

*Heaven*  

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FALLS

*By*

Winslow Eliot



**What the Reviewers are Saying  
About Winslow Eliot's**  
*Heaven*  
**FALLS**

**"Wonderfully Satisfying"**

*"This book is a rollercoaster of romance and intrigue, where both heartbreak and danger lurk behind every twist and turn of the story. Written by a wonderful and talented writer, HEAVEN FALLS is sure to tantalize and tease, and finally satisfy."*

~ **Heloise Riddell**

**"Couldn't put it down!"**

*"The suspense was great. I just had to keep reading to find out what was going on and why the family was acting strange. I found myself saying "just one more chapter" but ended up reading for hours. You definitely need to start this book when you actually have time to read because you won't be able to put it down. I could never have guessed how the story was going to unfold. I was truly left surprised....I can honestly say that reading this book was one thrilling ride. A page-turner that kept me reading for hours at a time! I finished this book in less than two days, that's how amazing it was...This is my first time reading a book by the lovely Winslow Eliot and it sure won't be my last."*

~ **Melanie Vatour**

**"A gripping, contemporary rags-to-riches novel"**

*Winslow Eliot's new novel, Heaven Falls, is a gripping, contemporary rags-to-riches novel, part romance, part mystery, part family saga, that kept me turning the pages until the end. Eliot's prose is carefully crafted – descriptive, balanced, and subtle – and faithfully captures the seductive tensions and the emotional turmoil of high-society life fully and completely realized. This is a story you will wish you had lived! This is a novel you will need to share with your friends!*

~ **Peter Damian Bellis**

*(author of the novel The Conjure Man  
and the short story collection*

*One Last Dance with Lawrence Welk & Other Stories  
a Minnesota Book Award Finalist)*

**"A Wild Ride!"**

*"I'm not overly excited about reading romance stories, but this book took so many twists and turns it became more of a mystery novel to me. Who is the mysterious Ari, and what are his reasons for hovering over Freya and Tess? What is the story behind Philip, the scarred, wheelchair-confined brother who wants to marry Tess? Mystery abounds, and doesn't give an inch till later after murder attempts, kidnapping across the globe and deceitful goings on in the family. I give this book a resounding endorsement, definitely a wild ride."*

~ **Bob Moats**

*author of Classmate Murders, and others*

**"Brilliant"**

*Just finished reading Heaven Falls by Winslow Eliot – a brilliant book, couldn't put it down ... suspense, intrigue, fast pace, what more could you want! The little stories and facts about the essential oils were fab too, although I was so involved in the story that at times I didn't read them till I'd finished the whole book.*

~ **Laura-ann Mc Donnell, Dublin, Ireland**

**"6 Stars!"**

*Fans of Winslow Eliot (Bright Face of Danger) will be thrilled to know she has published another sensational novel, Heaven Falls. This dramatic story features single mom heroine Tess Duncan, who takes a trip to the*

world's most exclusive spa and finds her entire life changed forever. This is the type of book that will have your family members shouting, "Can't you put that book down for five minutes?" –And of course the answer is no, you can't. I don't review many books. But this one is definitely 5 Stars! –I'd give it 6 if they had a place for it.

~ **John Locke**

author of *Lethal People*, *Lethal Experiment*,  
*Saving Rachel*, and *Now and Then*

### **"A Dream World"**

I loved reading this book. It is a true romance novel with lots of suspense. You will find yourself in a dream world. Well written and fun to read also.

~ **Terri Himes**

Amazon Review 5 Stars

### **"Engrossing"**

*Heaven Falls* was a wonderful leap into the lives and intrigue of many generations of characters. I was engrossed! I loved the locations you went to and your fluid descriptions of the places as well as the people, and the weaving together of their story. And, of course, the tension of the romance! So fun.

