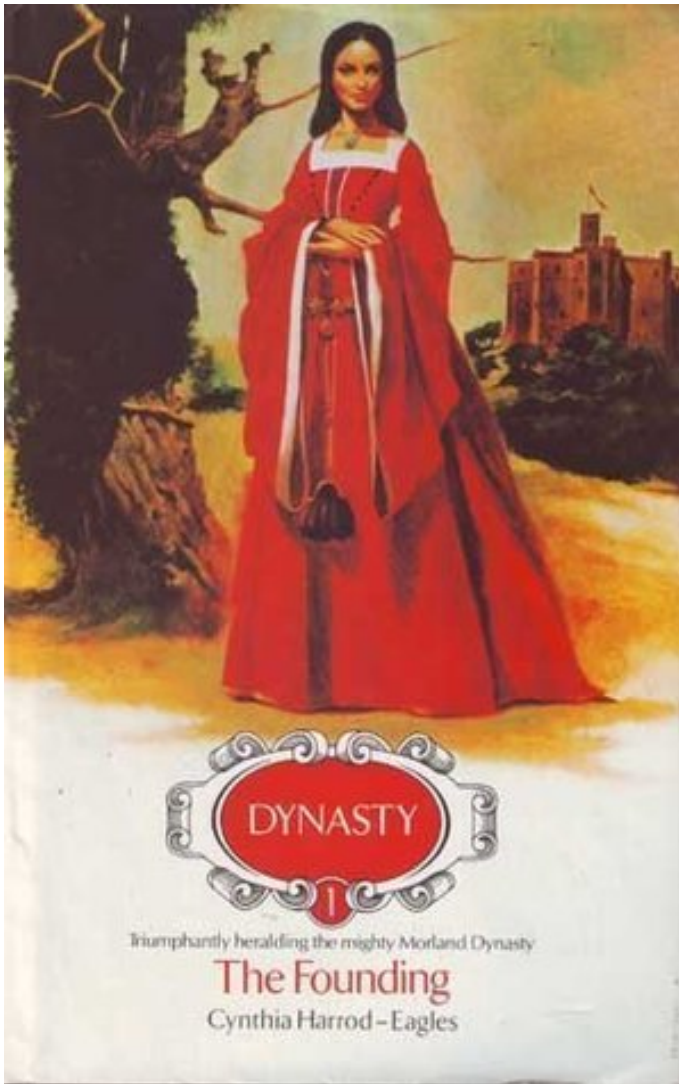

Cynthia Harrod-Eagles

The Founding (The Morland Dynasty #1)



Title: The Founding (The Morland Dynasty #1)

Author: Cynthia Harrod-Eagles

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Description

Power and prestige are the burning ambitions of domineering dour Edward Morland, rich sheep farmer and landowner. He arranges a marriage, the first giant step in THE FOUNDING of the Morland Dynasty. Robert his son, more poet than soldier, idolises his proud young bride, Eleanor, ward of the powerful Beaufort family. Eleanor's consuming secret passion is for Richard, Duke of York, but duty is held supreme and she must obey. Against the turbulent years of the Wars of the Roses, the epic unfolds, a passionate saga of hatred, war and fierce desires.

Insightful reviews

Marina: ahhhhh. I enjoyed it immensely, if purely for historical reasons.

The book focuses on the Morland family from 1434 to 1486, and it's not only a great document on 16thC living, but also a source of historical facts and people -- the Morlands mingle with the best of the best, so the Kings and princes and Queens are kind of secondary characters.

It is only two things I can point out as "meh" (meh being bad), that prevent me from being more effusive about the novel.

1) That this is historical facts 100%. Either tremendously important (war of the roses) or minimal (from laws on cloths and things like that to the way of living at that time), but facts. It's very well written and very informative, but it's not deep... Don't get me wrong, the characters are very well constructed. The author cares for them and they are all different from each other in very realistic ways... But... It does not get into people's motives, feelings, true nature, which is what I enjoy more in a book. It probably mirrors the kind of life and thinking of that time, in fact. I don't suppose this is a flaw within the book, more of a common tendency in historical fiction -- I just enjoy more when --I don't want to say "philosophical", but you know what I mean-- so, when "philosophical" questions are pondered and all that (it' is unfair to compare this to [Wolf Hall](#), but this is what I mean).

2) How biased it is? I understand being a novel the author *had* to choose the way events would be portrayed. The fact is that I knew very little about the War of the Roses, being that the reason why I picked up the book on the first place, but now I fear I will need to read more about it or people will look at me weird when they discover how much I like Richard III. The fact is that the Morland family, and especially Eleanor, the main character, are hardcore Yorkists... And it is very well for her to be so, but the narrator could have been a little less obvious? There are always reasons why the Yorkist rebel and do the things they do (Richard, Edward IV and Richard III), but when the Lancasters do things is out of malice and thirst for power. Was that so? I doubt it... Also, Eleanor never tires of what we would call today slut-shamming. I understand Margaret d'Anjou and Eleanor Woodville were not popular Queens, but they were strong women, were they not? I would like to know more about them from another perspective who did not hate them that much! (not Philippa Gregory's though, thanks).

