



# Whisper Falls

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*Behind the waterfall waits 1796--and the girl who is slowly capturing his heart. But if Mark travels through time to save Susanna, will her brutal world trap him too?*

While mountain biking in the woods, Mark Lewis spots a mysterious girl dressed in odd clothing, standing behind a waterfall. When she comments on the strange machine he's riding, he suspects something isn't right. When Susanna claims to be an indentured servant from 1796, he wonders if she's crazy, yet he's compelled to find out more.

Mark enters a long-distance relationship with Susanna through the temperamental barrier of Whisper Falls. Curious about her world, Mark searches through history to learn about the brutal life she's trapped in. But knowledge can be dangerous. Soon he must choose between changing the past--or dooming the girl he can't stop thinking about to a lifetime of misery.

PRAISE for WHISPER FALLS:

*"... I would recommend [Whisper Falls] to any reader who is interested in historical fiction, thrillers, fantasy, love stories or time travel."* - Youth librarian, Boyd Co Libraries WV, USA

*"Whisper Falls is a fun, action-packed story..."* [School Library Journal]

*"Whisper Falls is captivating! The themes of love and hate in it's many forms and nuances are timeless and will appeal to all generations... I had a hard time putting this book down until I had savored the last page. And I certainly didn't want it to end. Another book? Yes, please!"* - M. Ward

AWARDS: Winner of a Bronze Medal in the Moonbeam Award for Excellence in Fiction (YA historical/cultural category)

## Whisper Falls Details

Date : Published September 16th 2016 by FictionEtc Press (first published November 19th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Elizabeth Langston

Format : Kindle Edition 384 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Time Travel, Fantasy, Young Adult, Historical, Historical Fiction

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# From Reader Review Whisper Falls for online ebook

## Audrey Shull says

I loved this book! I've read a bunch of young adult fiction lately, and none was able to grab me the way this story did. It's fresh, not relying on some of the recent formula for young adults. It grabs you immediately. Susanna and Mark are adorable. Both independent and strong characters, they still learn how to support each other. Highly recommended.

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## Dede says

*Timpul, un "jucător" pe care n-ai cum s?-l ignori, nici dac? ?i-ai propus s? faci asta pe următorii zece ani din via??. Acesta este întotdeauna la doar un pas în spatele t?u, urm?rindu-?i fiecare mi?care, f?r? a te sc?pa vreo clip? din ochi, asta dac?-i are. Oricum, indiferent dac? are sau nu sim?ul vizual, se afl? mereu acolo, gata s? te dea peste cap, direct de-a curmezi?ul. Slabe ?anse s?-l p?c?le?ti. Chiar inexistent, a? putea spune. Are a?a o pl?cere sadic? de a ?tii totul, încât te înfioar? numai când î?i mai adie încon?tient un gând spre el.*

*Unde mai pui faptul c? to?i am vrea s?-l întoarcem dup? cum ne poftete inima? Vrem s? avem, de fiecare dat?, câ?tig de cauz? în lupta aprig? cu acesta, dar ?i dac? am reu?i s? izbutim m?car pu?in, consecin?ele ar fi cu siguran?? pe m?sur?. Totu?i, nu to?i ne permitem s? facem asta. Nu to?i ne l?s?m inima s? preia ac?iunile noastre, uneori destul de riscante. Nu to?i permitem dramului de nebunie ce zace în noi s? ac?ioneze.*

*?i iat? c? eroii no?tri vor s? se pun? cu timpul ?i s?-l "joace" pe degete, pentru ca totul s? ias? bine pentru cei dragi. Dar dac? încercarea lor va fi în van ?i dezastrul se va abate asupra lor, cât de departe vor fi în stare s? mearg?? Timpul le va fi du?man pân? la sfâr?it sau le va oferi ?ansa s? descopere în el un posibil...aliat?!*

## Susanna Marsh - Worthville - 1796

Povestea debuteaz? prin perspectiva Susannei Marsh, o tân?r? de 17 ani, ce a?teapt? cu ner?bdare ?i u?urare ziua sa de na?tere, zi în care se va putea bucura, în sfâr?it, de libertate. Moartea tat?lui s?u a dus inevitabil, pentru acea vreme, la rec?s?torirea mamei sale cu altcineva. Dar tat?l vitreg, în loc s-o ocroteasc? ca ?i cum ar fi fost propria fiic?, a dat-o ca ucenic? la familia Pratt, unde a fost nevoit? s? fac? mare parte din treburile casei.

Pe vremea aceea, mai exact în anul 1796, fetelor orfane de tat? ?i care proveneau din familiile s?race ?i numeroase, li se f?ceau contracte de ucenicie, f?r? ca p?rerea lor s? fie m?car luat? în seam?. Contractele durau pân? când fetele împlineau vârsta de 18 ani sau aveau norocul de a se m?rita, trebuind s? se respecte anumite condi?ii atât de cel care primea fata, cât ?i de respectiva ucenic?.

