



## Lily's Plight

*Sally Laity, Dianna Crawford*

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## **Lily's Plight** Sally Laity , Dianna Crawford

Journey to Pennsylvania backcountry during the French and Indian War. Indentured servant Lily Harwood has always thought of herself as a good Christian lass. . .until she is struck with a deeper, more profound plight than the war that rages around her. When her mistress's husband returns home on a short furlough, Lily finds herself falling in love with him. As Lily is caught between passion and sorrow in harrowing times, can she find hope in the promises of God?

## **Lily's Plight Details**

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## From Reader Review Lily's Plight for online ebook

### Ronnda Pagan says

Lily the last daughter and youngest sister learned how to live in a small rural/frontier settlement as the indentured servant for a man who lived in the small settlement with an ailing wife and four young children who needed the extra help. She quickly learned how to run a farm, cook and clean for this family while the husband was off serving in the militia during the French and Indian wars. John and Lily had feelings for each other but afraid to act upon out of respect to the late wife. As the months moved on, the Indian raids became bolder and those who remained in the settlement built a blockhouse for safety. During one of these attacks, one of the settlers' son died that brought John, his neighbor and the men from the settlement to bring them back to help with the attack. It was the aftermath, that John and Lily gave into their feelings and blessed by the small settlement to marry. Before Lily and John could marry the settlement had sent the women to their families in other settlements and towns while the men stayed and rebuilt the cabins. While Lily visited with her sisters at Mariah's house, she realized that she had to go back to the settlement because she felt it was right to do so.

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### Megan Adams says

This book was the first book I read from the series and there is no doubt I will go back and read the first two. I was a little wary about reading this book due to the subject of the brief description, longing for a married man. There are some mixed reviews about this very subject, however if you read the book you know there is so much more to the story and you know the author is not condoning such things. There will be temptations, the Bible even tells us that, but how you act (or do not) act upon those is what is important.

This book is a beautiful and intriguing story that I was completely absorbed into. My heart raced during the action, I was sick with worry, I cried when they cried. I became attached to the characters. But most of all I love how the characters turned to God and relied on Him throughout, no matter what. Lily's story is full of hope and strength. I recommend this story and give it 5 stars. :).

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### Barbie says

Lily's Plight, the third and final installment of The Harwood House trilogy written by Sally Laity and Dianna Crawford and published by Barbour Press, closes the stories of three British sisters who, for their own individual reasons, sold themselves into indenture in America. Lily Harwood, the youngest of the sisters, served the Waldon family willingly and with joy for the four years of her indenture. She cared for Susan Waldon, the beloved and terminally ill wife and mother, as well as mothering the four young Waldon children placed in her care. The only dark spots in her life are the constant threat of Indian attacks on the wilderness settlement and her burgeoning love for the Waldon family patriarch, John.

With John often gone from the homestead serving in the colonial militia, the burdens of farming, homemaking, and warrior-life fell to Lily. When her chance comes to leave the homestead, Lily must decide where she truly wants to be – with John and his children or with her now-wealthy sister, Mariah, enjoying a life of ease more suited to her upbringing.

I was thrilled to be given the opportunity to review *Lily's Plight*. I truly enjoyed Laity and Crawford's earlier series, *Freedom's Holy Light*, and knew that this newest series would carry the rich historical detail, genuine characters, and well-paced plot that I was accustomed to from their earlier work. I did not have a chance to read the first two books in The Harwood House series, *Rose's Pledge* and *Mariah's Quest*, but I didn't find that this hindered my reading of *Lily's Plight*.

The historical detail was a very accurate. In some ways, I wished Laity and Crawford would have softened the emotions of the settlers toward the raiding Indians, just to make it a little easier to read. However, their characterizations of both the Indians and the Colonials as pawns in the war between the French and British was spot-on. I think a little modernism may have been added when treating the possible romantic entanglements for Lily. It seemed to me that the young men were quite forward in both speech and mannerisms, but then again, life on the frontier did not have the ultra-civilized, restrained atmosphere of a colonial city.

The romantic tensions between Lily and John were well-played out through the whole story. Thankfully, as expected, Laity and Crawford did not leave that tension as the only one. Family disputes, Indian attacks, military fiascoes, and spiritual growth all work together to move the story of Lily along at a moderate pace. No break-neck racing toward the finish line of this story, but neither does the book bog down at any point.

