



The Distant Beacon

Janette Oke

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In a Time of Revolution, Even Hearts Can Be Overturned

In England together at the Harrow estate, Anne and Nicole find themselves facing divergent futures. While Anne comfortably settles into British life, Nicole once again searches the far horizon. Despite the raging War of Independence, she sets sail for the American colonies to manage her uncle's landholdings.

The gallant Captain Goodwind captures Nicole's attention, but not yet her heart. In the midst of revolution, her loyalties and faith are tested beyond what she could have ever imagined. Then she comes face to face with a staggering betrayal, and she is forced to choose her ultimate allegiance.

The Distant Beacon Details

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From Reader Review The Distant Beacon for online ebook

Lisa James says

I swept through this one, rather disappointed. First of all, it's actually a middle book in a series, so I didn't get the references to anything that came before this book. It doesn't lend itself well to being a stand alone book. It's also pretty predictable as a plotline, more like a Harlequin romance than a historical fiction, which is what it sounded like. It also NOWHERE classified itself as Christian fiction, which is exactly what it was. Now, if you are INTO that genre, you'll like the book, but go back & read the series from the beginning or you'll be disappointed. I'm not into that, & found the repeated references to religion tedious & a total turn off.

Other than that, Nicole, the main female character, is a pretty nice lady, if too stupid to tell her man how she felt about him just because he wasn't a religious man at the beginning of the book.

Rachel says

The 4th sequel in the Song of Acadia series, and perhaps my favorite by far! I was blessed enough to find a copy while on vacation, just in time to read the next book I was on in the series! :D Yippee!!

Nicole is now a Vicountess traveling to a new home in the American colonies. But with England and the colonies on the brink of war with one another, all Nicole's hopes and dreams for a settled life and home are dashed to pieces in a moment. With the dashing Gordon Goodwind paying suit, both her heart and her faith will be tested past her own limits, forcing her to lean on Someone Greater. But does the dashing Captain Goodwind share her faith as well as her heart? And when someone who was once dear betrays Nicole, what will she do?

“We mustn't let temporary setbacks in a temporary world cause us to retreat and fail to keep that hope alive.”

“God is not blind. Nor powerless. He has other ways, other means. Though the devil often appears to be the victor, he is not. Only momentarily at seeming advantage. But the tide will turn. God has other ways to accomplish His purposes. He has not been blindsided, of that you can be certain.”

“Take your dreams, your fears, your struggles, and use them for stepping stones to Him, my child. Let every issue of life be a means of bringing you closer to the Shepherd.”

A beautiful tale of faith and courage. My own heart echoed Nicole's struggles, and the faith message is beyond encouraging. Janette Oke and T. Davis Bunn have done it again and woven history, fiction and faith together into a magnificent story.

Terri says

Nicole leaves England to forge her own path and take control of her uncle's holdings in western Massachusetts. She faces a tough sea voyage and then finds Massachusetts split between the British and Americans. Her escort Captain Gordon Goodwin is caught by the British and Nicole must use all her

ingenuity and money to save him and his friends. In the midst of this struggle, Nicole and Gordon's feelings for each other grow, but Nicole fears to marry a man who doesn't share her faith in God. This is another good book by Oke that shows people facing adversity with faith. In addition, this book adds a bit of adventure.

Mummy Cat Claire says

I enjoyed following Nicole on her life adventure. I felt like I could choose for her. Although the ending seemed obvious, it was still a good read.

This book has more romance added to it since Nicole has a love interest.

