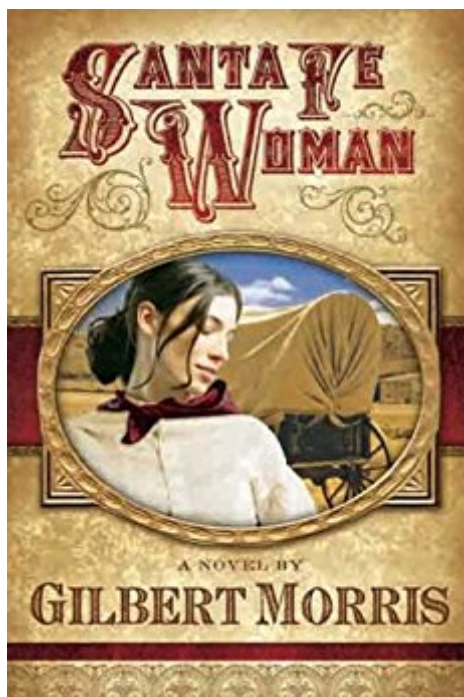


The book was found

Santa Fe Woman (Wagon Wheel Series #1)



Synopsis

Ever since her mother's death, twenty-two year old Jori Hayden has lived safely under the shelter of her wealthy father. But when the severe economic depression of the 1800s destroys the family's fortune, the Haydens must venture west together along the Santa Fe Trail in search of a new livelihood. With her father in poor health and her Aunt Kate "a dedicated Christian" keeping charge over the younger siblings, Jori hires Chad Rocklin right out of prison to lead their wagon train. And in a journey marked with danger at every turn, romance, faith, and family prove to be the biggest fortunes of all.

Book Information

File Size: 1091 KB

Print Length: 340 pages

Publisher: B&H Publishing Group (November 26, 2013)

Publication Date: November 26, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B004NEVXC8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #140,828 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #506

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Westerns > Christian

#522 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Literature & Fiction > Westerns #4605 in Kindle

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Customer Reviews

I have read a few of Gilbert Morris' books from the Lions of Judah series. I hadn't read any of his American history books. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and actually pulled out reference material to read more about the Santa Fe Trail. I was surprised to find that most of the things I read were also in the fictional account of Santa Fe Woman. It's so much more fun to learn about history when given a romantic story line to go along with the facts. I found the book to be entertaining but not over the top. By three-quarter's of the way through the book, you pretty much knew how

everything was going to end up. It was still fun to get to the end though. After reading this book, I plan to pick up more of Gilbert Morris' books.

Realizing this is a work of fiction, I still need to comment on the major discrepancies in the early history of Little Rock, Arkansas. The book starts with a family living there in 1822, however, it describes a Little Rock as it might have been 100 years later. References in 1822 to the family having lived in the family mansion for several generations is impossible. The first settlers came to Little Rock in 1812. By 1819 there were only a handful of people in a few crude buildings. Only in the late 1820's were there even 400 people and then only 1/4 of the dwellings were wood or brick, the rest were log cabins. As for the train ride to Fort Smith from Little Rock, the first railroad was not built in Arkansas until the 1860's and it was from Little Rock to Memphis. Fort Smith was founded as an army post from 1817-1824 and could not have been the thriving city in 1822 with a sheriff, hotels, etc. as described. Being an Arkansas resident and realizing how implausible the first part of the book was has made me question the accuracy of everything else. Enjoy the story, but don't expect it to be anywhere close to historically accurate. It took me all of 5 minutes to find these facts, surely the author could have done the same. Hillhopper

This was a very good historical book. Jori had a very privileged life and that soon changed. It wasn't to her liking at first but she got use to it. Her first impression of Chad Rocklin was kind of a hard one. But after she got to know him things changed. This book had many different characters besides Jori and Chad. Jori Aunt Kate was quite the gal. She kept the family going with her knowledge of ruffing it. Her belief in God was a help as well. Leland Jori father tried to do the best he could for his family. That was by buying and taking goods to Santa Fe. Though he and his family didn't know about that type of thing. They had some good teachers as far Chad and the mule skinnners on their wagon train. Chad had started out in life with a rough start. But after meeting Jori and family that all changed. Even before Jori got to know him real well he saved a girl named Callie Fortier from harm. He had a soft spot for those kind of down and out people. Callie even found love on the trail byway of meeting a man who was a doctor by trade. But was hiding the fact that he was one. Jori aunt Kate also found love as well through bible believing muleskinner. Jori brother Mark felt he was to privileged and not fit to go on the wagon trek. But through alot of hard knocks on the trip he learned alot and learned to like it. Mark and Jori yougest sister Carleen was a ray of sunshine on the wagon trek. She was very curious and asked lots of questions. Her sense of adventure got her into trouble she and Jori were taken by indians. Chad Rocklin and Mark had to go after them. Chad found out

how much he loved Jori when she was taken by the indians he almost lost his life. But through prayer and Paul Molitor doctoring he got better. The story ended well. Now onto the next ones in the series.

I really enjoyed this book. The Santa Fe woman was a spoiled brat. Her father lost all his money and property except for \$10,000 and suddenly she had to be poor like the rest of us. So the father used his leftover money and purchased wagons, mules and supplies to transport merchandise to be sold for a big profit in Santa Fe, New Mexico. They hired Chad a recent jailbird to be their trail boss and he did an excellent job. Of course he and the Santa Fe woman fell in love and all ended well. Read this book, you will love it.

Jori Hayden's family has lived a comfortable lifestyle. She herself is pretty much a Daddy's girl, getting everything she's wanted. But then due to an economic depression, her father loses all his money forcing the family to have to move out west. To find their way on the Santa Fe Trail, the family must have a guide. Jori finds one in Chad Rocklin, a prisoner she bails out of jail. The two clash over everything but the Haydens must listen to him if they want to survive in the harsh conditions of the road West. As much as I enjoyed this book, why do I feel déjà vu when reading it? Is it because I've read this plot in several of Gilbert Morris's other books? I guess after over 200 books things start to blend together. I am 100% certain there have been characters named either Praise God or Revelation that go around asking people if they are believers in Jesus in other Morris books. And I know that the story about the guy who can't read, the woman teaches him, they end up getting married was used in book 6 of the House of Winslow series. I guess to a new reader of Morris this is not a big deal. I did enjoy this book very much, as I have his others. Once again there is a lot of historical fact researched for the story. I do enjoy learning while reading and since I enjoy American history, Morris' books are usually spot on about facts. I like mixing real events and people with fictional characters to show what could have happened, and it also gives a new way to look at history. I just felt the characters in this book were rather one dimensional and predictable. If you want a historical western story, this is a good book. However I would recommend Morris' Cheney Duvall series or the Appomattox Saga if you haven't read any of his books before.

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