În mod normal, tinerele trebuiau s? aib? vârsta minim? de 14 ani pentru a putea fi date, indiferent de munca întreprins? acolo unde ajungeau, dar regula sau, mai bine spus, legea, în Worthville, nu se aplica astfel, iar s?tenii î?i d?deau fetele de la vârste ?i mai mici. A?a este ?i cazul Susannei. La doar zece ani, via?a i s-a schimbat total, fiind nevoit? s? fac? de mâncare, s? spele, s? cârpeasc?, s? fac? cur??enie, s? se îngrijeasc? de

gr?din? ?i multe alte sarcini ce implicau at?t cre?terea copiilor deja m?ri?ori, c?t ?i a noilor n?scu?i ce ap?reau ?n familia Pratt.

***"Vezi tu, e un joc. ?ncearc? s? m? loveasc? at?t de tare, ?nc? s? m? fac? s? pl?ng. Numai c? eu nu pl?ng. Nu scot niciun sunet. ?sta e felul meu de a-l ?nvinge."***

Iar ea n-avea niciun cuv?nt de spus. Absolut niciunul. Tot ce trebuia t?n?ra s? fac? era s? se arate umil? ?n fa?a st?p?nilor, s? nu ?ncerce s? fug? de sub "asediul" acestora ?i s? ?ndeplineasc? sarcinile zilnice ?i cele care se mai puteau ivi pe viitor. N-avea niciun drept s? fac? vreo remarc?, s? critice vreun membru al familiei, s? ?nt?rzie cu mesele, s? doarm? prea mult, s? se uite cruci? sau altcumva, altfel ar fi suferit de pe urma acestor limit?ri. ?i, totu?i, nimeni nu-i perfect. Orice om gre?e?te, chiar ?i Susannah a f?cut-o ?i a avut parte de pedepse pe m?sur?. Pe vremea aceea, oamenii nu ?ineau cont prea mult de sim??mintele ucenicilor ?i le abuzau f?r? urm? de con?tiin??.

Dar, timp de opt ani, a t?cut ?i n-a spus nim?nui ce se ?nt?mpl? ?n gospod?ria familiei, atunci c?nd st?p?nului nu-i convenea ceva ?i ea era cea care suporta consecin?ele, de?i, de cele mai multe ori, nu era de vin?. Totu?i, cei cu legea din micul sat aveau habar de cicatricile de pe picioarele fetei, dar, fiind rud? chiar cu cel care i le provocase, nu ridicaser? nici m?car un deget pentru faptele comise de Pratt asupra Susannei.

### **Mark Lewis - Raleigh - 2016**

O alt? perspectiv? prin care ne este prezentat? aceast? poveste captivant?, altern?nd cu cea a fetei, este cea a lui Mark Lewis, un fl?c?u de aceea?i v?rst? cu Susanna, dar mai t?n?r cu dou? secole. Da, a?i auzit citit bine! Pe c?nd ea tr?ie?te ?n perioada colonist? (1796), el s-a n?scut ?ntr-o perioad? mai tehnologizat? (2016).

***"Cascada e locul cel mai grozav de pe drumul verde, ?i zic asta nu numai din cauza perdelei de ap? de doi metri ?i jum?tate l?ime. Mai e ?i grot? Nu-i foarte ?nalt?, ?i nici ad?nc?, dar are un aer ca din alt? lume. E plin? de pietre acoperite de mu?chi. Locul ideal s? te ascunzi, s?-?i tragi sufletul ?i s? fii complet singur chiar ?n mijlocul ora?ului."***

?n via?a de zi cu zi, Mark se ?mparte ?ntre antrenamentele de mountain bike pentru cursa cea mare, ce se apropie rapid, ?ngrijirea cur?ilor vecinilor pentru a-?i putea ?ntre?ine pasiunea ?i "r?zboiul" t?cut dintre mama ?i sora sa plecat? ?ntr-un alt ora?, pentru a?a-zise cursuri de var?.

Nici t?n?rul n-a avut o via?? u?oar?, confrunt?ndu-se des cu batjocurile ?i b?t?ile colegilor din cauza greut??ii sale. Dar, cu ajutorul m?tu?ii lui, ce-l ?ncuraja de fiecare dat? s? nu se dea b?tut ?i s? caute s? le dea peste nas celor care nu meritau nici s? le adreseze vreun cuv?nt, Mark ??i revizuie?te situa?ia ?i ia m?surile necesare pentru un trai mai s?n?tos. Dup? ?ncercarea mai multor sporturi care s?-l ajute s? dea jos, acesta r?m?ne la mountain bike, aceea?i pasiune pe care o ?mp?rt?e?te ?i tat?l s?u. Se ?ngrije?te de alimenta?ia sa, av?nd grij? s? nu mai fac? excese ?i, ?ncet-?ncet, devine un t?n?r cu o constitu?ie zvelt? ?i s?n?toas?.

***„M? ?ntreb dac? faptul c? ne-am ?nt?lnit se va dovedi a fi o binecuv?ntare ori un blestem."***

Astfel c?, odat? ce a revenit la o situa?ie ceva mai normal?, fetele au ?nceput s?-l priveasc? cu al?i ochi, printre care ?i cea mai dorit? fat? din liceu. Pentru o scurt? perioad?, cei doi vor fi ?mpreun?, ?ns? t?n?ra ?l p?r?se?te la balul de sfâr?it de an, chiar ?n mijlocul ringului, deoarece Mark nu-i acorda aceea?i aten?ie ca ?i antrenamentelor sale. Totu?i, de?i ea este cea care a pus cap?t rela?iei, tot ea este ?i cea care ?l caut? pentru a se ?mp?ca. Dac? asta se va ?nt?mpla, r?m?ne de v?zut.