~ **Ginny Guenette**

### **"This book was fantastic!!!"**

*Heaven Falls* is a thrilling adventure imbued with romance and mystery. It has a strong plot and a climactic ending with many mysteries unfolding right up to the end. The protagonist Tess is strong-willed and likable, and one of those characters that stays with you long after you finish the book. The exotic health resort setting makes the story glamorous and intriguing, a definite winner for any fan of romantic thrillers. I couldn't stop reading once I'd started. Winslow Eliot is truly the voice of romance novels. The offbeat courtship that develops between Tess and Jason ignites a passionate romance, and keeps you turning pages right up to the climactic, exciting end. There is something in this book for everyone, and I highly recommend it.

~ **Samantha Stier**

Amazon Review 5 Stars

### **"Compelling and satisfying"**

"I couldn't put it down - compelling and satisfying!"

~ **Nadia Bedard**

### **"An entertaining story can also be a wonderful learning experience"**

As a student of *Geek and Roman ancient history*, I especially enjoyed the short paragraphs at the beginning of each chapter. Each chapter header focused on a specific herb; its history and its primary uses over the centuries as an essential oil. I went so far as to bookmark each chapter for future reference when writing my next novel; proving that an entertaining story can also be a wonderful learning experience.

As to Winslow Eliot's writing style...it is a mixture of: part Mary Higgins Clark, in that both authors weave a web of intrigue within their spellbinding thrillers; part Virginia Woolf, in sentence structure and character development; with a dash of Danielle Steel, delving into the dregs of human nature.

I highly recommend, "*Heaven Falls*." It is one of the few novels that I started reading the moment I awoke, and could not fall asleep that evening until the last page was read.

~ **Dee Marie**

Author of *Sons of Avalon: Merlin's Prophecy*

### **"A story not to be missed"**

*Heaven Falls* is a mystery and a love story, both told against a backdrop of opulence and exclusivity, with a plot that has more twists and turns than a roller coaster. Winslow Eliot has put together a wonderful cast of characters who play their parts well; some we love, and some we love to hate, making *Heaven Falls* a story you should not miss. Once you check in to *Heaven Falls*...you may never want to check out...!

~ **WebbWeavers**

Books, Movies, & Music Reviewed

If you purchased this book without a cover you should be aware that this book is stolen property. It was reported as “unsold and destroyed” to the publisher and neither the author nor the publisher has received any payment for this “stripped book.”

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places and incidents are either the product of the author’s imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, or to actual events or locales is entirely coincidental.

### **HEAVEN FALLS**

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Cover Art Design: Tom Stier & Jefferson Eliot

Cover Photo: Danya Morrison

Visit the author websites:

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ISBN: 978-0-9841083-9-8 (eBook)

ISBN: 978-0-9841083-7-4 (Hardback)

ISBN: 978-0-9841083-8-1 (Paperback)

Published by: Telemachus Press, LLC

Visit our website: <http://www.telemachuspress.com>

Printed in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

**ALSO BY WINSLOW ELIOT**

*The Bright Face of Danger*

(St. Martin's Press 1993)

Reissued in France as *L'Innocence du Mal*

(Mira Books 2009)

*Illustrated Atlas of Native American History* (Saraband 1999)

ed. Samuel W. Crompton. Contributing Author: *Accommodation,*

*Exchange, and Warfare 1600 - 1700*

**By Ellie Winslow (pen name):**

*Roman Candles* (Signet/NAL 1987)

*A Distant Light* (Signet/NAL 1986)

*Red Sky At Night* (Signet/NAL 1985)

*Painted Secrets* (Signet/NAL 1984)

*The Wine-Dark Sea* (Signet/NAL 1983)

*In the tradition of Sydney Sheldon, Nora Roberts,  
and Daphne Du Maurier,  
**Winslow Eliot's novels weave  
suspense with romantic tenderness***