I am very interested in picking up a copy of both *Rose's Pledge* and *Mariah's Quest* to find out these sisters' stories. I give *Lily's Plight* 5 stars.

\*\*I received a free review copy from Barbour Press in exchange for a review. My views are my own.\*\*

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### **Shantelle says**

I don't know... this book just rubbed me wrong I guess. I wasn't comfortable with John and Lily falling in love while his wife was dying; I did not like the way Indians were portrayed as basically beasts; I was appalled by the hatred that all the settlers had for the Indians who attacked them... like they were never going to forgive them, and that was okay. :( I just made me sad and a little sick inside.

*Rose's Pledge* and *Mariah's Quest* were both books I enjoyed. But I'm afraid *Lily's Plight* just had too many things in it that just didn't feel right. As brutal as some Indians were back then, we really can't say that the "white men" didn't mercilessly cheat, steal, and slaughter peaceful Indians. And Lily was clearly coveting another woman's husband... which is a sin. -Which she didn't run from.

I don't know. There was some really interesting parts. Some good lessons. But all in all, I just couldn't really enjoy *Lily's Plight* because of the things listed above.

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### **English says**

This novel is a last in a trilogy, though the first I have read by these authors, so I was not familiar with the background of the story or the characters or with their writing style. Reading it also represented something of a new experience for me, as I generally opt for books of this genre set in Europe or in the medieval period. I am British, and a medievalist in training, so I prefer these and I am not really familiar with American history, the period when this story is set in general

This said, I have to say I was not greatly impressed by this story. I have read quite a few Historical romances in my time, and this one seemed about the average, run of the mill type of story in this genre. It was enjoyable enough, but I would say nothing special. Even the hint of 'forbidden love' in the sense of Lily falling for her master in spite of herself when she knows she shouldn't and him doing the same has been 'done before', and felt perhaps felt a little clichéd.

So Lily and John's love story is sweet, but rather predictable. In spite of both parties trying to suppress and quash their feelings for one another, in spite of them being separated by war and hardship, in spite of everything was almost inevitable that they would eventually get their happy ending.

The religious content seemed to be woven into the story well, and there was nothing that seemed objectionable or questionable in a theological sense. Without intending to be irreverent or disrespectful, I would say the theme and subject matter was about standard fare for inspirational historical novels of this kind. Not that I suggest or expect that Christian authors should change the Christian content or write anything 'new' to pander to readers, the point as that this, like the novel is just about the same as a lot of others of this type.

The one aspect that did stand out for me was the question of why God does not always seem to answer prayer and sometimes seems to let bad things happen. If felt this was addressed sensitively, decisively and rather well.

Romance aside, the rest of the story did seem rather slow and repetitive at times perhaps this just reflected the state of the conflict and political conditions in 1700s rural Pennsylvania. Most of the action was focused around the lives of the inhabitants of a small town, and some of their men serving in the militia. Apart from facing attacks by Native Americans, or travelling outside the region to try to escape from this, not much really happened that was not related to their lives in some way.

Another aspect which seemed to be a reflection of the time period was the depiction of the Native Americans as barbarian savages. People now might find this objectionable, but I did not personally as it seemed a plausible enough presentation of the way that people living in the environment and circumstances of the characters might have viewed them. If the only contact they had with Native Americans was when they saw or heard of them raiding and burning settlements, killing people, or kidnapping their children, it did not seem surprising that they would view them in such a way.

Then there was the setting itself. It seemed to me a very idealised and romanticised version of good old fashioned rural American life, with characters who could have stepped off the set of Little House on the Prairie. The honest, decent, robust, hard workin' folk of Beaver Cove might have been pleasant enough, but they seemed to lack depth and be a little too perfect and sweet to be real.

Yes they faced hardships but they all muscled in together to help each other out, and everythin' came alright in the end. Not like wealthy them city who are almost all presented as living in luxury and as being too concerned with trivial things like clothes and balls and their social status or elegant wives to worry about much else that is important.