## Susanna & Mark - Cascada Țoaptelor

Iată c?, într-una din zilele de antrenament, Mark are parte de o c?z?tur? pe cinste, la care asist? Ți Susanna. Sigur v? Țntreba?i cum este posibil a?a ceva. Ei bine, se pare c? Țn parcul din apropierea casei b?iatului, se afl? un loc magic, numit Cascada Țoaptelor, acest loc g?sindu-se, totodat?, Ți pe proprietatea familiei la care sluje?te Susanna. Aceasta este un fel de portal, Țn strȃns? leg?tur? cu timpul, ce le permite tinerilor s? treac? dintr-un "timp" Țn altul prin perdeaua de ap? a cascadei.

Mark este enervat de faptul c? cineva a fost martor la c?z?tura sa Ți c? a mai Ți chicotit pe deasupra. Dar cȃnd, Țn sfȃr?it, o observ? pe tȃn?ra ce-l prive?te ciudat, orice sentiment avut pe moment se evapor? Ți curiozitatea Țl acapar? instant. A ceea?i senza?ie o Țncearc? Ți pe Susanna. Amȃndoi se privesc unul pe cel?lalt ca Ți cum persoana din fa?a lor nu ar face parte din aceea?i lume, din aceea?i realitate.

De la aceast? "Țntȃlnire", nea?teptat? pentru fiecare Țn parte, poate o alt? Țncercare de-a timpului, care, la Țnceput, li s-a p?rut o nebulie, doar o glum? ce nu-Ți avea rostul Țn acel moment, tinerii ajung s? se revad? de fiecare dat? cȃnd au ocazia. Țn scurt timp, descoper? din ce Țn ce mai multe unul despre altul, dar Ți despre locurile natale Ți obiceiurile cu care au crescut. Leg?tura dintre cei doi se amplific?, Țncrederea fiec?ruia Țn cel?lalt cre?te, iar asta pare s? "observe" Ți Cascada Țoaptelor cȃnd Țncepe s? le dea voie s? p?trund? dincolo de plasa de ap? care, surprinz?tor, nu-i ud? nici m?car pu?Țn.

***"Domnul Lewis ȚȚi ridic? Țncet mȃna Ți Ți-o a?az? peste a mea, palm? peste palm?, deget peste deget. M? Țnfior de pl?cere. E necuviȃncios din partea noastr? s? ne atingem Țn acest chip, dar nu-mi retrag mȃna. Nimeni nu m-a atins niciodat? pentru c? a?a am vrut eu. Ba nu, gre?esc. Am fost Țnghiontit?, Țmpins? sau lovit?. Dar mȃngȃiat?? Niciodat?. Este atȃt de fascinant. Țȃinde Ți a doua mȃn?, iar eu Ți vin Țn Țȃmpinare Ți mi-o ap?s pe a mea, la Țnceput timid, apoi cu mai mare curiozitate, fermecat? de c?ldura palmei lui. Ne atingem prin bariera aceea sclipitoare - perdeaua m?Țsoas? de ap? care nu ne ud?."***

Mi-a pl?cut mult cum au fost conturate personajele, Țn special caracterele lor complexe, cȃt de armonios se Țncadrau Țn peisaj Ți cum se completau unul pe altul, f?r? a p?rea mai presus de cel?lalt. Susanna Marsh este o tȃn?r? care a Țndurat Ți a trecut prin multe, Țnc? de la o vȃrst? la care ar mai fi trebuit s? se joace cu p?pu?ile. Dar n-a avut parte prea mult de ele. Acestea au disp?rut Ți au fost rapid Țnlocuite cu oameni, cu oameni ce a?teptau, la orice or? din zi Ți, poate, chiar din noapte, ceva din partea ei, pe cȃnd p?pu?ile n-aveau cum s?-Ți strige dorin?ele cu glas tare, ele r?mȃnȃnd doar ni?te figuri confec?ionate din cȃrpe.

Fata a fost for?at? de Țmprejur?ri s? se mobilizeze rapid Ți s?-Ți ia Țn primire, f?r? s? r?cneasc?, rolul Țn slujba st?pȃnilor ce aveau s?-i controleze ani buni din via??. Țn acea zi fatidic? pentru tȃn?r? (Ți, poate, pentru oricine altcineva), mama sa ar fi trebuit s-o sprijine Ți s? nu-Ți lase al doilea so? s?-i Țndep?rteze copilul de ea. Țn schimb, aceasta se l?sase u?or convins? c? fiicei sale avea s?-i fie mai bine a?a, ne?tiind de ce tratament va avea parte odat? ajuns? Țn sȃnul altei familii.

***„Timp. De asta avem nevoie – de mai mult timp.”***

Totu?i, Susanna a Ținut fruntea sus, a rezistat stoic Ți a Țndurat totul, f?r? a l?sa vreo lacrim? s? "sar?" neinvitat? afar? Ți f?r? a-i da satisfac?ia st?pȃnului c? poate face chiar ce vrea din ea. Muncind din greu, Ți-a cȃ?tigat cu mare efort ni?te momente ale ei, Țn care poate s? fac? ce dore?te. Momente de libertate, pe care Ți le petrece Țn locul ei special, ne?tiut de nimeni, Cascada Țoaptelor.