Jenny Preston says

I'm glad I read this series. Overall, it was engaging with great characters and a moving plot. It was a good entertaining read. Now... it's far, far, far from perfect. Spoiling my complaint because I can't explain it without spoiling:

[spoil]

Just like book #3, this wraps up way too neatly for my tastes. It just wasn't necessary for Louise and Catherine to be blood-relatives. And the discussion they have about their blood connection, IMHO, cheapens the miracle of the rest of their relationship. It's enough that two women of different cultures stepped across the gap to love each other the way they did. It's enough that Anne and Nicole bonded as sisters due to their experiences and faith, without them turning up to be cousins. It just was a silly overstep and I was disappointed. [/spoil]

Even with that complaint, I did really like this book series and do recommend it to anyone who wants a sweet novel that is Christian without being overbearing, has romance without smut, and focuses on real, honest, identifiable women.

Peggy N says

The Distant Beacon is the fourth book in the Song of Acadia series by Janette Oke. I have read all four and have enjoyed the series very much. In The Distant Beacon, Nicole Harrow returns to the American Colonies in a time of war with the British. She comes as a Viscountess of Harrow to claim the lands that her uncle Charles Harrow has given to her. Because Lord Charles Harrow had spoken on behalf of the colonies in Parliament and against the war, the American government had gifted him the land in Massachusetts. He gave the land to Nicole to assist those who were hurt by the war, who were widowed or orphaned. With excitement she and Captain Gordon Goodwin who brought her to America and was her escort and protector, went to locate the lands she had been given. Much to their dismay the war had ravaged the beautiful home her uncle had built and it was left in ruins. The book is a love story between Captain Goodwin and Nicole, but a love unfulfilled because he did not share Nicole's faith in God. He knew God and believed when it was convenient. She felt God would not bless a marriage with one who was not a true believer, so even though she loved Gordon she felt she could not marry him. Saddened that she would not marry him, Gordon and his men sought to join the colonists in the war against the British, as the British had commandeered his ship and pressganged his crew to crew the ship. In his anger he sought to help the colonists and was to assist in getting

supplies by boat to the military lines. Shortly thereafter, Captain Goodwin and some of his men were given over to the British as spies by a traitor in the colonists ranks and Captain Goodwin was to be hanged. The story continues as Nicole who is facing hardships of her own seeks to save Captain Goodwin and his men. I loved the book, but the author stops before I really have had enough of any of her stories. She always leaves you wanting to know a little more. This book is no exception. There are many twist and turns in this story and God is on every page. A very enjoyable read.

Mom says

The saga of the war going on kept this book of the series very interesting. Had the betrayal part figured out before the author wrote about it. Can't imagine traveling in long dresses, in the dust and mud - yuck! The love between the married people is very touching - very strong relationships and love spoken about. Their faith in God and always about what he has planned for them - to listen for that answer instead of going it alone. Enjoying this series.

Donna Bagby says

Slow start- continuing story of Nicole as she travels to Massachusetts. Although she encounters love, she is still unable to let go and open her heart to that love. Nicole encounters many dangers and disappointments, but soon she realizes her need to give up the bitterness which came from her displacement.

Sandy A Devlin says

Great reading

Another book that I just couldn't put down. This story continues where the previous book left off. The authors have a true gift to bring you right into their story. So amazing!

Melissa says

While Anne settles in England, Nicole sets off to oversee her Uncle Charles's property in Massachusetts. Gordon Goodwin acts as her guide as she first visits her parents, then traverses towards Massachusetts. War and devastation lie in her way.

As Nicole travels, she wonders if she will ever truly find a home, and if she will ever find the right man's love.

Messages of courageous faith, forgiveness, and love are woven into this book. I won't give away the exciting twists and turns, but I will say that I loved this riveting and well-written book!

Nadine Keels says

Thoughts on the entire series.

With these novels, I joined the ranks of readers who know what it is to be in the midst of a series, waiting, even with bated breath, for the next book in the series to be published.

I appreciate the style and language that Bunn clearly brought into this co-written historical fiction saga with Oke. I remember being totally engrossed and on edge during a certain crucial stretch in *The Meeting Place* and was floored by the unembellished end to that nerve-racking rush: "And then it began to rain." I grew attached to the characters over the course of the series, though I'll admit I got a bit weary during the fifth novel, as while some of the characters were yet making more grand departures from one another, I lost the sense of what they were actually getting done, apart from moving around the globe.