The British almost universally seemed to be depicted as cowards, weaklings or bungling fools whose Commanders could or would not defend their territory or help each other, and seemed to do little except sit in their fortresses and surrender at the first hint of an attack, and who literally had to be forced to take any kind of decisive action in the war. It was of course the tough rugged 'colonials' in other words the Americans who did most of the real fighting and the ones who seemed to make the real difference.

The stereotyping went further when the Brits (like the city folk) were almost all depicted as genteel types from rich or affluent backgrounds who never did much tough physical labour like the Waldons of Beaver cove. Lily is presented as having been thus before she came to America and adopted the good life. Eye - roll

inducing stereotyping once again where I had hoped the depiction of non-American people might be more informed or objective.

Then there were the accents. As stated before, I am not American, I am British, so I am not familiar with the nuances of regional American accents. Yet I could not help questioning whether there really would have been such a pronounced difference between the accents of Americans and British people at this time as there was in the story. Somehow, the accents of the American characters seemed a little too modern, and their use of some anachronistic terms and phrases which did not exist in the mid-1700s seemed to confirm this. The only two major non-American characters, as stated before were Lily, and Scotsman, who served as the preacher or pastor in Beaver Cove, he spoke with what seemed to be a ridiculously exaggerated accent, and Lily's was little better.

Overall, this novel was enjoyable enough, but it was really not my proverbial 'cup of tea'. There did not seem to be anything much to set it apart from other novels in this genre, but it is passable enough a light, clean and moderately enjoyable read. I am interested in perhaps reading the preceding two novels, though I don't think I would buy them. If you like these authors, and novels set in this period, it might be for you.

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### **Eustacia Tan says**

I used to read books like this. Books about the American frontier (why though, is something I haven't figured out yet). So in a way, reading this historical romance felt a bit like returning to my childhood (I will never get over how old that makes me sound).

But unlike when I was a kid, now when I read, I keep thinking, "really?" I spent a good bit of the book wondering if the portrayal of the Native Americans as blood-thirsty savages were accurate. I don't know much (I've been Googling, but I still don't understand most of it), but I do think this is a fairly one-sided portrayal. Of course, there is the normal "we must pray for them", but there isn't any concrete outreaches to the Native Americans. (I did read on Google though, that there were missionaries).

The storyline itself is kind of strange. The conflict is that Lily is in love with her master (she's in indentured servant), who's beloved wife dies in the first few chapters. But the book is dragged out because John (the guy she's in love with) is away fighting and there are those 'injuns' attacking them while she stubbornly stays at the home ground.

Of course, I did wonder what parents would let their 12 year old son use a gun. I suppose it was a much different time then.

But it was interesting, and I like how there was some theological conflict, when they doubted about the use of prayer. It might come across as too preachy for some people, but I quite liked it. It managed to become part of the narrative quite smoothly.

I think, from what I glimpsed of her sisters lives, I would have enjoyed the other books a whole lot more. Particularly the one about her sister working for the rich, but blind boss. That sounded interesting.

All in all, not bad.

Disclaimer: I got a free copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for a free and honest review.

First posted at Inside the mind of a Bibliophile

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### **Cyndi Bowman says**

This book is the last of the Harwood House series, and it was my favorite. It could be read as a stand alone. Mentions of the sisters from the previous books are very few and could be understood without knowing the full story.

The story starts about 4 years after Rose arrives in America. Rose has grown into a beautiful, caring woman who has come to There are a number of conflicts in the story: Rose's growing attraction to her employer, John's growing dissatisfaction with the military, Rose's family's growing concern about her safety, and everyone's growing concern over increasingly violent Indian attacks.

I thoroughly enjoyed this story. Rose's spiritual journey is particularly well done. I also learned some things about frontier life in the pre-Revolutionary days and the political intrigues that went with developing this new nation. Highly recommended for lovers of a good historical fiction.

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### **Bethany says**

I was looking forward to a good easy read in this Christian Historical Fiction, but was sadly disappointed in this book. I made it through the first chapter or two before throwing it aside in disgust and skimming to the end. Sadly, this book was as predictable and horrible as I thought it was going to be. The fact that it is "Christian fiction" is slightly disturbing to me since the premise of the book is a young women coveting another women's husband.