***"Privirile ni se Țncrucieaz?.***  
***- Susanna...***

*Dintr-odat? simt o sfial?. Are o expresie anume întip?rit? pe fa??., o încordare a trupului pe care nu am mai sesizat-o la el pân? acum. ?i de?i n-a? ?ti cum s? numesc emo?ia asta, o simt ?i eu. Între noi e ceva special. Ceva greu de definit. Ceva mai presus de prietenie.*

*- Trebuie s? plec, spun ?i m? salt pe vârfuri ca s?-l s?rut pe obraz, mirat? de moliciunea pielii lui. Î?i mul?umesc pentru carte.*

*M? trage într-o îmbr??i?are scurt? ?i ofteaz?.*

*- Mul?umesc pentru stele."*

Mark Lewis este elev în anul terminal de liceu, dar, deocamdat?, se bucur? cum poate mai bine de vacan?a de var?, chiar dac? asta înseamn? s? se preocupe doar de antrenamente ?i de job-urile pe care ?i le ia pentru a-?i "sponsoriza" pasiunea. Un personaj puternic ?i determinat, care a îndurat multe pân? a reu?it s? izb?veasc? în lupta cu kilogramele ?i r?utatea celor din jur.

Momentul în care o întâlne?te pe Susanna, îi eviden?iaz? o alt? calitate în fa?a noastr?, a cititorilor, ?i anume r?bdarea. Când a fost clar pentru amândoi c? niciunul n-a înnebunit ?i c? nu sufer? de halucina?ii, acesta este extrem de r?bd?tor cu Susanna, ce pare tot mai curioas? în privin?a lumii sale, unde atât ?i b?rba?ii, cât ?i femeile, sunt egali între ei, unde gesturile de afec?iune sunt împ?rt?ite în aria vizual? a tuturor, unde totul avanseaz? într-un mod rapid ?i eficient. Toate astea i se p?r de necrezut tinerei ?i înc? nu poate accepta chiar fiecare noutate ce i se "arunc?" în fa??. Dar Mark are grij? s?-i explice fiecare lucru cât mai pe în?elesul ei, grijuliu s? n-o fac? s? par? prea ne?tiutoare fa?? de lumea sa. O calitate pe care i-o admir! Câ?i oameni mai fac astfel în ziua de ast?zi?

Totu?i, pentru cât? vreme se vor plimba dintr-un prezent într-altul, f?r? ca nimic s? nu se întâmple? Vor reu?i s? dejoace planurile timpului ?i s? le întoarc? în favoarea lor? Sau vor trebui s? suporte consecin?ele riscurilor nebune?ti pe care ?i le-au asumat, continuând s? se vad? unul pe altul, ignorând necesitatea cascadei?

*Puterea ?i voin?a Susannei de-a lupta ?i de a merge mai departe, hot?rârea ei de a înfrunta totul singur?, compasiunea ?i iubirea ei pentru copila?ii familiei de care are grij?, cât ?i determinarea, încrederea ?i ambi?ia lui Mark de a o ajuta pe noua sa prieten? s? aib? parte de mult dorita libertate, m-au f?cut pentru a nu ?tiu câta oar? s? realizez de ce sunt în stare s? fac? unele persoane, nevoite s? se maturizeze mult prea repede, pentru cei pe care-i iubesc. Toate acestea, combinate într-o manier? captivant? ?i atât de realist? de c?tre autoare, fac din acest roman o lectur? irezistibil?, în care timpul î?i a?terne înc? o dat? efectele sale n?ucitoare pentru a-?i preg?ti lovitura final?.*

**Nota mea: 4.5/5**

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## **Jehan Jones-Radgowski says**

Elizabeth Langston delivers with this time travel historical and current day romance. She effortlessly switches the narrative between Mark, the present day character, and Susanna, the indentured slave who is living in 1796. I have read few other books that switch the voice so well. Typically you are reading trying to figure out who is talking.

I love reading historical fiction because not only am I entertained, but I also walk away with new knowledge of a different time or culture. The story of a female teen indentured servant has not (to my knowledge) been told on the YA fiction level ever. While this is not a history book, I think it is an important book to share

with anyone (especially YA teens) to give us a good glimpse into that life and time and remind us of our lucky we are today.

The bad parts:

I mistakenly read a couple of reviews before reading this book. ((which I never do!!!...lol don't read reviews!)) One was very critical of the main male character Mark. So while reading the review I saw some of the things the critical person pointed out. Yah he does talk about cycling a lot, but that's his passion and he is a teenager. My husband is a big time cyclist and I know how important his training schedules are. Anyone to that matter that cared about anything (or cares if you are actually a YA) when you were young knows how obsessive you can get. Then re: the critical reviews about going back in time through a falls or time travel in general...if you feel the desire to pick and pull at every little fiction novel string, then you should not read fiction.

Great novel, easy and quick read, wondering what else is next for Whisper Falls....

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### **MaryannC.Book Fiend says**

Well written, had me hooked to find out what keeps happening next. A Very enjoyable read.

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### **Sophia says**

A mysterious waterfall acts as a time rift and connects a modern day boy to a girl from Colonial America. The cover drew my attention and the premise sounded delicious so I gave it a try. I'm glad I did because this was one of my most engaging reading experiences of late.

