London 1849. The capital city is living in fear. Cholera is everywhere. Eminent MP Sir Charles Cooper decides it is too risky for his younger daughter, the strangely beautiful and troubled Harriet, and sends her—but not her beloved sister Mary—to the countryside.

Rusholme is a world away from London, full of extraordinary relations: Harriet's cousin Edward and his plans for a new life in New Zealand; Aunt Lucretia, reliant on afternoon wine and laudanum; the formidable Lady Kingdom and her two eligible, unobtainable sons. However, life in the country can offer only temporary respite to Harriet, who longs to return to her sister.

But when Harriet does come home, London has become more dangerous than ever. Her health, her freedom—even her sanity—are under threat. Escape is essential. Can a young, powerless girl change her life? Can she board the Amaryllis without being discovered? Does she realize that if she flees, more than one person will pursue her, literally to the end of the world?

The Trespass is historical fiction at its most gripping, stretching from the dark side of Victorian London to the optimism and energy of the early New Zealand settlements.

My Personal Review:
In the London cholera epidemic of 1849, MP Sir Charles Cooper is
worried for his youngest daughter, seventeen year old Harriet, and resolves to send her away to the country until the danger has past. Harriet is pleased to get away from her father, but also worried that he won’t send her elder sister, Mary, with her. Isn’t she in danger from the cholera too? (More danger than either of them know, for Mary has been helping a doctor treat the cholera patients in the poorest parts of London.) Harriet enjoys her stay in the country with her cousins, and wonders at the easy way the family has with each other, for there is a dark secret at her London home, one she has no words for, because how can a young lady speak of the unspeakable? Harriet plans a daring escape to New Zealand, following in the footsteps of her cousin, for surely even her father’s reach cannot get so far as New Zealand? This book is excellent, with a little dash of history thrown in now and then, but without turning the novel into a history book. The main emphasis is on the characters, and what characters they were. So realistic and evolved. I was on tenterhooks the whole time wondering of Harriet could ever escape. At a time when women had no money of their own (unless they were lower class and could work), they were owned first by their fathers and then by their husbands, and were not even allowed to work, how could a young girl escape her terrible fate? Everything you say is yours, belongs to me, is provided by me, everything, every breath that you take belongs to me. I am your father. And as you well know you owe me absolute obedience. I devoured this book in two days, you just have to keep reading to find out what happens next. With a wealth of historical detail and
well drawn characters, its one youd want to read again. Reviewed by Annette Gisby, author of Drowning Rapunzel and Silent Screams.

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The Trespass: A Novel - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!