

[Free] B. F.'s Daughter

## B. F.'s Daughter

*John P Marquand*

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**John P Marquand : B. F.'s Daughter** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised B. F.'s Daughter:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. not bad, not greatBy Ionia FromentI'm not sure what to say about this book. It isn't exciting, but it isn't boring. It isn't suspenseful but it isn't entirely aimless either. The best I can say about it really is that the writing makes sense, but the plot never really takes off and leaves you wanting to race to the end.If you like books with highly thoughtful characters that can be a bit unpredictable this book will probably work for you, but if you are looking for action and adventure...probably not so much. I read this all the way through and kept expecting that something truly fantastic was going to happen eventually, but it never did.At the end of the book, I couldn't figure out how I had read so much but still felt like everything was unsettled. It's odd. That's really the best I can say.This review is base don a complimentary copy from the publisher, provided through Netgalley. All opinions are my own.13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Interesting Love story in WW2By mchenryedA story about marriage set in the middle of WW2. Polly Fulton, daughter of the industrial giant Burton Fulton (B.F.), was going to be married to her long time friend and almost too level-headed boyfriend Bob prior to WW2. They've been in love with each other for quite some time. However, prior to their announcing their engagement, Polly discovers Tom Brett, a more wild and more in need of motherly maintainence. Fearing a life of dullness with Bob, she calls off her engagement to Bob and announces that she will marry Tom, much to B.F.'s disappointment.However, at the outbreak of WW2 Tom's job takes him to work in DC where he has a job with the war department. Polly lives in New York and she has problems communication with Tom on account that Tom is very busy. Polly, sensing stress with their

marriage, decides to pay Tom a visit. Instead of acting like they missed one another, there is even more tension and arguing. Polly suspects that Tom is having an affair. The story involves how Polly is raised by her father, B.F. He is controlling and very powerful. Naturally, she respects him but her life is managed by her father. It was her way of rebelling when she dumped Bob and married Tom. However, Polly grows up to be like her father and we discover that Tom has the same sort of reaction she had to be controlled: he runs away from their marriage. This is the first Marquand book I've read. The writing was 1st rate, however, the sequence of events in the book vary -- sometimes you are in the present and sometimes you are in the past, as Polly recalls her youth. A little hard to get through at times because there wasn't much action and the payoff was a bit of a let down. However, I may check out this guy again, particularly his Pulitzer winning book. The details concerning life in the states during WW2 were also interesting. 8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. How to write a domestic novel in wartime By Alan Rifkin Burton Fulton is a nouveau riche industrialist with the common touch. He hobnobs with chauffeurs and mechanics at the companies he owns, and argues poignantly against the ideas of New Dealers who've never sweated a payroll. But now he has died, and Marquand makes him a metaphor for a dying era. World War II, we're told dozens of times, has Changed Everything. Polly, B.F.'s daughter, is trying to stay married to one of those brainy new liberals, an FDR propagandist named Tom Brett, whom she fell for because his bohemian lifestyle and his stylish rudeness excited her. He's so boyish and slovenly, with his collar half up and half down, that she thinks he needs her. But ultimately, on a decisive weekend in D.C. that frames the novel, she'll dig up the truth that he's in love with his secretary. Flashbacks in the middle of the book prove to us that Polly should have married Bob Tasmin, a solid, old-moneyed neighborhood boy in whom her father saw strength and goodness. There are other political paradigms being set up. Polly learns too late that her genetic gift for running things has been subverted by her destiny as a woman--an awareness that brings Marquand close to having written a feminist tragedy. Polly is the guilty pleasure of the novel, real, brash, sexy, and heartbreakingly forlorn, a woman who charms diplomats with the (nowadays lost) feminine art of playful conversation--all bold thrusts and parries and finding anomalies in every response. After facing death on a mission over Japan, Tasmin returns with a gloves-off, post-nuclear candor that probably would have won Polly away from Tom if he'd shown flashes of it sooner. Too devoted to his family to sleep with Polly (despite his love for her), he sends her off to her uncertain but independent future, like America's--she has been through her own War that Changed Everything. I read this to see what people were writing about during a previous wartime. The prose is from that strange gap of time when name writers were both intelligent and utterly commercial, with a foretaste of John Cheever, and the symbolism is classically satisfying, like Fitzgerald's. The drawback is that the New Dealers are so bitterly caricatured. A novelist has to operate under an almost sacred generosity of compassion, or at least forgiveness, or the reader feels used.

Wealthy Polly Fulton marries a progressive scholar whose attitudes toward capitalism and acquired wealth puts their marriage in jeopardy.