The story is told with each main character taking turns narrating the chapters in first person point of view. Seventeen year old, Mark Lewis comes from an upper middle class background and he is off for the summer before his senior year. His family is warm and loving, but his parents are going through the beginning of empty nest with his older sister now living in Colorado and his mom switching up her nursing jobs to go from trauma to hospice. His parents balance care with allowing a certain amount of independence to him. Growing up overweight and picked on by bullies in junior high until he worked hard with his family's support has also tempered him, but left him on the edges of the teen social scene with just one good friend who is away for several weeks staying with his dad. His focus is on training for the biggest mountain bike race in the state. He has his summer lawn care job to earn the fees and pay for his biking equipment as well as personal money establishing he can earn his way and not just mooch off dad and mom. He no longer has to worry about a girlfriend since the very popular, but high maintenance Alexis dumped him right in the middle of prom and other than the humiliation that night he doesn't miss her presence. It is on one of his training runs that he first sees and hears the oddly dressed and mannered girl in the waterfall.

Susanna is an indentured house servant for the mill owner and his large family in her small village. Her father died and when her mother remarried, Susanna's step-father indentured, or more accurately, sold her to the Pratts so he wouldn't have her in his care. It has been many years, but she nears the end of her service and plans to leave her village to find work in the nearby capital city of Raleigh. Pratt is a hard abusive man and his wife and children tread carefully around him. Susanna takes the fallout from his anger. He beats her for

every little thing and tries to beat any spark of resistance or independent thought from her head. This is why she escapes the house for an hour each evening for her break to be taken in blessed solitude down in the cave by Whisper Falls. Her master sends his son to spy on her and make sure she isn't stepping out to see a man, but she eludes the boy so that she has one moment of privacy. It is there at the falls that she sees the young man with his fascinating clothing and the unique two wheeled transportation.

Mark and Susanna both treasure this connection through the falls after they figure out that they really are encountering a person distanced from them by 200 years. Mark is Susanna's friend and escape she needs from her dreary life, but the knowledge he gleams from his research about the future of herself and those she cares about changes everything. She is determined to alter the future to save those she loves and in the process she may still lose it all. Mark is right there doing his part to help Susanna succeed and he is more vested in her life than his own so when the ex-girlfriend renews her interest, his best friend gets distant and a bully from his past threatens none of it seems important. Mark's priorities are realigning, his perceptions are changing and he is determined to succeed where Susanna is concerned even if it means putting his own life in danger.

There are a few things that really caught my attention during this story and all of them I liked. Time-travel stories can get tricky for me. There is always a certain balance between moving the story forward and need to satisfy my curiosity of how it works. The short of it is that the author didn't try to explain. It was like magic in that one ponders how it was done and then end up just enjoying the results anyway. Because of the strength of the story's other components, I didn't care that my curiosity was left unsatisfied. The magical and mysterious waterfall is almost a third major character the way it plays its part in the story as it is there during all major events and causes some of the tension.

Speaking of other components. It's a time travel story so setting is huge. In this instance, I was transfixed by how well Susanna's Colonial American world was drawn. It all rang true and balanced well with her character development and story. It was there without taking over. The life of an indentured house servant was fascinating and not boring. I now want to know more about the period.

But, the author didn't chintz on Mark's setting either. Yes, it was modern so description wasn't as detailed, but it was uniquely revealed through Mark's eyes and his interests. I liked how not only is their time period a separation for them, but their class in their respective societies is different too and they have both gaps to bridge with their friendship and growing relationship. It was nice that neither make apologies for their roots, but learn to appreciate the other.

I thought the presence or lack of presence of family was interesting too. Surprisingly, it is Susanna who deals with the parent who checked out and leaves her to go it alone and try to watch out for her sister and herself and it is the modern Mark who has the attentive caring parents even though they both have careers. The extra scenes with the people in their daily lives was good so that Mark and Susanna were part of a larger story and not just isolated in their own little world.

Mark and Susanna's characters were interesting and engaging. Susanna had a hard life and it tempered her into who she was. She tends to be focused, contained and takes charge. The taking charge attitude is what causes the most tension between her and Mark when they bristle over each other doing it. She hides her feelings and thoughts as the one thing that she can control since the rest of her is subjected to the whim of the Pratts. She has managed to find contentment in her circumstances by caring for the younger Pratts as her own even while dealing with the parents and old children circumspcctly. She's not a whiner and she makes the best of things. Her circumstances do lead her to assume the high road with Mark until he starts to prove to her that he has her back and he is worthy.

Mark has the ability to see beyond the surface with people and he values what is on the inside which is why

he is drawn to Susanna and was always cautious around the modern-day kids. He respects Susanna and he wants to protect her when the people who should have protected her don't. She brings out the best in him and those around him might not know his secret, but they see the changes in him. Helping Susanna causes a paradigm shift in his life and the fast track to adulthood. Being inside his head to experience his view of his family, his friends and acquaintance and his daily activities was fun. I loved experiencing stuff with Susanna, but there was just a little something about Mark that drew me more.

The story is part of a series so that even though it wraps things up in a realistic happy for now place, it was obvious that the end was just a bookmark for the next segment of Mark and Susanna's adventure. The important stuff in the story does get answered and the reader isn't left dangling in frustration. I had a few questions and things left outstanding, but I assume it gets dealt with further on. I look forward to what happens next.

