



Silk

Linda Lee Chaikin

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Two worlds clash as a young English heiress and an orphaned boy, an "untouchable," become inextricably entwined,

Coral Kendall is an heiress to the Kingscote Silk Plantation in northern India in the last decade of the 1700s. Breaching cultural boundaries and shunning the scorn of her wealthy English family, she adopts a young orphaned boy, an "Untouchable" from the bottom of the Hindu class system, and brings him into her home. Despite their contrasting cultures and backgrounds, the bond of love that develops between Coral and Gem is that of a mother and son. But tragedy strikes when the boy is abducted and the body later found in the river.

Was there a reason to believe that Gem did not perish? Was the boy's true identity what she had been led to believe? How could she discover the truth?

One man may hold the key to her son. Can she discover the truth and win the struggle for the seagoing trader's heart?

A fascinating new historical series from the time of William Carey.

Silk Details

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Author : Linda Lee Chaikin

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Anna says

At first this book was very interesting then when you got to the middle it satrted slowing down a bit but it picked back up again by the end. Really moving story about Coral and Gem and her desire to find him if he is still alive. I like looking at everything from Jace's perspective what he went through growing up and his life. Really excited to read the next one!

Sarah says

The India silk plantation of Kingscote has always been Coral's home. Her father owns Kingscote and Coral is a silk heiress. But she's no ordinary silk heiress concerned only with dresses and finding a husband with wealth enough to match her own. When Coral selflessly promises to raise her dying friend's baby boy, she places herself in the middle of a complex and far-reaching web of secrets. That some will stop at nothing to hide. When the Gem, the boy that Coral has come to see as her son, is kidnapped Coral will stop at nothing to get him back.

Jace Buckley is captain of the ship Madras, British cavalry officer on occasion and keeper of a past hidden identity. And his opinion of Coral is that she's a spoiled silk heiress. But Jace is Coral's last hope in finding Gem.

The lives of a silk heiress and rogue sea captain are about to be changed forever by one small boy and a love that surpasses all others.

Silk by Linda Lee Chaikin is the first in a trilogy called Heart of India. And let me tell you that each book is just as good as the next! Silk is the foundation of the story, characters, plot, setting and all that. It's very well done and exciting while preparing you for the second and third books. I have found that Chaikin's older books are much better than her newer ones. They have more plot and substance. And the plot for this book was pretty different and interesting. The setting of India I found fascinating. It was almost like you were there, Chaikin did such a good job. You could almost smell the spices in the air and hear the roar on the Bengal tigers.

So before I get to the plot and characters, I have to somehow explain the writing. It was so good and absolutely enchanting! Chaikin has a different way of writing, or maybe it was just because these are older books. But there's just something special about the way all three of the books are written. There's an intensity in the writing that pushes you to keep reading and find out what happens next. Not that the book is tense or full of constant action. It was exciting yes, but there was an overall drive behind the writing that seemed to breathe intensity into the books. It was amazing. I've never encountered that before in an authors writing and it was really cool.

The characters were awesome! So interesting and each truly had their own personality. Coral was pretty cool. She got annoying when she refused to see anything bad in her uncle. I really hated that one aspect. Jace was great. Cool, calm, and collected. The perfect gentleman but also with a darker side. And I loved his constant hatred of tea even though he planned to make his fortune off of it. The secondary characters were really great, not-cookie cutter characters at all. They really brought life to the book.

The plot, as I mentioned before, was really unique and pulls you in. I do wish Gem had been apart of the

book a bit more in the first part. Then I would have felt more sympathy for Coral as she searched for him. Ah and the setting! British India and political upheaval. Very interesting but you have to pay attention to get what's going on. And the jungles of India are thrown in a bit too.

All the action and yes romance takes place in exotic India. A great setting in my opinion.

There's lots of undercurrents in this book and a couple subplots but it never feels overloaded. This is a Christian book and for once a Christian author wrote authentic faith and an appropriate book! Coral's faith is beautiful in the face of devastation. I would have liked it if Jace had shown more conviction when he became a christian. I think it would have sealed the moment better.

