



## The River Rose

*Gilbert Morris*

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Life hasn't been easy for Jeanne Bettencourt, a widow approaching thirty and struggling to provide for her eight-year-old daughter. But hope arrives in the form of the *Helena Rose*, a steamboat she unexpectedly inherits from a distant, departed relative. Jeanne's father had captained a similar vessel and taught her how to pilot a steamer along the banks of Memphis. She's looking forward to a renewed livelihood on the mighty Mississippi.

However, as plans are made, news comes of another heir to the *Helena Rose* - a tough man named Clint Hardin - and a clause in the will that says claimants of the estate must live aboard the boat. Jeanne, a Christian woman, makes it clear she won't stay with a man who is not her husband. But both are desperate for work, so they agree to keep their distance as Clint occupies the lower deck and Jeanne takes the captain's quarters.

As they restore the *Helena Rose*, the slowly softening Clint becomes attracted to Jeanne - who is now being courted by a wealthy plantation owner. With her family and future at stake, the desires of Jeanne's heart are duly complex. Only her simple faith can navigate her through what's about to happen.

## **The River Rose Details**

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Author : Gilbert Morris

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# From Reader Review The River Rose for online ebook

## Renee says

It seems like it's been years since I've read a book by veteran romance writer Gilbert Morris and I'm so happy that I had the opportunity to read *The River Rose* and reignite my love affair with southern historical fiction. Judging by this story I've been missing out on some first-class storytelling from Mr. Morris. I won't say that this is my favorite book, in my mind no series will ever compare to Morris' Cheney Duvall books, but I enjoyed it.

*The River Rose*, book two in the *Water Wheel* series, is the story of poor, young widow Jeanne Bettencourt, her daughter Marvel and what happens when they suddenly inherit half ownership of a steamboat. Clint Hardin, a noted lady's man and pugilist just so happens to learn that he's the owner of the other half of the steamboat but also learns that most likely he's just come upon a boatload of trouble in the form of one determined female. What ensues is an interesting take on the life of a steamboat pilot (yep, you guessed it Jeanne is the captain!) as well as the development of a bittersweet romance.

So this brings me to the point of telling you all what I liked and didn't really like so much. Since I gave this a 3 out of 5 stars (according to Goodreads that means "I liked it") there is obviously more things that I enjoyed in this book than things that didn't necessarily float my boat (no pun intended). Since I like to end things on a high note I'll point out the not so great stuff first. The major beef that I had with this book was George Masters. No he wasn't a bad person, as a matter of fact he seemed like a swell guy most of the time but the thing is, where did he go? About 3/4 of the way through he disappeared! I know he stayed away from town due to the yellow fever epidemic but since he was such an important part of Jeanne's life and the beginning of the story I at least hoped he'd continue to be in her life as a friend and not something like a far off benefactor or what have you. That's really the only issue that I had with the story but since it really bugged me I had to mention it.

Now for the nice bits... first things first I love that this story is set in the south and it's about riverboats. Don't get me wrong, I love me some cowboys but I could use a change of scenery every once in a while and this book delivers it. I loved Jeanne as a riverboat captain. Even though she came off as a bit harsh by the end of the book I liked her. I guess it's nice to read a heroine who isn't puppies and rainbows all the time. Finally I really liked Clint which is hard to believe. When I do read a book by Morris I tend to compare all the heroes to Shiloh Irons (swoon) from the Cheney Duvall series and they usually fall flat but Clint definitely held his own. Really though who doesn't love a rogue?

All in all in spite of not having read book 1, *The River Queen* this book was very easy to follow and I'm not sure it was in any way related to *The River Queen* other than being set on the river. It's solid story that I wouldn't hesitate to recommend to Gilbert Morris fans or fans of riverboats. I'll be looking for book 3, *The River Palace* soon.

\*I received a complimentary copy of this book for review from B&H Publishing Group. 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.\*

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## **Sid Frost says**

This story begins in Memphis, December 18, 1854. It is about what happens when Jeanne Bettencourt and Clint Hardin each inherit half the riverboat Helena Rose.

Jeanne, a widow with a six-year old daughter, Marvel, was working as a chambermaid in a hotel, and just barely making enough money to get by. Her parents died in a tornado that destroyed their steamboat before Marvel was born and her soldier husband was assumed dead.