As to YA warnings, there is a moderate amount of strong language and violence in the form of abuse to Susanna. Mid-teens to adults would probably be best.

I would definitely recommend this to those who enjoy Time Travel Romance, but both Contemporary and Historical Romance fans would possibly enjoy it too. It is YA, but the themes and plotting make it have a more adult feel.

My thanks to Net Galley for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for my honest review.

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## **Erin says**

Find this and other reviews at: <http://flashlightcommentary.blogspot...>

I can't remember every book I've ever read, but I have a soft spot for Caroline B. Cooney's Time Travelers series. My cousin and I read the books together as tweens and I've always remembered them fondly which probably explains my nostalgic interest in Elizabeth Langston's Whisper Falls.

A young adult piece, the book actually has a lot going for it in terms of content. Langston does a wonderful job illustrating the plight of the indentured servant and the desperation suffered by those mistreated by their employers. I particularly liked how Langston countered the harsh realities of Susanna's existence with the moments of joy and the contrast that brought to larger picture of her life with the Pratt family.

Unfortunately, Langston's inexperience is blatantly obvious and while I acknowledge this is her debut release, I think it clear she has room to grow and develop her skills. For one, there is a gross imbalance in terms of character development. On a scale of one to ten, Susanna dominates the competition with a perfect score, but Mark, our male lead, falls somewhere between a five and six. Primary supporting cast members like Mr. Pratt and Mrs. Lewis collect around four, but individuals like Carlton, Alexis, Keefe, Marissa, Dorcas and Jedidiah felt so vague and half-hearted that I can't even calibrate their scores which is disappointing as Langston's heroine proves she is capable of so much more.

Langston's tendency to introduce conflict that never evolves is another point of concern. Do Marissa and Mrs. Lewis ever figure it out? What kind of person is Fletcher? How did Carlton get mixed up with Mark's ex? Is Jedidiah a friend or foe? How does Susanna's mother fair with Mr. Shaw? Did John recover from his obscure head wound? Langston dropped the ball in failing to provide closure to her subplots, leaving readers

to wonder at their necessity in the finished narrative.

When all is said and done, I found myself wondering where the editor was with this piece. Both of my previously mentioned points should have been easy enough to recognize, but there also continuity issues that should have been caught before this piece went to print.

*It was a good thing the research assistant could make copies, because I hadn't thought to bring a camera. I'd take her up on her offer. For now, I was consumed by my first real exposure to Susanna's master.*

Langston's already made it clear Mark has a cell, he whipped it out of his pocket to show Susanna in the cave behind the falls, and since built-in cameras are a typically standard feature... I'd stop there, but this blunder is further emphasized in book two, where we find Mark taking photos of Phoebe's journals in the archive basement with his phone.

Langston's target age bracket will probably appreciate Whisper Falls, but I personally found the haphazard construction left much to be desired.

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### **Geo Marcovici says**

O carte de dragoste care-ti merge la suflet! C?l?torii in timp , printr-un portal mai inedit : o cascada.

Ce m-a impresionat foarte mult la aceasta carte este documenta?ia pentru 1796.... Si iubirea care transforma o persoana. O carte care merita citita!

Despre servitori, puterea pe care o aveau st?pânii asupra lor, b?t?ile pe care le aplicau pe post de corectie, ce mai ... totul este impresionant !

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### **Kate Kaynak says**

This is EPIC magical realism. It draws you in and stays with you. Expect to see this all over the BEST BOOKS of 2013 lists! I was delighted to have a chance to read this when it came into SHP--I pulled out the manuscript one evening to get a sense of the writing and ended up reading the entire thing in one sitting. This one is totally worth losing sleep over!

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### **Ashley says**

I received a free copy of Whisper Falls.

After finishing Whisper Falls last night, I decided to wait a little while to post my review. After a night of contemplation, I am still unsure how to review such an amazing book and do it any kind of justice with just a few words.

That being said, Whisper Falls is both beautiful and devastating, heart-warming and heart-breaking. The pains and suffering the characters go through for the one's they love touched my soul and broke my heart at the same time.

The author made an amazing choice when she chose to write this book from the alternating perspectives of Susanna and Mark. I believe this story wouldn't have worked if she hadn't given the reader a view of both sides. Both characters are extraordinarily strong and brave, their love for each other pure and beautiful.

I personally feel that this book would be an excellent addition to any high school English curriculum. I learned a lot about how the indentured servants lived just from this first book in the Whisper Falls series and I think the aspect of having one character from the 18th century and one from the 21st would be an excellent tool in teaching teens about the vast differences two hundred years can make. Also, this book is very exciting and age appropriate (unlike some I read in High School that were a little boring for someone in their teens to have to read).

I cannot wait to continue reading Mark and Susanna's story in the next book. Thank you Elizabeth Langston for the opportunity to read your amazing book.

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### ~Tina~ says

**Whisper Falls**, is a brutal and heartbreaking story about one girl life in an unjust colonial time and the boy who cared enough to want to save her from a cruel fate.

Mark Lewis is training for an intense Cross Country mountain bike challenge, when he stumbles off his bike by Whisper Falls. There, he see's an odd girl wearing strange colonial times clothing in the cave behind the falls. But when she spoke to him about his "odd machine", Mark suspects something is off. The strange girl is named, Susanna Marsh and she claims that the year is 1796...two hundred years before Marks time.

