



The Fence My Father Built

Linda S. Clare

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In The Fence My Father Built when legally separated Muri Pond, a librarian, hauls her kids, teenage Nova and eleven year-old Truman, out to the tiny town of Murkee, Oregon, where her father, Joe Pond lived and died, she's confronted by a neighbor's harassment over water rights and Joe's legacy: a fence made from old oven doors. The fence and accompanying house trailer horrify rebellious Nova, who runs away to the drug-infested streets of Seattle. Muri searches for her daughter and for something to believe in, all the while trying to save her inheritance from the conniving neighbor who calls her dad Chief Joseph. Along with Joe's sister, Aunt Lutie, and the Red Rock Tabernacle Ladies, Muri must rediscover the faith her alcoholic dad never abandoned in order to reclaim her own spiritual path.

The Fence My Father Built Details

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From Reader Review The Fence My Father Built for online ebook

Old_airman says

A good story about a family struggling to find identity and a home. When I began this novel, I did not know that it had a spiritual plot. That did not bother me, but maybe God's answer to prayer was a bit too fast and sped the story to conclusion for my taste.

Jacquelyn says

This is a story about a woman who didn't know her father growing up and tries to settle his estate after he dies. It was an okay story and kind of slow. However, the book ends abruptly and doesn't bring closure to a couple of the story lines in the story.

Valerie Waters says

I liked this story. I did feel it was a little repetitive of her feelings. I did like how strong she was. I didn't like the vagueness of Muri and Rubins relationship. I wish she would have gotten more into that. I also felt like at some places the wording was weird. But overall it was a good story. I guess it gets 3.5 stars. Maybe 4. Maybe I'm being a little harsh?!!

Linda S. says

My debut novel is the story of finding your way home. All her life, Muri Pond dreamed of finding her biological father. Now it's too late. Joseph Pond has recently died, willing her his remote central Oregon high-desert property to his citified daughter, who'd rather research than ranch. When Muri hauls her kids out to her inherited property, she's confronted by a troublesome neighbor and her father's legacy--a fence made from old oven doors. Muri must rediscover her roots and the faith her dad somehow never abandoned.

Nora St Laurent says

Linda Clare pens a heart warming and sensitive story about a woman, Muri Pond, whose whole world has been turned upside down with her pending divorce. An Aunt she hardly knows seeks her out for help; help in keeping the property that belonged to her father—the father she never remembered meeting. She had hopes of meeting him someday but learns from her Aunt, her father is dead.

Muri brings her two teenage children to stay with her Aunt while she tries to understand the lawsuit against her father's property for water rights. When they get to the Central Oregon high desert property; they soon discover that her Aunt lives in a trailer in the middle of nowhere, Muri wonders if she's done the right thing. There's no Super Wal-Mart, or any other modern convenience near by. Reality hits. What has she done?

Life, as Muri and her children have known it, is over. Fighting this legal battle might take longer than Muri thinks. Her oldest child, Nova, gives her mother a really bad time (the way only teenagers can) about taking them away from her friends and the world they left behind. Nova couldn't get out of this desert trap fast enough.

Muri discovers things about herself, her father and the beautiful nature around her that are surprising. In the author notes Linda reveals she's had a similar journey in life where she was seeking to learn about her father and her Native American roots. I really enjoyed how Linda told this story though the eyes of Muri with all her struggles, feelings and wonder. I received a review copy of this book and I'm looking forward to reading more books by this author.

Disclosure of Material Connection:

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising"

Nora St.Laurent

The Book Club Network www.bookfun.org

The Book Club Network blog www.psalm516.blogspot.com

Book Fun Magazine www.bookfunmagazine.com

Blake says

Review to follow...

Ann says

The teaser on the back cover of *The Fence My Father Built* reads, "This is the story of finding your way home—even when home is a trailer in the middle of nowhere."

And what a story this is. Muri Pond's parents divorced when she was a small child, and she has spent her life dreaming about reuniting with her father. When she decides to take the journey to eastern Oregon to find him, she takes her less-than-eager children with her. Her fifteen-year-old daughter would be a handful for two parents, but Muri is newly single and barely able to cope with the girl's rebellion.

When they reach her father's property, her aunt and uncle welcome her with open arms—to a rattle-trap single wide trailer set in the middle of the arid eastern Oregon landscape. Muri quickly learns that a wealthy neighbor will do almost anything to buy Muri's father's land. The question is, why would he want it?

Solving this mystery, learning about the father she barely remembers, and coping with her children is made somewhat bearable for Muri when she meets the veterinarian who lives nearby. But he, too, is being pressured by the same wealthy man who is making the Pond family's life difficult.

In *The Fence My Father Built*, Clare has crafted a story that moves along without a hitch. If you enjoy family drama sparked with suspense, you'll love this book.

Christy Lockstein says

The Fence My Father Built by Linda S. Clare is a poignant novel about finding where you belong. Muri Pond is taking her two children, Nova and Tru, home to her father's home in the desert area of Oregon after the loss of her job and the end of her marriage. She grew up never knowing Joseph Pond, but after his death, she finds she has nowhere else to go, so going to his home makes sense. Until she finds out that his home is a trailer with a group of cobbled together additions and is occupied by her quirky aunt and uncle and their potbellied pigs. That's only the beginning of Muri's trouble, however. Joseph left a fight over water rights with the town's best-loved citizen in which Muri quickly finds herself trapped in as well, plus Nova has no intention of living in the middle of nowhere. Clare puts Muri in the middle of an impossible situation and every turn of the page only seems to turn up the heat. Her writing is powerful and deeply human. I hope she writes more fiction soon!