And that is all. I enjoyed the evolution of the family very much, though I did not like Eleanor

herself, and I thought History and Family were very well mixed together. I want to take a look at the next books from the Morland Dynasty, but there being 34 it's a little bit of a turn off.

Kathleen Kelly: This first novel in the Morland series is called the Founding, the beginning of the Morland dynasty. In this book you will meet Edward Morland and his son Richard. Edward wants to make an advantageous marriage with the Eleanor, ward of the Beauford family. The Morlands are a fictitious family but there are a lot of true historical figures portrayed. The main character is Eleanor who is the matriarch of this growing family. This volume includes the background of the War of The Roses. The Morlands are staunch Yorkists and members of the family fight and die in the wars going on at that time. The Morlands help fund these wars to keep Richard III on the throne. The story goes into the Battle Of Bosworth where King Richard is killed and Henry Tudor (Tudor) takes the throne. In the 539 pages of this novel there are births, deaths, portrayals of what life was like on a sheep farm in the middle ages. The story mostly takes place on this farm and the strong will of Eleanor to keep her family together and make good marriages although not all the Morland children comply with what she wants..It was hard to try to keep track of who was who what with all the different marriages and children born over a 60 year period. Of course I did find myself referring to the family tree a lot. I enjoyed this story immensely and do intend to continue with the series. I am looking forward to reading the second volume in the series this summer. A great historical read with love, death disease and everything that can befall a family of this timeperiod.

I received this copy of The Founding from Sourcebooks for review and was not monetarily compensated for my honest review.

Amy: Eleanor Courteney is none too pleased when she hears that she is to be married to a local sheep farmer's son. Given that Eleanor is an orphan with no dowry to speak of this match is actually better than a girl in her situation could've hoped for, but the young and feisty future matriarch of the Morland dynasty doesn't see it that way. She is still secretly pining away for Edward, Duke of York with whom she fancies herself in love.

Robert Morland and Eleanor are as different as night and day. Meek and somewhat spineless, at least where his father is concerned, Robert can only stare in awe at his future wife so full of confidence and spunk. While Robert is immediately smitten with Eleanor, she is not impressed with this seeming wimp of a husband and horrified at her new surroundings of the Morland home. Ever pragmatic, Eleanor soon resigns herself to her new life and sets out to make this new home her own, despite the obstacles set in her way by her father in law, Edward, who has less manners than the sheep he raises.

Through the years and as they work together to build their dynasty, expand their family business and produce an abundance of children, Robert and Eleanor's relationship deepens into one of mutual love and respect.

As for the historical setting, The Founding takes place during the time of the War of the Roses and the reign of Richard III into the usurpation of the crown by Henry Tudor. Eleanor's previous connection with royalty and her status as a wealthy cloth merchant provides us with a glimpse

into the politics of the day, via the key people themselves. Richard Platagenet, Duke of York and his wife Cecily, as well as, Richard III and Queen Anne make appearances and even life as a Yorkist soldier is experienced as we watch the Morland sons and grandsons fight for the cause.

Now, I know other reviewers have stated that they disliked Eleanor immensely and while I can most definitely see their reasons, I found myself liking her a lot. I don't know if it's maybe because she is so different from myself?! I have a tendency to be ruled by emotions and I've always admired people that are more in control of theirs. Yes, she does come off as a snob in the beginning of the novel, but she was raised by a noble family all her life and knows nothing else, so of course she's going to be rankled by the thought of marrying someone that's not in their circle.

Overall, I found *The Founding* to be an entertaining and engrossing read that contains two intriguing elements...family drama and history. My only issue was the sheer volume of kids and grandkids and great-grandkids can get confusing and overwhelming at times, but you eventually figure it out for me it didn't take anything away from the story. I highly recommend *The Founding* and can't wait to begin the 2nd book in the Morland Dynasty series, *The Dark Rose*.

Jennifer: From my blog...[return]The first within the Morland Dynasty Series, *The Founding* via Cynthia Harrod-Eagles, is fantastically written with complex descriptions, and practical characters making *The Founding* an fascinating novel to read, in particular should you are keen on historic fiction. *The Founding* happens through the warfare of the Roses, which is helping to give an explanation for the bizarre fit among Eleanor Courtney and Robert Morland. Unbeknownst to both Robert or Eleanor, dwelling in several elements of England, their marriage used to be being arranged, which used to be no longer ordinary for this time period, to be true, notwithstanding this so much asymmetric fit was once a section peculiar. Morland has loads of land, sheep, and money, yet no identify or family members retailer Robert, and Lord Edmund is wanting capital to fund the wars left over from Harry V's reign. Morland lacks family members and desires his simply son to turn into a gentleman. Lord Edmund wishes the capital to proceed to fund the wars. Robert and Eleanor are severe polar opposites. Robert grew up because the purely residing son in a motherless house, being abused by way of his father and residing in perpetual worry of him. Eleanor, an orphan, was once raised as a ward of the Beauforts and taught in all manners of the way to be a lady.[return]The marriage among Robert and Eleanor begins poorly. He loves her dearly and even as fears her moment merely to his father. Eleanor isn't in any respect happy with her new existence and is thankful she used to be capable of carry 3 servants with her. all of them stay jointly in Micklelith condominium and in brief order Eleanor is working the home and the operations of the farm with the aid of the 3 servants who traveled with her. Jacques instantly took to job the kitchen and commanded admire from the Morland servants; task took to the Yorkshire language speedy and have become a useful translator for Eleanor whereas devoted Gaby supplied Eleanor with unconditional love and support. because the warfare of the Roses wages on, Eleanor firmly takes the location of matriarch within the Morland family. thankfully for the reader, the writer presents a genealogy firstly of the novel, considering by way of the tip of this primary novel there are various characters. *The Founding* made for a pleasant learn and was once a special glance of this