Whisper Falls is a very impressive debut novel by Elizabeth Langston. It has about everything I like in my escape. Time travel, fantasy, romance and even though I don't usually read historical, I found this one to be exceptionally interesting.

This is a very strong and compassionate tale that reflects on a cruel time period. Langston writing is very bold and brave, with emotional and touching skills, she brilliantly and painfully captures what life was like in colonial times. Every time we visited 1796, I felt like I was transported through the pages. I felt so nervous to see what would happen next to Susanna or the other people in her life.

To think of that time period in history hurts my heart. The life of an indentured servant or any servant for that matter, is hard, lonely, bitter and utterly cruel. To think, you must obey your master and be mindful of everything you do. To be barefooted (except for winter), to clean, cook, sleep on hay and endure savage punishments when ever the master see's fit. To be hungry, lost and always frightened and not being able to change your fate.

I think that's why I took to this book so quickly. The way Susanna's story is expressed really does weigh heavily in your mind and heart and like Mark, you feel like you would do anything and everything to change this fate.

I also found the history aspects fascinating as Mark would find new information to uncover about Worthville, North Carolina and the consequences his actions has caused in Susanna's time period. There is a lot of gray areas -realistically speaking- about walking into each other's time periods and the unanswered question of why Whisper Falls acts as a sort of portal to the past. I think this could have been ironed out a little more, but once the story is said and done, it really doesn't seem to matter. Call it destiny or magic or an

act of mercy, Mark and Susanna were meant to be brought together.

The moments between Susanna and Mark was very sweet, tender and warm. Susanna is from a different century, so a lot of the conversations between the two was very amusing, specially since Mark doesn't hold back today's lingo's and slang.

Susanna is a sweet and humble girl who has a beautiful heart. She's brave and caring and tougher then one would expect.

Mark is good people. He's like your everyday teenager with family issues and girl problems, but he's dedicated to his sport and always tries to be a good person. Something about Susanna touched him and without any real reason, his whole world changed and all he wanted to do was find a way to see her, be with her and free her. This is the kind of love story that I want to hug. It's not about lust or want, it's simply about caring about a person so deeply that you would do anything, even walk through centuries, to save her. And it was beautifully done.

All in all, I quite enjoyed this book. It was hard to read at times since certain scenes were a bit disturbing to get through, but the writing is absorbing and outstanding, the story is inspiring, magical and moving and Susanna and Mark will steal your heart and make you believe in a fate like no other. A terrific debut! I can't wait to see what Langston will come with next!

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### **Ionias says**

If you are a fan of historical novels, you want to take the time to check this one out. Plain and simple, this is one of the most surprising books of the year.

I love the way the author managed to overlay one story on top of the other, showing the reader the similarities between the lives and experiences of the two main characters, regardless of the fact that they were centuries apart from one another. The way Elizabeth Langston managed to weave together two separate time periods and make it come out smooth and wrinkle free was most impressive.

This book was lovely, and there is nothing to complain about. The characters were richly drawn and three dimensional. The story was beautiful and the historical research was evident in the story and the writing.

I loved the dialogue in this book and felt like I was right there with the events of the novel every step of the way. From the beginning, the reader is invited to feel what the characters feel and to experiences their worlds. I felt close to both of the central characters from an early point and by the end, was sorry to see them go.

If you are looking for something new to read, this may be the book you have been searching for.

This review is based on a complimentary copy from Netgalley. All opinions are my own.

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### **Karen says**

Thanks to NetGalley for this arc.

Let's get my dislikes over with.

First: I hate the cover. It screams "low budget" and lessens my ability to think of it as a good read. I like the books that either don't show characters, or don't show characters' faces. When a book tells me "that boy is handsome", I like to imagine my own idea of handsome, thank you very much. Putting faces on book covers just forces you to think of the character as the one on the cover. The book tells you "he is handsome". Well what if I don't agree that that's a good looking person on the cover? It mars the whole book.

Secondly: I love books about the past. I devour time travel books. I embrace books set in the colonial period. So this novel has it all set. What I don't like is when the author tries too hard to breach the differences between the characters NOW and the characters THEN. Susannah's speech seems spot on 18th century. Mark's, well..... If I had to read anymore of his saying "Okay," or "Damn." I was ready to gouge out my eyes. Surely there are other ways of expressing modern language. The part where Mark describes something being "hot", "cool", and "sucks" was great, but I was getting sick of the single word sentence of "Damn." 34 times in a 42 chapter book, I counted. Okay, so I did a control find on my ereader, so sue me.

Thirdly: I don't give a rat's arse about mountain biking or Mark's protein diet. In fact, in the early chapters I ended up skipping much of Mark's story because I just didn't care. Mark is so ordinary, so boring. I can't imagine why his super hot ex-girlfriend keeps trying to get back with him. I get it that we need to see how his "problems" don't compare with Susannah's, but lordy it got dull. HOWEVER.....