Laura says

Muri Pond is in the midst of a divorce from Chaz when she receives word of her father, Joseph Pond's, death and the issues surrounding her inherited property. The land she inherited consisted of a dilapidated trailer where her Aunt Lutie and Uncle Tiny live, where they cared for Joseph until he died, as well as a creek and the legal problems surrounding the creek ('liquid gold'). She arrived with all belongings and her two children, Nova, 15, and Truman (Tru), 11. Attitudes clashed between mother and daughter the whole way out there and beyond!

Lincoln Jackson (Linc) owns everything in and around Murkee except Joseph Pond's land and creek and Rubin Jonto's land, which Linc is pressuring to acquire. Everyone has acquiesced to Linc except Rubin and Joseph, and he now expects Muri to fold. But she is her father's daughter!

Because of his drunkenness, Joseph had lost communication with Muri shortly after she turned three, when his wife left him and remarried. Linda's book, *The Fence My Father Built*, is the tender story of the struggling issues Muri has regarding her dad and finding his heart for her after so many years apart, the first through years of love for him and then eventual hatred. You go through the throes of love, anger, loss, rejection, and loneliness that a child, now an adult, has to reconcile with, along with the legal issues about the ranch thrown in. The story is told through the voice and heart of Muri, along with the voice and heart of her father through his journal. Definitely touches your heart.

The struggles of the ranchers that need the 'liquid gold,' the greed of one man who threatens to take that land through legal means, which appears to go beyond just the title to the creek, are aptly described for this dry, dusty country. The tension and animosity are palpable between the characters. However, Linda tosses in a sweet romance to take the edge off the ugly issues brewing.

I loved the story for the rich history of the land, the personal reconciliation that Muri needed to work through, the touching story of the love of a father for his daughter, and the faith and truth that binds it all together. The 'Fence' adds a delightful touch of character to the story. 'Finding your way home' has a double meaning that everyone needs to find.

This book was provided by Linda S. Clare in exchange for my honest review. No monetary compensation was exchanged.

Laurel says

An interesting story line - neighboring property owners fighting over land and water rights, combined with a daughter's struggle to learn more about her father. The fight for water & land reminded me a tiny bit of Erin Brockovich, but all in all this story fell a little flat. I would have preferred more meat, more substance. More insight into the relationship between Muri & Rubin, especially at the end of the book. I'm not too much of a fan of open endings, which is how their relationship and the book end. I realize this is technically Christian fiction, but I kept waiting for Linc to do something even more evil and dastardly. We knew he was a bad guy, but I guess I've read too many non-Christian books - I kept waiting for more acts of violence or sabotage. I appreciated Muri's experiences in finding her faith, but I would have liked to have learned more about how her father managed to reconcile his Native American heritage with his newer-found Christian faith. When Muri's daughter, Nova, ran away, it added an interesting twist to the story in that it led to more interaction between Muri and Rubin, and Muri and Linc, as well as more interaction with Denny the archaeologist, but it at times felt like it was an act of convenience on the author's part. Almost like she needed to get Nova out of the way. All in all, a decent story - just could have used more meat on its bones.

Myra Johnson says

From the first time I saw the cover of this novel, I was intrigued by the oven-door fence and knew it had to be a unique story. Linda Clare weaves several plot elements into a cohesive and engaging whole. The story begins as young mother Muri Pond sets off on a new life in the aftermath of her pending divorce. The father she never knew has recently died, leaving Muri his property in the remote Central Oregon high desert (I didn't even know Oregon had high-desert country!). There, she starts to learn about her Nez Perce heritage and finds herself confronting a greedy land owner she suspects of plundering Native American burial sites. Occasional glimpses into her father's life in the form of journal entries provide clues to the mystery while bringing Muri closer both to her father and to the God she has resisted for so long. The stormy relationship between Muri and her teenage daughter will touch the heart of any mother who has ever lost sleep over a rebellious child. The subtle love story between Muri and the local veterinarian makes you hope for a happy outcome. All in all, a well-written novel that held my attention to the very end.

Carly says

There are a lot of stories out there to be told, and there are a lot of storytellers for that matter. There are some stories I like, some a lot. There are some stories I don't care for as much. And then, sometimes there is a story that reaches me on a deeper, more personal level. *The Fence My Father Built* is one of those stories. There was a lot about this book that I was able to relate to. I grew up with an alcoholic father, who now has liver disease (I should note that he has been clean for several years and the liver disease is actually caused by Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam). Muri spent most of her life not knowing her dad or her Heavenly Father. After her dad dies, she returns to his home to find the special gift of her father's legacy. *The Fence My Father Built* is written with such tenderness that touched me deeply. The fence built from old oven doors was the beacon that led Muri to find her home and to find what she had been missing all her life.

I loved the journal entries that Joseph wrote to his daughter. The faith he shared with her despite his pain was so moving. It was as if he knew Muri would need to hear those words. This book has given me a new appreciation for my earthly father, who is very special to me, and to my Heavenly Father, who I have only come to know in the last few years.

Whether you can relate to this book the same way I did or not, it is still an excellent book with delightful characters and realistic family dynamics. The Native American history was very interesting as well. This book will appeal to many different types of readers because it has a little bit of everything. This is not a book to just be read though. It is a book to be absorbed and savored.

Leann says

I could tell it was terrible after the first 5 pages, but forced myself to read another 70 pages since it was a book club pick (a book club I still have high hopes for despite this selection). Boring stereotypical characters, a plot line out of any Lifetime movie and Christian propaganda shoved down the reader's throat. I can't read another page!

Melissa says

There were parts of this book that I found very interesting regarding the Native American heritage but there was a lot of other mini-stories that pulled me away from enjoying the book as much. It was okay but I won't re-read it at another time.

Stephanie says

I couldn't get past the first 50 pages...
