



The Rainbow Season

Lisa Gregory

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Luke Turner

An outcast, they called him "bad blood" from his boyhood in a tarpaper shack to his nights in a prison cell.

Sarah McGowan

Her roots were deep in the Texas soil. But her secret shameful love for her sister's husband kept her from happiness.

Pride and their love of the Texas land threw them together in an unlikely marriage. Then, as unexpectedly as a spring flood, long pent-up passion exploded in a storm that was to consume them both...

The Rainbow Season Details

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Author : Lisa Gregory

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From Reader Review The Rainbow Season for online ebook

Shilpa says

despite the super tacky cover , it indeed is a cosy romance and the kind you remember long after you've read it

Brenda H says

Sarah McGowan is the dutiful daughter, living with her parents and helping on the farm. She has reconciled herself to life as a spinster as she hides her shameful secret of being in love with her sister's husband. Luke Turner is the local "bad boy" who grew up on the wrong side of town in a tarpaper shack and never had a chance. His wicked temper finally got him in trouble when he ended up going to jail for rape. After Luke is released from prison, he is hired by Sarah's father as a farmhand. Soon after, disaster strikes the family farm. Sarah and Luke are forced into a marriage of convenience. This heartwarming story about two very different people follows Luke and Sarah as they learn to trust and then fall in love.

I really enjoy Lisa Gregory's writing whether it's as Lisa Gregory, Candace Camp or Kristin James. If you like historical romance, she's an author to check out.

Rating: 4.25 Stars

Shireen Hakani says

4.5 Stars

sraxe says

I know this book is over thirty years old...but I still can't just ignore the Rape Culture perpetuation of this book. There's a time or two that Luke thinks of Tess and Sarah as bitches. There's also the grandmother thinking of Julia as the "sluttish sister." There's Sarah thinking about Luke being with some "unknown beautiful slut" and Stu saying that Luke will come home "reeking from some cheap slut's perfume."

The worst, though, was how Tess's character was panned in the book. The reader never meets her and we're only able to form an opinion based on what we're told or how the characters feel towards her. Tess's character is written as a sexually open woman who accuses Luke of raping her. It's written off that she basically sleeps with everyone and that she only said Luke raped her because she got pregnant.

And if it's not already obvious: **Even if a woman is promiscuous, it doesn't mean she can't be raped.** The author, however, writes things like:

"If you want my opinion," Sarah stuck in, "I don't think he accosted her, either. I never heard of anyone having to force Tessa. Why would he rape her when everyone knows he could have had her voluntarily, any time, like everybody else?"

Tessa Jackson. What a laugh. As if anyone would have to rape Tessa; she would spread her legs for anybody.

"I am perfectly well aware of what he was convicted for," Sarah cut in on him, furious at his indulgent, superior air and the slight directed at her father. "Rape, which is taking by force what everyone knows Tess Jackson gave away to anyone who asked."

That kind of stuff is what perpetuates Rape Culture. Even if a book is really old, this stuff shouldn't be excused and should, instead, be actively called out. Also, that BS about how a man can be so overcome with or adrift in passion that he can't stop or hear protest needs to stop.

There were times I wanted to like Luke but then he did something that just really showed me how terrible he actually was. In the beginning he's bitter, which might be understandable considering he was supposedly jailed under a false charge, and I tried to look past him thinking of both Tess and Sarah as "bitches." He also got on my nerves with how he just was never satisfied. First it's written that he's fine just having a job. Then he's fine with just marrying Sarah and working the farm. Then he's fine with sleeping with Sarah even while she's in love with Stu. And then that still doesn't work for him and he gets angry over her lack of love for him. However, I just couldn't look past his anger. He gets into violent fights when he's angry (punching Stu, fighting outside the Feed store).

Oh, and then we get to Sarah and Luke finally being together. I read it as rape. In the scene, Sarah is scared and Luke chases after her, he's rough and drunk and just...it's rape. "She tried desperately to pull away" and begs for him to stop, saying "No, please, Luke, stop." I don't know how it can be taken as anything but rape when "Sarah felt as if she was being torn in two, and she struggled against him, flailing at him with her hands, but he pinned her arms to the bed and stopped her cries with his mouth."

The author tries to play it off at the beginning of the next chapter, writing it as if it wasn't rape because Sarah wakes up smiling and blushing the next morning and feeling "giggly" and wanting to be with him again. The author also later has Sarah recount that she had let Luke "have her body without protest," even though I'm pretty sure that struggling, having your arms pinned down and cries stopped, and having said "no" and "stop" would count as protest enough.

Later, Sarah is even shown thinking:

She wondered if he had had this effect on Tess Jackson, and if so, she wondered how the girl could ever have brought herself to lie and send him to jail. Sarah rather felt that she would lie to keep him out of jail.

Like I said, a perpetuation of Rape Culture.