The later chapters made me appreciate the story so much more. It was hard to put down. Mark's desperate (and sometimes idiotic) attempts to save Susannah and what she had to put up with in her master's household were very enticing. Some of it was unbelievable (besides the whole time travel through a waterfall thing), such as Mark being able to stroll through 18th century Raleigh without any lessons on the speech of that time (not just not saying modern colloquialisms, but terms of address, accent, etc.) And nobody noticing he was wearing sneakers ("what's that? Nee-kay, is that some kind of Injun word?" I dare you to name that movie...)

The author did a good job with Susannah's misunderstanding of the modern world and Mark's attempts to explain things. In the end the book cut off so abruptly it was like someone got their head chopped off (yea, I've been watching too much Game of Thrones). But then I noticed the title was "Whisper Falls, #1" so I'm guessing there will be more trips through the waterfall for these two in books to come.

Oh, and as a very amateur genealogist I kept yelling at Mark to "look at the church records!" when he confronted a mystery of who married who and who was born and who died. But to be fair, maybe there weren't any church records (I'm Catholic and one thing I love about being a Catholic genealogist is that the Church kept many many records). Maybe the church records got destroyed in the big storm. Many records and censuses were destroyed or buried before they started being sent Washington DC (which was around 1820 maybe?). I believe they were kept in town halls and such of the district they were in. In that case, I'm amazed that Mark found anything, much less wills, contracts, or censuses. I'm also amazed that he could read Susannah's gravestone. Heck, I have a hard time reading some of the gravestones of my own ancestors from 100 years ago because they are so worn down, much less 200 years ago. Also, I'm not sure who would have paid for an indentured servant's gravestone. Most likely a person in her position would have been put in a potter's field without any marker, much less her name and death date. I'm probably being too critical here; I digress.

All in all, despite my grievances this was a great story about bringing modern people to 18th century and a colonial adjusting to the 21st (it's apparently 2016 in this story, when is it supposed to be released?). And I

will look forward to the next stories, whenever they come out.

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### **Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says**

Langston's debut novel *Whisper Falls* is truly a wonderful read. One that draws you in with rich historic detail of the times and the mystery and budding romance between Susanna and Mark.

Susanna's life and hardships as an indentured servant in the the late 1790's were so interesting and heartbreaking. To think that we treated one another with so little respect and regard is hard to read about let alone stomach. To see how much they struggled and worked while at the whim of their master's every command was terrifying to see and truly a part of history that should never be forgotten or repeated. The Pratt family was...a piece of work. Their only redeeming quality were their children (well, the younger ones) and really, that was all owed to Susanna, not the Pratts. I have never wanted a husband and wife to get their just rewards as much as I did the Pratts.

Susanna by far had the more captivating voice of the two (the other being Mark's) and the history nerd in me couldn't help but love to read about her daily life, from tending the children to cooking, she did it all.

Mark surprised me, he ended up being strong and determined and a great friend for Susanna. Even though they were centuries apart they both experienced very similar situation that I think drew them to one another. They understood each other even if they didn't understand the times and it wasn't long before a friendship was forged.

Susanna was already a strong girl when her story began but to see her grow stronger, braver and to really stand up for herself was truly a treat. Especially when she was in a time and place when that just wasn't considered acceptable behavior for a woman let alone an indentured servant. She took charge, she changed her family's history and she did it all with little to no thought of how it would impact her life and her future. She ended up being quite the kick butt girl and I loved her for it.

I started this knowing that there couldn't possibly be a future for Mark and Susanna, after all their relationship redefined "long distance" but I couldn't help rooting for them anyways. I couldn't help but want them to end up together and while I won't say if I got the happily ever after I wanted, I will say that I was satisfied with the ending.

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### **Simona Stoica says**

3.5

„- Dac? hot înseamn? dr?gu??, cool înseamn? urât??”

<http://palarisme.ro/chef/carti/76-car...>

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## **Farrah says**

From the very beginning, this book drew me in. From the impeccable period details, to the suspense, and the absolutely adorable romance, Whisper Falls was a brilliant YA romance. I loved this book! It was deep, intriguing, and a truly enjoyable read. Loved it!

The setting in this book was perfect. It was obviously well researched, with precise details and the author managed to present them in a way that drew me into the story. I really liked how both characters reacted to seeing the world outside of their time period. It was interesting and realistically done. The whole time-travel thing was very well done.

Susanna was a wonderful heroine. She had a very difficult life, yet she stayed strong through it all. Even when her own safety was on the line, her first priority was taking care of her sister and the children of her master. She was very loyal and willing to fight for what she wanted. I thought she was lovely.

Mark was also great. He was absolutely determined to help Susanna and keep her safe, even if he had to literally enter a different world. He was very sweet, clever, and totally adorable. I absolutely loved him.

The romance was so sweet. Susanna and Mark were so lovely together and they made a great, two-century team. I thought they were a perfect couple. I can't wait to see how things turn out for them in the next book.

The plot was well paced and I was totally drawn in the entire way through. This story didn't fly by, but instead went by steadily, with the details and characters keeping me immersed. The suspense of whether or not Susanna and Mark would succeed in their efforts to keep Susanna and her sister safe kept me hooked. I really enjoyed the story and I'm very excited to see what happens next. Can't wait for book 2!

Whisper Falls was a fantastic YA romance. I absolutely loved this book! It was deep, thoughtful, suspenseful, and sweetly romantic. I enjoyed every bit of it. YA lovers, this is definitely a must read.

\*I received a complimentary copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

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