



Journey to an Untamed Land

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In 1820, Clarissa Johnson joins a group of young missionaries leaving New England and traveling by river to the Osage lands. Together they face disease and danger that tests their courage and fortitude along the months' long journey into the untamed American West. Arriving in the Indian Country, the young missionaries struggle to build a mission and school on the prairie and work to bring education and the gospel to the Osages and Cherokees. Caught in the middle of a feud between tribal leaders, the missionaries must work to build trust with their Indian neighbors and members of the nearby fur trading community. Slowly their school grows and so does their relationships of friendship, Christian fellowship and love. But Clarissa must deal with a deeply wounded heart and the betrayal that caused her to flee her hometown to teach at the mission school. Will she ever learn to trust again? Will love find her in this untamed land?

Journey to an Untamed Land Details

Date : Published January 31st 2014 by Jonita Mullins (first published December 3rd 2013)

ISBN : 9780978974022

Author : Jonita Mullins

Format : Paperback 308 pages

Genre : Romance, Christian Romance, Historical, Historical Fiction, Christian Fiction



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From Reader Review Journey to an Untamed Land for online ebook

Rosevine Cottage Girls says

This was such a great read! I absolutely loved it! Can't wait to read the next one!

Received this book free for my honest review.

Donna says

I like historical fiction and I enjoyed reading this book about a region where I live. Lots of good facts mixed in with the story line.

Marla says

I enjoyed reading this book. I like historical fiction. I liked the characters. I was given a copy of the book to read and to provide an honest review.

Linda Paschen says

Clarissa Johnson is a very courageous inspiring character. Jonita Mullins is a creative descriptive novelist and talented historical christian fiction author among the likes of Lauraine Snelling and Traci Peterson. I look forward to her next novel "Look Unto the Fields".

Ashly Lynn says

I received a free copy of this novel through Goodreads Firstreads Giveaways. I even received a signed copy of this novel as well as a note of congratulations from the author and that makes this review a little harder for me to write. Simply, because I couldn't bring myself to get sucked into the world that Mullins creates. This novel was so boring I couldn't even bring myself to finish it, and this doesn't happen for me very often. I'm the type of reader who will persevere through the bad and the ugly in order to finish a novel, but I couldn't persist enough to do that for this one.

In this novel Mullins' writes about a girl who has chosen to go west on a Christian missionary group to settle and spread the word of God to the Native Americans of the area. She has left behind her past to travel to an untamed land and to hopefully find a happier future than the bleak one she gave up. She, of course, is not the only one making up the people of this group. There are wives, husbands, single men, single women, and children, as well as the captains and men of the ships and towns that the group travels with and to.

So lets dive right in. The first issue I had with this novel is that Mullins introduces SO MANY characters

right away and gives them ALL names, physical appearances, and character traits as soon as they are introduced to you. I had no idea who anyone was in this novel, except Clarissa, George, and the physician, because there were way too many to keep straight. She must introduce at least 20 characters right off the bat. How can I be expected to remember all these characters, who they are, what their first and last names, are who their husbands are, who their children are, how old their children are, what they look like, what their husbands look like, and what their children look like after only reading about them once on one page? She then proceeds to leave it at that and expect you, as the reader, to remember everyone when she simply talks about them by first name for the remainder of the novel. This is a terrible strategy to apply in a novel, since, especially if you are like me, readers can't grasp everything you are trying to throw at them that quickly. Character development should happen gradually, not all once.

The second issue I had is the way the story is told. Mullins is forcing her beliefs and what she thinks on the reader. I have read Christian fiction before (I especially like period fiction like this one), but Mullins seems to be forcing it a bit. I don't know if this was really my issue, or if I'm placing blame wrongly, but I couldn't get over the lack of free-thinking. I guess I'm just spoiled with the novels I usually read. I also didn't like the fact that these people were traipsing into Native American ("Indian" as the book continuously uses) Territory uninvited, attempting to force their beliefs on a group that has their own beliefs, and still calling them a fierce and untamed race (at least that's how they are referred to in the first half of the novel – the half I was able to get through). Maybe this is just because I'm a product of my forward-thinking mind, but I couldn't bring myself to accept these things. These issues may have been resolved in the second half of the novel, but I didn't stick around long enough to find out. Sorry.

My third issue was an issue I have with many novels, especially ones I've given lower ratings. I'm surprised it came up here since I don't have anything against Mullins' writing itself. What I'm talking about here is repetition. A writer needs to trust their reader and Mullins does not fully trust her readers. She repeats a lot of the same ideas and keeps bringing them up to remind us of what has already been happening, characters' pasts, and characters' fears. This is so unfortunate because I feel victimized when an author does this. It is especially rough in this novel because she starts to break up the tension of finding out what the repetition is leading up to. And, lack of tension is one of the main reasons I had to put this novel down.

The last thing I'm going to name as an issue (and in my review) that goes hand in hand with lack of tension is just how boring this novel was. I, as I said, did not have a problem with the writing in any way. Mullins prose is tolerable, descriptive, and continuously flows well. It's just that she fails to create that tension I crave. In the last paragraph I said that her repetition created a lack of tension, well, her absence of story also creates wanting in the tension department. Mullins focuses too heavily on describing things versus writing an actual enthralling tale. There is nothing here that I could bring myself to care about. Yes, it was very nice that you described the cabin of this boat in such detail or this character's personality and descriptions in such detail, but it doesn't help when there is no story writing in any detail. I was having a hard time writing a synopsis paragraph for this review because there was simply nothing to write. This is the main reason I put this novel down. I love details, but man, without a story, details mean nothing.

I'm sorry that this free copy was wasted on someone who didn't like it, but such is life. I would definitely not recommend this novel, and there will sadly not be a place for it on my bookshelf.

Thanks for reading and make sure you stop by and check out my Facebook page. Keep up on my latest reviews and follow for other bookish posts! –<https://www.facebook.com/dreamingthru...>