So the story is about Lily who is an indentured servant to John and Susan, taking care of their children while John is away fighting during the French and Indian war and Susan is too ill to take care of the kids. When John comes back Lily likes him and has a hard time hiding it and John notices her too. Do you see something wrong with this picture? Am I the only one who sees a problem with coveting and lust after someone Else's husband? And don't write about what a wonderful husband John is if he is making eyes at the servant while his wife is still alive.

Ugh, this book thoroughly disgusted me and I would not recommend it to anyone. Basically it is a secular book with some Christianity thrown in but it does not make the theme of the book any better as they don't really address how wrong it was that Lily is coveting a married man and she gets what she wants in the end.

If you are looking for a quality Christian book then stay away from this one! There are much better Christian books out there that actually have more going on and are not complete twaddle.

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### **Betty says**

**Very good. Not quite up to the first 2.**

I only give a 4 star rating because there was, to me, too much waffling about whether the heroine should be having the feelings she was having. Otherwise Lily's story was just as good as Rose's and Mariah's. I'm certainly glad I decided to purchase this book.

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### **Erin says**

Find the enhanced version of this and other reviews at: <http://flashlightcommentary.blogspot....>

Those who follow my reviews might remember the disappointment I felt after completing book two in the Harwood House series, Mariah's Quest. It was the first of Laity and Crawford's novels that I issued less than four stars and it left me ambilevant about the final installment of the trilogy. That is, until I managed to get my hands on a copy of Lily's Plight.

One of my major complaints regarding Mariah's Quest was the lack of historic content, that the Barclay plantation was too far removed from the conflict, that in this regard it failed to equal the standard set its predecessor, Rose's Pledge, or Laity and Crawford's earlier work, the Freedom's Holy Light series which incorporated events from the American Revolution. In contrast, Lily's Plight takes us to the Waldon farm, to the Pennsylvania back country where a small community of intrepid homesteaders have carved out a rugged existence deep in the North American wilderness. Here the war isn't a thing whispered about at church socials or discussed over drinks at the local pub. Here the war real. Men serve in the militia, leaving their families to fend for themselves, wondering when their loved ones will return or if they will return at all. The historic angle of this series appeals to me a great deal and I was incredibly pleased to find myself back in the thick of things after being kept at a distance for so long.

That being said I want to caution those who are easily offended. The Native people are portrayed as blood-thirsty savages, killers without remorse and though I understand the political incorrectness of this view I can forgive its inclusion. At this time, in this place, Anglo Americans had no real knowledge of the Native peoples and visa versa. Their information was based on fear, rumors and the violent confrontations that often take place as different societies struggle over the same piece of ground. The prejudice exhibited by the residents of Beaver Cove is not admirable, but it is at least historically accurate for individuals in their circumstances.

On the spiritual side I have to applaud Laity and Crawford. Not only did they tackle a delicate subject, they focused on one I have never before encountered in religious fiction. Usually I find stories of individuals who find faith or use it to get through some terrible circumstance, but here were two individuals struggling with feelings and emotions that came in direct conflict with their beliefs. When I realized this I couldn't help thinking that here was a story worth reading. Temptation and struggle, the fight to follow a path when the things you want are not yours to have. That is reality folks and I got to say, it makes pretty good fiction. Yes, Mrs. Waldon's passing makes the ending of the book inevitable, but the conflict John and Lily feel prior to that, the application of faith within the plot, all of it really impressed me.

It is safe to say I felt these ladies put together a wonderful story, one that more than made up for my experience with Mariah's Quest. A bit slow in places, predictable in the way most books of the genre are, but all in all a satisfying conclusion the Harwood House series.

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## Victor Gentile says

Sally Laity & Dianna Crawford in their new book, “Lily’s Plight”, Book Three in the Daughters Of Harwood House series published by Barbour Publishing, Inc. brings us into the life of Lily Harwood in the turbulent 1757.

From the back cover: Their greatest challenge is yet to come.

Lily Harwood always considered herself a good Christian lass. But after years of serving the Waldon family, and despite the fact that she loves them dearly, her life has grown increasingly difficult and frightening. Daily she watches Susan Waldon’s health deteriorate, and with John Waldon away with the militia, protecting them from attack by the French and Indians, Lily is responsible for the entire farmstead.