period of time than different novels i've got read. i don't are looking to provide an excessive amount of away in my review. i'm going to say now and then I famous Eleanor and at others i'll slightly tolerate her. In all fairness, I wavered in emotions for Robert besides and every now and then I pitied him and at others i needed him to develop a spine. Regardless, jointly they shape the start of what needs to be a lovely dynasty, from prosperous land and sheep vendors to garments merchants, for i feel the writer has now penned 32 extra novels within the Morland Dynasty Series. The Founding makes for a slightly pleasant learn in addition to an exciting ancient check out lifestyles in the course of the center years of the 1400s.

Ashley W: i began this publication your time ago, yet I positioned it down for a bit, simply because I obtained tired of it. However, i am very pleased I picked it up again. whereas the e-book used to be a section dry, I needed to keep in mind that it was once written approximately 20 years in the past sooner than the Tudor fiction boom, so there are many descriptions approximately how issues labored in pre-Tudor England. The Founding is the 1st booklet within the Morland Dynasty series, introduces the founding characters of Robert Morland and his wife, Eleanor Courteney. The two, at first, appeared to be ill-matched as Robert used to be a meek guy who was once the wealthy inheritor of a sheep farmer and Eleanor used to be a lively mild born lady without dowry. I cherished Robert enough, yet Eleanor frustrated me in the course of the entire book. The matriarch of the Morland family, she feels the necessity to be in absolute regulate of everything: the household, the relatives business, and particularly within the lives of her young ones and grandchildren. If considered one of them selected to marry underneath their station, they incurred her wrath or even stopped talking to one in every of her sons as a result of it. Also, she performed favorites, and if a favourite occurred to do an analogous (marry underneath their station), it used to be effective with her. She was once additionally in love with Richard, Duke of York, and appeared down on her husband for being a sheep farmer whilst she herself used to be terrible as dirt. Other than Eleanor, I beloved the remainder of the characters and sympathized with such a lot of them, specially these killed in conflict through the Wars of the Roses, which was once a truly complicated time in British period. My own favorites have been headstrong Isabella whose finishing was once too tragic for words, and Eleanor's grandchildren, Ned and Thom, whose banter jogged my memory of a medieval model of the Weasley twins. I will gladly learn the subsequent ebook within the sequence so long as i do not come across one other lady like Eleanor...

Gaby: The Founding, set in Yorkshire within the early 1400s, is the beginning of an engrossing historic saga. The Founding is the 1st within the Morland Dynasty series, and in it we meet Edward Morland, a prosperous sheep farmer, who pairs his merely son with a good attached yet orphaned Eleanor Courtney. although Edward Morland is unpolished, he's bold and has a protracted view that holds him and his relations in solid stead. although Eleanor by no means absolutely warms to her gruff and bullying father-in-law, he teaches her good and they, besides the light and industrious Robert, the 3 of them lay the root for one of many biggest fortunes in England. massive wealth is just one a part of the Morland legacy. Arguably, the Morland's maximum asset is Robert Morland's attractive and lively wife, Eleanor Courtney. even though Eleanor had at first resented being pressured to marry into trade, she proved to be an astute businesswoman in her personal right. Robert's balance and Eleanor's ambition and connections gave the Morland relations an area which they used to head forward. The Founding takes us from the very commence of the Morland's upward thrust to their early ties to the home

of York and to their position in King Richard III's court. One of the longest and so much winning kinfolk sagas, Morland Dynasty saga attracts you in and also you quickly end up being concerned what occurs to Robert, Eleanor, Job, and the opposite participants in their prolonged family. Cynthia Harrod-Eagles weaves ancient figures and occasions into the dramas, failures, and successes of the Morlands. Analyzing the 1st within the series, gave me a lot a similar feeling that I had whilst I first stumbled on R.F. Delderfield's trilogy of the Swann family, yet whereas Delderfield's sequence captured the economic Age within the UK, Cynthia Harrod-Eagles's is 34 volumes and spans years. The Founding is an engaging learn and I am desirous to dive into the subsequent booklet within the series. ISBN-10: 1402238150 - Paperback
Publisher: Sourcebooks Landmark; Reissue version (April 1, 2010), 560 pages. Review reproduction supplied by means of the publisher.

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