Oh, and it doesn't end there. At one point, Luke is so frustrated with holding back from going to Sarah again (because they both go on for pages and pages about how the other must be disgusted with them and not want to have sex again), he thinks the following:

He flung the sheet aside and rose from his bed, impelled by some furious desire to prove himself. He would show her; she was his wife, and he would take her. Again and again he would force her to accept him, until, somehow, his body would fill her mind and heart, too. He would rape her, take her, force her until finally he drove Harper out of her thoughts, until at last she knew his touch and could not live without it.

Just let that sink in.

If the author wanted us to believe that he didn't rape Tess Jackson, she did a terrible job of it because all Luke's actions and thoughts have done is show me that he's more likely to be guilty than not.

Crista says

Have you ever read a book that captured your attention from the very first sentence, captivated you and took you to another place and time, and became more important to you than food or sleep? THIS is one of those kind of books. I read both this story and it's sequel Rainbow Promise back to back nights. While I am exhausted while writing this review, I have a grin on my face I as I recount this amazing love story.....(one that is CEMENTED on my keeper shelf!)

Luke "Digger" Turner has returned to his home town after serving a prison sentence for a rape that he did NOT commit. He was raised by an abusive alcoholic father and a grandmother that blamed him for his mother's death. He was raised in absolute poverty. He was raised without love or kindness. He is one of the most "tortured" heroes that I've ever read. Sadly, he spent much of his adolescence fighting, drinking, and sleeping with "loose women" as a way to cope with his reality.

Sarah McGowen has always lived in her sister's shadow..... not quite as pretty, not quite as smart, and not quite as charming. She considers herself an old maid at 25 years of age and spends her time helping her sister care for her children and pining over her brother-in-law. As much as she is jealous of her sister's personality and looks, nothing is as hard as watching her sister's marriage to the man she loves...and can never have.

When Luke gets out of prison he desperately needs a "break". He needs to earn money so that he can get to a place where he can sharecrop and carve out a life for himself. Luke's reputation is so damaged that no one will even look at him. He goes to Mr McGowen, Sarah's father for a job, and surprisingly is offered one on the spot.

I think one of the saddest parts of this story is seeing Luke's shame. He feels like a "nobody" and does not feel worthy of "anything" that resembles kindness. It is heartbreaking to see.

Sarah is EVERYTHING he's ever wanted. She is "good" and "kind" and "pure". Traits that he longs for but

again....feels unworthy of. An attraction between the two starts very early, but hold on for the ride, because these two have much to overcome before they can ever be together. Their HEA comes late in the story, but the friendship that develops between them is the strength of this book. Sarah slowly and surely begins to chip away at the "hardness" of Luke, and Luke slowly shows Sarah what a treasure she is and leads her out of her sister's shadow. Remarkable transformations.

Please trust me and purchase this book. You won't be sorry! Also do yourself a favor and purchase The Rainbow Promise which is its sequel. It is in essence continuing story of Sarah and Luke which is good.....(because I will guarantee you, you won't be ready to say goodbye!)

Feminista says

I have mixed feelings about this book. There were certain parts that were dubious. I for one, thought that the hero had forced the heroine the first time they were together. But I kept in mind, that the heroine and people in the past have repeatedly thought that forcing intercourse in marriage was not rape. That is not the case any more - if it had ever been - but this novel was published little over 20 years ago. I know that at that time there were still people who thought so, having read an Australian judge's judgement whereby he stated that a husband was allowed to use force to coerce the wife. This then received nation-wide criticisms and his judgement was reversed in the higher courts, but it didn't change his verdict.

Moreover, there was another scene where he is sick of his wife teasing him and he thinks that he will rape her continuously until she forgets all about her brother's wife. I couldn't stomach that. Yes, some might say that he would never have gone through with it, but the fact remains that he thought it and made to go to her room, but only stopped when he heard her crying from outside her room.

There were other times, before they were married, when he kept on thinking cruel thoughts, like when he saw how frightened and unsure she was of him, he wanted to hurt her. Of course, that was overwhelmed later by his devotion to her, and I think the author might have wanted to show how she had tamed him of his violent urges, but the fact still remains.

Regan Walker says

Redemption Romance Texas Style...

First published in 1979, THE RAINBOW SEASON was a pioneering novel in the early years of modern historical romance. But you'd never know it. It reads like one that could be written today.

Set in a Texas farming community of strong Methodist values, likely in the late 18th century, it tells of 25-year-old Sarah McGowen, who secretly pines for her sister's husband and has an active fantasy life. She wants her own family but has rejected suitors she doesn't love. The McGowen family is rich in values and customs of shared warmth. Nothing like the family of Luke "Digger" Turner with his abusive, alcoholic father. Sent to prison for 5 years for a rape he didn't commit, Luke returns at 23, poor and believing he is hated and feared by all. But Sarah's father doesn't believe the tales and gives him a job working their farm. Luke proves himself with hard work and revels in the small comforts the McGowen family shares with him while he fantasizes about having Sarah for his own. But he thinks of her as a "Sunday School woman," too

good for a man like him.

It's a simple story set amidst the simple life of Texas farmland, but it is very well told. It is also a story of redemption as Sarah shows Luke the good man he is. She was the less pretty sister who wanted everything her sister had; he was the poor white trash who always did wrong. But together, they were very good. I recommend this one.

