rafters with up 500 slaves. young ones and moms chained together, males at the best deck being uncovered to all types of climate to get to Africa or the W.Indies. Frances' dowry to Josiah Cole, is available in the shape of slaves. those that have been prepared to work, never-ending hours as servants to Josiah and his merciless friends. One scenario, consists of the raping of a slave woman, from one among Josiah's friends. Josiah Cole is a guy with critical accounts and unsafe desires. funds is his motivator and his willingness to buy and make profit, spirals out of control. He has 3 alternate ships already in function, attempting to compete with the Liverpool port of trade, whose entry to the excessive seas used to be easier. Cole purchases the recent good Spa, hoping that it'll make him extra money to compensate in the direction of his debtors. regrettably this doesn't plan out in any respect good and he reveals his friends, are royally stabbing him within the back. Frances' is trains the slaves to talk English and to head approximately family servant established chores. Her dating with one servant grows quite close. Mr Cole, by no means consummated his marriage to Josiah. They were not in love. It was once a wedding of monetary convenience, from one bathtub relatives to a neighbouring Bristolian family. Josiah falls in love with Mehuru (a black slave) from Africa. Mehuru is an clever guy who can already communicate 4 different languages and concept that the majority white males spoke Portuguese (thanks to the colonies). He woes Frances and earlier than long, the eagerness embers are ignited and so they have an ongoing affair. with out giving an excessive amount of away, I completely loved this booklet and located it very tricky to place down. it's a e-book forwarded to me via the stunning Nu-Knees from Yorkshire (via the booklet Crossing forum), thank you! i'm additionally watching for examining extra early P.Gregory work, other than the Tudor saga books of more moderen years.

Shakespearegirl: the matter with this publication is that it kind of feels to were written totally which will allay the white guilt felt by way of the author. whereas the surroundings is traditionally exact (as some distance as i will tell, at least), the discussion and attitudes are not, and that's why this ebook fails so desperately the place it desires to succeed. A decent Trade's first challenge comes from the plot itself. In general, it may be a simple plot: young, white wife, newly married, falls in love with one of many slaves her husband has given her. If that was once the one plot happening during the book, it could actually have labored out as a novel. yet there's additionally the subplot of young, newly married service provider trying to upward thrust during

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the ranks of society whereas blinded to the backstabbing and dishonest being perpetuated opposed to him. Which additionally might have been an excellent novel on it really is own. or perhaps mixed with the 1st plot. However, Gregory throws in numerous plot twists and information that draw our cognizance clear of those plots, and provides in a 3rd plot (black slave turns into enthusiastic about the abolition movement) that finally ends up muddying the place our concentration will be to the level that i am nonetheless unsure the place we have been alleged to be taking a look so far as plots go. probably Gregory intended to cord all 3 jointly and provides them equivalent weight, however the plotline with the main weight is the B-line plot concerning the service provider tradition in Bristol. This makes the romance A-line plot appear superficial and unbelievable, and the C-line abolition plot look incidental and tacked-on. Gregory additionally does not deal with the writing with any type of subtlety. I felt bashed over the pinnacle with all of the mentions of Josiah's debt, Frances' frailty, and Mehuru's slave status. Granted, a reader of a publication with those plots can not disregard those 3 things, however the repetition made me want I could. The moment challenge stems from the characters and characterizations. Josiah follows the ignorant slave proprietor stereotype to a T, concerning the merely word he does not hit is planned violence and cruelty towards his girl condo slaves. Frances bounces from "frail, delicate, demise flower" to "cheerful, healthy, good-spirited woman" speedier than a pinball among bumpers. Mehuru's characterization turns out the easiest overall, yet he's additionally the main powerless personality of the 3 mains. Sarah, Josiah's sister, is a secondary character, yet larger written than either Josiah and Frances. which means i do not purchase any of the forbidden love plotline, and used to be actively harassed through Mehuru's insistence that he enjoyed Frances. Third, the e-book suffers from being either too reasonable and too incredible by way of turns. type of like it is romantic heroine, the publication bounces from dark, practical depictions of lifestyles as a slave to unimaginable passages the place Frances and Mehuru fall in love with each one other. I additionally chanced on the discussion frequently unrealistic. there have been phrases used again and again by means of characters who would not understand them or use them in the event that they did--Mehuru taking into consideration one of many baby slaves as a "pickaninny" involves mind, as does Frances' wisdom and use of the observe "rape" (while i believe that Frances used to be most likely conscious of the concept that of rape, I hugely doubt a person may ever have used the notice round her given what we're instructed of her background--she's speculated to be hugely sheltered and guarded from any point out of undesirable things, remember). numerous characters additionally use the n-word to consult slaves, then by no means use it again, in its place asserting "slaves" or "Africans" or "blacks." basically the notice was once used just for surprise value, which troubled me. The finishing was once sincerely intended to be inspiring and harmonious, however it truthfully simply made me roll my eyes. may possibly we in the future dwell jointly in peace? Come on. have you ever been looking at Fiddler at the Roof in recent times or what? The sentiment, whereas valid, is trite and uncharming coming because it does on the finish of this actual book. Just pass this one and shop your self the money. certainly no longer worthy it.

Amy John: it's a attention-grabbing love tale of a blue collared white ladies who fell in love with a vital african man. one that used to be in nice strength captured and compelled to paintings as a slave to white men. the adventure this guy took from africa to the america's by myself was once adequate to make me cry on the torment, and sacrifices a few moms needed to make which will keep their young children from residing a lifetime of slavery. This tale starts off whilst slavery

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was once simply taking root, and changing into a well-liked exchange within the america's. you will not locate such hardship, and fact in any heritage booklet in this subject. It makes you cease and consider the insanity that came about again while slavery used to be enforced. African's have been traded as commodities, and it deliver tears to my eyes that such brutality may possibly ever occur. She provides a very good love tale that brings the smallest little bit of desire in a time of serious suffering.

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