Also Jace and Coral's love for each other is sweet. You know they are perfect for each other but sometimes wonder if they will ever figure that out!

I would recommend this book and the others to anyone who likes adventure, romance, faith, and reading about exotic locations. But you will want the second and third books, Under Eastern Stars and Kingscote on hand after you finish Silk!

P.S.

Ignore the ridiculous covers!!!

Olivia says

This is a FANTASTIC trilogy that deserves to be better known. (My favorite of the books is the second, "Under Eastern Stars".)

One of the best things about this series is that the characters' personal relationships with Jesus was strongly emphasized (was reminded of this by someone else's review). Having read a lot of historical Christian fiction, I've been disappointed several times with the fact that authors market their stories as Christian, but instead focus almost solely on a love story that, in many cases, is mushy, over-written, and unnecessarily descriptive. The "Christian" element is limited to a quick prayer to God at the climax of the conflict, the prayer being answered, and the main character thanking God. And that's it. Great, but it would be nice to see a little more commitment to faith in Christian fiction. Again, this is just in most cases of my experience, not all.

In contrast, relationship with/need for Christ take most of the precedence in the Heart of India trilogy (Silk is #1 of the books).

So, all in all, this is a great book which I highly recommend:D (Also, I totally love Jace Buckley. He is epic XD <3)

Dawn Scott says

I liked the setting on a silk plantation. This book is part romance, part period book but doesn't have the usual romance book ending.

Karen says

I like books that inform me historically about a culture. This is one. The book is based on the cast system in India. The unbreakable system is being broken by a hard headed young woman from one of the controlling families of the time. Just when you are thinking, "where can the book go from here", it has another interesting turn. When you approach the last few chapters of the book you are very aware this book must be read as a series because none of the problems have even been remotely solved. So, I am on to the second book of the series. I think if you tried to read book two as a stand alone you would be lost.

Debbie says

"Silk" is a Christian historical novel set in 1793 to 1799 in northeast India and in London, England. This book is the first in a trilogy, but I didn't realize that when I picked it out. I kept waiting for the pace to pick up so that something would get resolved before the end, but it didn't. Very little was resolved, and it ended like the end of a chapter instead of the book. (The next book does, indeed, pick up exactly where this one left off.)

Though the back cover book description indicates that the "sea captain" will be Coral's love interest, it doesn't happen in this book. He isn't even a suitable match for her at this point. Two other men seem like wonderful men and share her interests, and I would have preferred she end up with one of them. But I suppose things will change in the next two novels.

I didn't like that we're never given a reason why a certain main character put himself in danger after saying common sense and sickness would prevent him, he was commanded not to, and there was no need for him to.

All that said, this is a very interesting time period. The British were slowly taking over parts of India and missionaries were starting to reach out to the Indians. Coral is linked by birth to British trade interests in India yet linked by her heart to telling the Untouchables about Christ despite the danger of doing so. For the most part, the historical everyday, cultural, and political details were woven into the story rather than being lectures, and there were plenty of political intrigues going on that pushed the story forward.

The Christian element was a strong part of the story, but I felt it was worked naturally into the flow of the story. There was no bad language or sex. Despite what I felt were flaws in the writing, I did enjoy the main characters and the dilemmas they faced and so I'd recommend this novel to those who enjoy historicals and are interested in this time period.

Rebekah Morris says

Having read two books by this author and liking one and not liking the other, I started this book unsure. But it was recommended by a few people, so I tried it.

I ended up enjoying it even though it wasn't a time period I normally read about. A few times I was expecting a telegram to appear in the story, but then I reminded myself of the year.

The characters were living, and I felt like I wanted to step into the story and help them a few times. Coral's

courage made me love her, and Jace, well, I felt for him.

Most of the book was set in India, the India of the East India Company (Ugh!), William Carry's India, but there was some time spent in England where John Newton made an appearance.

The Christianity was good and, though it wasn't as strong in some places, it was there, and it wasn't mixed. I enjoyed how John and Charles Westley were influential in the story through their teaching and hymns.