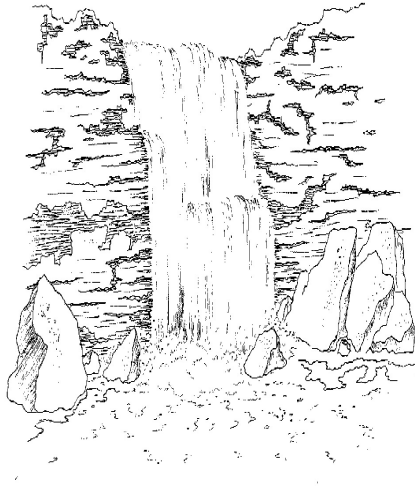
*Heaven*  

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*by*

Winslow Eliot





*For my father, Alexander Eliot,  
with admiration and love.*



### *Acknowledgments*

For her invaluable editorial consultant advice and superb copy-editing skills, enormous gratitude goes to Nancy Crompton.

Thank you also to Charlotte Carter, Claude Bouchard, Joanne Chase, Francesca Margulies, Fred Paddock, Jane Winslow Eliot, Jefferson Eliot, Kendell Shaffer, Mark Eurich, May Paddock, Pualani Ramos, Robert Crull, Samantha Stier, and Tom Stier - dear friends and family who read, critiqued, advised, supported, and who were always there for me.

For their willingness to share their wealth of knowledge on essential oils, I am grateful to Maria Crespo and Paul Pitman of Asia Luna, Green Natural Bath & Beauty. I'm also deeply indebted to all my beautiful diva friends at Body & Soul Spa in Great Barrington, especially Doone Marshall.

My friends in the publishing world - Claudia Jackson, Jeff Dwyer, and Loretta Fidel - have all held my hand at various times and drew me on. Thank you all.

Thank you, most of all, John P. Locke - for your steadfast friendship and for helping me see what is possible.



*Equanimity. Marjoram* originates from the Greek word 'orosganos' which means 'joy of the mountain.' The essential oil can be used to calm obsessive thinking and to allay feelings of longing and loneliness. You'll find it helps you confront difficult situations calmly; it also aids concentration and improves memory.

*Heaven Falls Essential Oils*

## Chapter 1

There were three things a psychic could not convince Tess of, no matter how much she charged: that she would go on a journey, that she would meet a handsome stranger, and that she would inherit a fortune.

She especially could not be persuaded on that particular day in August, the hottest on record in New York City. Nina, who always looked cool no matter what the temperature, could not understand Tess's cynicism.

"She's amazing, Tess! She's never been wrong."

"Not yet, maybe. But she's wrong this time." As they headed toward Broadway, their sandals sank slightly into the heated blacktop. "I'll always be a single mom, destined for welfare, especially if you keep making me fork out a week's salary on a fortune teller. What did she tell you about your life?"

But Nina would not say.

"It's soooo hot," Tess moaned. "I'd be cooler sitting in front of my oven."

Vague images of cool mountains, refreshing lakes, the shadowy stillness of deep woods, shimmered like mirages in her mind. She hated the fact that her ten-year-old daughter, Freya, had endured most of her long, smoggy summer vacation in their tiny apartment with her invalid aunt. Tess had had to work as many hours as she could, trying to pay off at least some of the bills.

Thank God for Nina, her best friend, who was always willing to share her daughter's nanny with Freya. But Tess couldn't help feeling guilty. She would never be able to return even a portion of Nina's generosity.

At least now school was in session again. She was on her way there now, to pick up Freya after class.

"Let's get our girls together tomorrow," Nina suggested when they parted ways on Fifth Avenue and Nina got into an air-conditioned taxi. "Here, take my cell phone in case I need to get in touch with you."

Tess accepted it reluctantly, knowing how frustrating it was for her friend to be unable to reach her. She waved goodbye and headed towards the school. The squishiness under her feet was unsettling. Crossing the street, she was bumped and jostled by just too many people.

Would there ever be a way to escape the crowds, the noise, the drudgery of long hours working for hardly anything? To flee the stress of unpaid bills, the eyestrain, the hopelessness of her future?

Tess felt almost desperate. Soot-colored clouds darkened the sky, threatening a down-pour.