Ever since John’s last child was born over four year’s ago, he’s had to watch helplessly as his beloved wife suffers with a mysterious and debilitating illness. And because of the drawn-out conflict, he’s torn between wanting to be with his family and knowing that thwarting the enemy on the frontier is the best way to protect them.

But when he returns home on a short furlough, both John and Lily face a deeper more profound plight. They find themselves falling in love. Caught between passion and sorrow in harrowing times, their only hope lies in the promises of God...

The Dictionary defines “Plight” as, “a solemnly given”, or, “an unfortunate, difficult, or precarious situation”. Lily Harwood lives up to both definitions. She gave her solemnity or promise to serve in the Waldon household and her situation is proving difficult as she is now in love with a married man. Can you imagine selling yourself into servant-hood to pay off your father’s debt? Lily’s sister Rose thought so and the three sisters came from England to America to do so. Rose and Mariah’s stories were told in the previous two books, now it is Lily’s turn. I like history and “Lily’s Plight” is loaded with it. It is set against the background of the French And Indian War and Lily is an indentured servant trying to hold together a family that is seemingly falling apart. Lily has come to love this family however she has come to love John more and this is dangerous because he is married to Susan. Can she remain pure while the war happens around her and her own emotions threaten to overwhelm her? I won’t give it all away except to say that the thrill ride that this story turns out to be has some real surprises before we find out that answer. “Lily’s Plight” is a great read, filled with drama, romance, history and suspense. I recommend this book highly. I am sorry to see this series end but I am looking forward to more from these very talented authors.

If you would like to listen to interviews with other authors and professionals please go to [www.kingdomhighlights.org](http://www.kingdomhighlights.org) where they are available On Demand.

To listen to 24 hours non-stop, commercial free Christian music please visit our internet radio station [www.kingdomairwaves.org](http://www.kingdomairwaves.org)

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Barbour Publishing, Inc. 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.”

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### **Patricia says**

I have enjoyed this series set in frontier and colonial America. This was a nice conclusion to the series that followed the indentures of the three Harwood daughters: Rose, Mariah and Lily.

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### **Melmac MacDonald says**

This is the third and final installment in the Daughters of Harwood House and I enjoyed this just as much as I did the other two. Laity and Crawford spin an engaging read that kept me reading into the night. Indian attacks, love, and suspense are all combined in this book about Lily. Lily herself is a bit of a confusion to me. She's extremely young in age but very old in years. I think it works for the time but I didn't find it believable all of the time. As a character she wonderful I'm just not sure totally believable.

The book is rich with historical detail that I found fascinating. Entering into the story of some of our earliest pioneers and their fight for their land and lives was gripping. I'm constantly amazed at those who have gone on before and kept going when I think I may have quit. The authors do a superb job of truly sharing with us their "plight".

An excellent read that really can be read as a standalone. You won't regret picking this one up...unless you like to sleep at night and not read :)

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### **MLOW says**

4+

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### **Miss Pippi the Librarian says**

Sally Laity and Dianna Crawford's final book of the Daughters of Harwood House series is Lily's Plight. The previous novels were Rose's Pledge (Book 1) and Mariah's Quest (Book 2).

As indentured servants Rose went to the wilderness, Mariah went to a plantation, and Lily went to a farming community on the edge of the wilderness. Lily's roll was to care for the family's children and watch over John's ailing and beloved wife, Susan. After Mariah's wedding, Lily's freedom could have been bought, but Lily wanted to stay with the Waldons. She wanted to fulfill her contract and she wanted to remain close to those she loved. Life becomes complicated as the French and Indian War draws closer to the settlement and John worries for his family's safety. Lily remains firm to watch over her young charges in the face of grave danger.

Out of the three Daughters of Harwood House books, Lily's Plight is my favorite. The timeline isn't as rushed or drawn out to cover a long range of time. Laity and Crawford address the dangers of battle and how families in the early settlements needed to work together to succeed. The struggle with faith, love, and family

are woven throughout the novel. It was a beautiful conclusion to the Harwood family.

Reviewed from a NetGalley copy. Thank you, Barbour Publishing, Inc.!

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