My biggest complaint is that the story does not wrap up at the end of Book 1. Instead of tying loose ends together, the author introduces some new twists that left me running to the library.

Jes Drew says

This book was very exotic and historically detailed- it was like I was in India, under the East India Company. I loved Jace, and look forward to seeing more of him and the heroine together. It would have been a four star book for me, except I had a hard time getting through some of the darkness in the story. I know death and loss are a part of life, but it just seemed unnecessary. Which is realistic. But too realistic for me- I have a hard time with deaths of those kinds of characters. Other than that, it was an enthralling read with a beautiful cover.

Tanya says

Loved the last obvious suspense of a romantic story born and sustained through all the usual break-ups. Great historic setting from England to India, not forgetting Spain. Great christian and spirituality setting too, atleast it makes you relate.

Morgan Cleere says

This is a book full of both internal and external conflict. Their is betrayal, adventure, romance, peril... I really enjoyed it. Although I first read it in Middle School, it is a book that I enjoy reading over again and again.

Raechel says

This was my second time reading this lovely book though it has been a couple years. Still, I adored it this time around just as much as the first. I may be a little biased in my utter love for it so I cannot give a proper review. XD

I am head-over-heels in love with Jace Buckley...I think he at the top of my fiction-crushes list for sure. :)

This book is delightful, exciting, sweet, and strong in its faith values.

Paige Cuthbertson says

I wish Goodreads allowed you to rate with half stars. I would give this book probably more of a 3 and a half rather than a 4 star rating.

What I didn't like about this book:

1. There were a couple weird things: A woman performs a baptism at the beginning of the book; and really?? Jace and Coral couldn't recognize each other at all after 5 years? Really??
2. The story lagged a little bit. Sometimes I wondered, "where is this going?"
3. Too much unnecessary detail. I don't need to know what Jace or Coral were wearing every time they come back on the scene. I don't care!

What I liked:

1. She made India come to life.
2. Coral was a perfect Christian girl, the kind I usually hate in CF; but she was strong, spunky, and determined, which really made up for that.
3. Good character development.
4. Unresolved questions that make me look forward to the next book.
5. Accurate representation of trusting God in hard times, and good depiction of God's burden for the lost and the need for foreign missions.
6. Mostly colorful characters, although some of them are a little obvious.

Overall, a good book, and I'm looking forward to book 2!

Anita says

This was a bit of a disappointment. The christian theme was over powering and I felt unrealistic for instance the year is 1793 and the main characters mother baptizes a native in India. I felt that was far fetched for the time period. I kept waiting for a resolution between the love interests, only to find that the book is the first in a series that is more like a soap opera than a seperate book in a series. Bugging! I don't think I'll read the other books in the series, the only reason I finished this one was to see if the two love interests got together, and they didn't by the end of the first book, nor was there any resolution in the plot at all.

Valentina says

AHHHH!!! I just love this trilogy!

It is probably one of my most favorite. I have read it in two languages and own it.

It is about a youngwoman named Coral Kendall that lives in India, with her family on the Kendall plantaion that makes silk. She adopts her friend's baby boy after she [her friend:] dies giving birth, and names the boy Gem. Then one night he is forcefully taken away from her, and killed and thrown into the river. But Coral has her doubts that the dead child was really Gem. The story is an amazing cannot-put-down Trilogy about Coral, her choosing between two opposite handsom men, Gem's mysterious 'death'and his true identity, and an evil Uncle Hugo that wants to take over the Silk factories of the Kendall family.

This series is extreamly interesting, it is a mixture of adventure, mystery, thrills, and romance.

I strongly recommend it to everybody.

Hoover Public Library Adult Fiction says

Silk is book one of the Heart of India Trilogy by Linda Chaikin. The story follows Coral, the daughter of a silk plantation owner and Christian missionaries living in India. After her best friend, an untouchable, dies in childbirth, Coral adopts her friend's son and plans to raise him as her own. When her son is kidnapped, Coral must uncover his true identity if she plans to save him from almost certain death.

This is one of those books that I have read every year for the last 10 years. That is how good it is. And the sequels are even better!
