

Reflecting life and all its tribulations – fantastic read

John Haydon. 9 June 2013. 5 star

Loved the book which I found amusing, caring and true to many of life's experiences. I was deeply moved by the description of Ted's arrival home from war only to hear that his father had died the day before! The sudden death of Ted and the slow deterioration in mental health of Florrie was unexpected and realistically described. I tried hard to place both sets of participants geographically but realised that this was totally unnecessary as it is a work of fiction, if related to real life situations. Recommended read.

Excellent read

Andrew T Preedy. 2 September 2013. 4 star

An excellent read from little girl on the hill to little girl in a care home, this book is excellent.

A remarkable read – Michael Tappenden has “got inside” personalities

Ian Goodwin. 27 August 2013. 5 star

'Pegasus to Paradise is one of the most remarkable books that is has been my privilege to read. Michael Tappenden has achieved a mastery of dialogue, characterisation, symmetry of plot and a sense of location. He manages well the difficult task of selecting mundane incidents and objects to illustrate emotions and the development of greater moments. It also hits home personally, I read 'Pegasus to Paradise' at a poignant time in my life. Sentiments that came to light on my own mother's death a few years ago unsettled me considerably. I have worried a lot since then how she could have misread and misunderstood things in our own relationship. From reading this book, I am able to see things from the perspective of my parents and the impact of their wartime and post-war experience. My mother was not a bit like Florrie – quite the opposite – but Mr Tappenden has got inside the personalities of that generation as to indicate a greater understanding. I am sure that it is the same for so many people who have undergone a similar experience, and feel that 'Pegasus to Paradise' should be required reading (as a set book in schools).

A gripping tale of far-reaching emotional stress

Livio. 17 August 2013. 5 star

Not many combatants survive a war unscathed, but it is seldom realised that mental damage can be just as crippling as bodily damage, as is so vividly depicted in this gripping family saga of misunderstandings and lost opportunities. I found it captivating all along and the end deeply moving; that Florrie should have to wait for life in the next world before she is given a chance at last of communicating with her war hero husband and teenage love evokes a muffled echo of Othello's haunting lament. "Oh Iago, the pity of it Iago."

A wonderful book

Dennis Pepper. 3 August 2013. 5 star

I cannot believe that this is Michael Tappenden's first book but I have seen no others by him. The book was beautifully written with many appropriate and apparently original metaphors and similes. It certainly brought tears to my eyes several times. Well done Michael – you are obviously on a role so keep up the good work and write another one for us.

Story of everyday life

Sam Campbell-Jones "spddo." 30 July 2013. 5star

I'm not usually a fan of historical fiction, but this book carried me along at a steady pace, with an insight into the post-war world familiar and unfamiliar to my generation. There is some dark humour in it, and while the time period the book covers is well trodden ground, Ted's wartime experiences and the battle Florrie continuously fights to be herself run together in an interesting way. There is a great deal of descriptive detail of place and events. My interest is perhaps a little more personal than most readers since Florrie was my great aunt (although I never met her). I really enjoyed reading this story about a family and place, told simply, but tackling some enduring themes - eccentricity, duty, and enduring daily life. Will be recommending it to my book club.

Engrossing, charming, fascinating

Mr Daniel H Greeno. 11 July 2013. 5 star

A thoroughly enjoyable account of one hero's journey through life and WW2. Beautifully written with many heart-warming and heart-breaking tales as well as many incredible stories of battle. A must read!

A deeply moving book

Jacqueline. 15 June 2013. 5 star

This is a deeply moving, multi faceted book. As much an exploration of family life as it is a social commentary. Pegasus to Paradise takes the reader on an exhilarating journey through the lives of Ted, Florrie and their friends. Through detailed descriptions of their individual experiences, Tappenden skilfully brings into sharp relief the clash of experience between war heroes and civilians and the strange world which emerges when the two are reunited. Overflowing with humour and nostalgia, the writing is, at times, breathtaking. Recommended for anyone interested in people, history and a ripping yarn.