I might've been missing and/or forgetting things, though, weary in general after doing so much waiting, and I don't regret a minute I spent with this saga.

Cheryl says

I found this one to be a lot more exciting than the previous books. I really enjoyed the Revolutionary War setting. The main complaint I had about this book was that Gordon Goodwind's conversion just didn't resonate with me. It felt forced, contrived, convenient, and unnecessary. It would have been so much more interesting for Nicole to accept that he had a quieter, more restrained relationship with God, decide to squelch her misgivings, marry him anyways, and then have his faith reinforced and strengthened in a slower, more steady manner in the course of their marriage. I could have also done without Jean DuPruis' reappearance at the end of the book. It was unnecessary to the story.

Grace says

This was the 3rd in the Acadian series that I've been reading. I really enjoyed the first and the second wasn't as good to me, but the third one was great!

A story of love, hope and strength coming after perseverance.

Olivia says

I love, love, love this one! The story draws me in from the beginning and by the middle I feel breathless, hastening to read the next page to see what happens. This has been my favorite of the whole series every time I've read it, and I still am not swayed from that!

Nicole must find her place in the world. She travels to the colonies to see the land Uncle Charles gave her, but arriving she finds devastation all around her created by the war between America and England. Gordon Goodwin, wishes for her hand, but because he does not believe in God she cannot accept.

At first the story seems typical. Saved young woman cannot marry an unsaved, handsome young man. But it is not cheesy as so many stories go. They did not start a relationship, even though they loved each other.

I very much like Gordon's character. It is wonderful to see how he went from believing God was only for woman or those who were weak, to knowing and understanding his need for God.

The last half is the best! The prison scenes, the run from the law, everything with the army, John Jackson, the spy (I was so confused when I first read this!!) and Nicole's bravery through all of it. And of course Gordon's transformation. Can I say again that I love all the focus on the army? They are so dashing!

I'm so happy I read this again. And I'm so happy that Nicole has finally found where she belongs.

Once again some great quotes:

"With each step that we take with Him, our faith deepens, our steps become more certain. Take your dreams, your fears, your struggles, and use them for stepping stones to Him, my child. Let every issue of life be a means of bringing you closer to the Shepherd."

"Do not speak of unworthiness," She said, "Before God we are unworthy, yet He saw fit to freely give us His grace."

Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says

About this book:

"Anne's sorrow over her husband's death has been eased by the unexpected discovery of his heritage in the Harrow family and by her marriage to a brilliant young theologian. But Nicole is as restless as ever and has decided to return to North America. Should she go to the Acadian family of her childhood in Louisiana's bayous? Or should she settle in Nova Scotia near her birth parents? The American colonies are in revolt against England, and Uncle Charles asks her to go to Massachusetts to oversee his extensive landholdings. The attentions of the ship's captain during the crossing touch a yearning deep within her, but she also realizes all her loyalties are about to be tested. Is she French? Is she English? Is she a supporter of the American cause? Nicole's unique legacy will allow her to play an extraordinary role in the unfolding historic events, but will she be able to find a home for her heart?"

Series: Book #4 in the "Songs of Acadia" series. {Reviews of Book #1 [Here!](#) #2 [Here!](#) and #3 [Here!](#)}

Spiritual Content- Many, many Prayers; Scriptures are quoted; Bible reading; Many, many talks about God, & trusting Him; 'H's are capital when referring to God; Gordon thinks Nicole's faith is too dependent
Spoiler (view spoiler)*End of Spoiler*; Mentions of Church going; Mentions of those in the Bible.

Negative Content- War & guns are shot (up to semi-detailed); Mentions of hangings; Mentions of tobacco.

*BFCG may (Read the review to see) recommend this book by this author. It does not mean I recommend all the books by this author.