Mo says

This was quite a sweet read. Returned bad boy. The town looks down their noses at him. He always maintained his innocence and some folks believe him. He is given a second chance by the McGowan family.

"Wait a minute, boy," McGowan said. "If you want to work for me, you can't be so all-fired jumpy."

Luke was a bit jumpy alright. He felt the world was out to get him.

One of the reasons I picked it is that Karen loved it and SANDRA BROWN loved it too and she has been one of my favourite authors over the years.

For a book written nearly 40 years ago the sex scenes were quite intense!

Overall, an enjoyable read. I would love to read the next book about Luke's sister. Must check what the credit on Amazon is like!!

Pamela(AllHoney) says

The first book in the Turner's Rainbows Saga series. An oldie and somewhat goodie. I've seen this listed as a fave and while it wasn't bad, it wasn't great either. I may just not be in the mood for dark romances. This wasn't really dark but had some tearjerker moments. Luke (Digger) has had a rough life and ended up in prison when a girl falsely accuses him of rape. But he's ready to pick himself back up and earn enough money to get out of town and start new. Sarah's father hires him to help on the farm. Their journey to love was paved with obstacles but they were able to overcome in the end.

Sandra Brown says

The Rainbow Season by Lisa Gregory (aka Candace Camp) is one of the books that made me want to be a writer. As a matter of fact, I attended my first writer's conference because Candace Camp was going to be speaking. I won't tell you how long ago that was...but this book still sits on my keeper shelf!
#RomanceWeek15

Naksed says

Talk about a misleading cover! Here I was, thinking this was going to be one of those trashy Jackie Collins style Hollywood guilty pleasures, and it ended being one of the sweetest, small town, aw shucks, love stories with just cute as buttons, really likeable protagonists. It reminded me in some ways of LaVyrle Spencer's *Morning Glory*, a highly rated romance with a similar plot and themes but that one fell short for me because it was too hokey and saccharine. Here, on the other hand, I feel that the sweetness was balanced in just the right way by the characterizations of two people who are far from perfect, who struggle with every-day human feelings of anger, jealousy, etc., and overcome real conflicts before obtaining their well-deserved rainbow.

Now that I have read a few more books from Lisa Gregory aka Candace Camp, and I have re-read *The Rainbow Season*, I am increasing this to a solid, full five star because this is the best thing I have read from her, so unlike the style of the rest of her books, and just as a stand-alone, old-fashioned, uber sweet romance, it is truly one of the most feel-good stories and unforgettable characters I have come across.

Preeti ♥? (Romance She Reads) says

I have never read a hero like Luke Turner before - sullen, feral yet vulnerable and defensive like a hurt young animal. His character immediately grabs your loyalty and empathy like a h does usually. Life has never given him a chance, shaming and knocking him down for crimes and sins he didn't commit. He is 2 years younger to the h, which only adds to the allure apart from his lean hungry sexiness, of course!

It is a heartwarming story of two very different people pushed by destiny into a moc. She has an unrequited and doomed tendresse for her brother in law and he is the local 'white trash' outcast, who come together to save and till her farm- a shared passion. I really love reading about historical western romances about farming/ranching people who work the land hard and whose hidden emotions and passions for each other parallels the ones they have for the land. It makes these characters so much more real and interesting.

Keri says

Bad boy Luke Turner has been released from jail for a rape charge that he didn't commit. He has made a vow to himself that his life was going to change for the better. He comes out to the Texas farm of pretty, older Sarah McGowan and is hired on as an extra hand. Sarah at first doesn't think of Luke in a romantic sense, because she was filled with daydreams of her sister's husband.

But a tragedy brings Luke to the forefront of her mind and heart as they work together to save her farm. After they end up married, Luke starts to become the man that Sarah knew that he was capable of and Sarah realizes that all her hopes and dreams of a loving man are right there with her. All she has to do is find the strength of heart to reach out and grab it. This is one of the sweetest Texas Americana books.

Yuana says

3.5 stars

Karen says

Ok... WOW...how do I rate this book. I've got to say, it's very dated, but I really did love it! I couldn't seem to put it down. And it was an old yellowed paperback that someone sold at the Goodwill store. I couldn't find the Kindle version online so I went with the old crusty pages, and my trusty desk lamp.

I heard about the book through Sandra Brown, our favorite suspense/romance writer, who apparently read the book when she was young, stating that it was one of the books that inspired her to become a writer. So I thought, if it's good enough for SB, it's good enough for me. And I definitely was not disappointed.

The characters were incredibly well done, and the whole story was just brilliantly written. There are some of you out there who will roll your eyes at some of the chauvinistic ways of the past, and the prudish beliefs of some of these country folks, but underneath all that, you will find a great story. A heartwarming story. A true romance.

So if you ever get the inkling to carry an old paperback book around in your purse, one that you will seek out more often than your smartphone, I highly recommend this one. Does it really deserve 5 stars, I'm not sure, but in my mind it will stand out among many others, so yes, I think it does.