Couldn't she get away somehow – escape –

As she recalled what the psychic had said, her heart shifted.

Why couldn't she go on a journey? And, okay, maybe the inheritance thing was nuts, but what about the handsome stranger? She was only thirty-five, and a friendly, decent person. There was no reason to be alone for the rest of her life.

For a moment a strong determination almost triumphed. Why couldn't she leave New York City? Freya would thrive wherever they went. And she herself could surely find work to support them both. She had plenty of experience; she just hadn't been able to accept a steady job because she had to take care of Freya and her aunt. But, truthfully, what was security besides another word for penny-pinching worry?

A burst of longing for adventure engulfed her. The world was enticing, with sounds and sights that she yearned to experience. She had never been abroad, had hardly been out of New York. Surely there was some way she could rise above the misery of poverty, and move to a fresh, new place.

The heat seemed to intensify as she hurried toward the school to meet Freya.

Her longing to escape was almost overpowering.

She took a deep, sobering breath, forcing her heart to become sensible again.

She could not leave New York City because she could not leave her bossy, beloved Aunt Cory.

Tess was all Cory had left.

She arrived early, and waited across the street, in the shade of a sycamore, for her daughter to emerge from the school's columned entrance, trying to imagine the dusty, muggy breeze was refreshing.

As she waited, she grew aware of a stranger standing nearby, glancing occasionally at her. He seemed vaguely familiar, and yet she did not know him.

Was he a new parent at the school?

The next time their eyes met, she smiled at him and he came over.

"Are you Tess Duncan?"

She nodded, surprised.

"Jason Garrison," he announced, shaking her hand.

"Jason *who*?"

"Max's brother," he explained.

She was too startled to speak. She hadn't heard from Max in eleven years.

*Max's brother*. No wonder he'd seemed familiar.

She dropped her eyes to the pavement, wishing she hadn't been so friendly. She had no

interest in anyone even remotely connected with Max. "So, how is Max?"

"He was killed about a few months ago in a car accident. Didn't you know?"

"No!" Her eyes flew up again, startled. Max - Freya's father - was *dead!* Some dried-up brown leaves rustled around her bare ankles in a breath of warm wind and she stepped away from them. Had he left something for Freya when he'd died? She grew hopeful. A small legacy, perhaps, for the daughter he'd refused to acknowledge? "I'm sorry."

Jason stared back, as though assessing whether she meant that. His cobalt eyes were wide apart and hard. His fair hair was cropped short, his angular face tanned. His mouth tilted up slightly. He hadn't smiled, but she had a feeling that if he did there might be a dimple in his freshly shaven cheek. In spite of his oddly disquieting expression, there was something appealing about him.

Then she heard him say coldly, "We'd like to invite you to Max's house to live."

She felt jarred, as though Max were still alive and had summoned her. For a moment she was transported to eleven years earlier, when she would have sold her soul to hear those words from Max himself. She drew herself back to the present and studied this stranger suspiciously. From the top of his expensive haircut to his polished handmade shoes, he shouted Money. In between there were glittering bits of wealth that hollered too, like his Rolex watch, and the handcrafted leather belt.

"What happened between Max and me all those years ago has nothing to do with the rest of you," she pointed out.

"Maybe, but the Garrison family would like you to move to Heaven Falls. Live there." His voice was slightly domineering, and that bothered her. And yet -

Quickly she lowered her eyes to hide her longing for escape that she was sure must be evident. What a strange offer! Her heart was thumping.

Then she pulled herself together. She could not leave Aunt Cory. And besides ... *Max's family!*

"I hardly knew Max," she said, looking up again and regarding him frankly. "We were only together for a few months. I'm not grief-stricken by his death. To tell you the truth, by the end I didn't even like him much. I think the feeling was mutual."

"That doesn't make any difference."

"Then why are you inviting me? It doesn't make sense."

There was a long pause, and from his expression she was sure he was going to say something outrageous. Instead he said:

"Because of Freya. Max's daughter. My mother would like to see her granddaughter."