Clint was a machinist, singer, and boxer. He had seen Jeanne and Marvel when he sang for a town Christmas festival, but was surprised to see her again in the lawyer's office when they learned a distant relative of theirs had died and left them the cargo steamboat.

With Jeanne's experience as a pilot on her parent's boat and Clint's experience as a machinist, they go into business together delivering mail and carrying cargo. The business becomes successful quickly, partly because of help from a gentleman friend of Jeanne's, George Masters, a frequent guest at the hotel. The rest of the crew consists of Ezra who had worked on the boat for the previous owner, Vince, a friend of Clint's and Roberty, an orphan boy Jeanne rescued from a beating. A stipulation of the will was that they had to also take the dog, Leo, which they all loved.

There were many complications in the story which made reading even more interesting. At one point, when I thought the story had reached a satisfactory ending, another major problem popped up. It was difficult to put the book down because I wanted to find out what would happen next.

This is a Christian novel and there are references to God, the Bible, and Christian life. I appreciated the way this was handled and I liked that one of the main characters was further along in spiritual development than the other. This allowed the reader to observe the growth and, yes, there were a few tears along the way.

Overall, an excellent read and I highly recommend it.

I received a complimentary copy of this book for review from B&H Publishing Group. 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. The book was then donated to my church library.

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## **Victor Gentile says**

Gilbert Morris in his new book, "The River Rose" Book Two in The Water Wheel series published by B&H Publishing Group takes us into the lives of Jeanne Bettencourt and Clint Hardin.

From the back cover: "I Know you don't like men very much, mama." She didn't actively dislike all men, of course. But she didn't trust them.

Life hasn't been easy for Jeanne Bettencourt, a young widow struggling to provide for her six-year-old daughter. But hope arrives in the form of the Helena Rose, a steamboat she unexpectedly inherits from a distant, departed relative. Jeanne's father had captained a similar vessel and taught her how to pilot a

steamer; this could be her ticket to a renewed livelihood, one of comfort and security, for her and for her daughter.

Unfortunately, there is another heir to the Helena Rose – a tough man named Clint Hardin. Jeanne, a Christian woman, feels that she can't possibly "live" with a man on the boat. But both are desperate for work, so they agree to an uneasy compromise to keep their relationship on a strict business basis.

As they begin their successful partnership on the Mississippi and Arkansas Rivers, the slowly softening Clint becomes attracted to Jeanne – who is now being courted by a wealthy plantation owner. With her family and future at stake, the desires of Jeanne's heart are becoming duly complex. Only faith can steer her through what happens next.

On my to do list is to take a steamboat cruise on the Mississippi. The pacing is slow, there is the sound of the paddlewheel and there is the feeling of romance as you cruise by the cities and states of the South on the Big Muddy. Until that time I'll have to settle for reading about it and Gilbert Morris has done it again this time putting us on a steamboat on both the Mississippi and Arkansas Rivers. What more can we ask for? "The River Rose" gives us much, much more. It is a book of romance as Jeanne meets Clint and they fall in love. It is an adventure novel as the duo try to make the steamboat work to make a living and a future for themselves. Gilbert Morris is an expert at bringing historical events to life while weaving in the fictional aspects of the story in a seamless flowing pattern. He makes you care for all the people involved and takes you along for the journey. This is also just plain fun and exciting as well.

If, like me, you have read everything ever written by Gilbert Morris then you are going to love this book. If this is your first reading of anything by Gilbert Morris you are going to love this book. "The River Rose" is a very fulfilling read and I look forward to the next book in the series.

If you missed the interview for "Honor In The Dust", a different series from Gilbert Morris, and would like to listen to it and/or 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)

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## **steph says**

I feel *awful* for giving a book such a low grade (I don't think I've done that before) but to be honest, that is how I felt when I finished this story. I really, really tried to read and enjoy this book, I truly did, but at the end of the day, I just did not like it.

Let's start off with the **good parts**:

-The premise. I initially liked twenty five year old Jeanne. I liked that she worked as a chamber maid and she

supported her six year old daughter by herself. And yes, they lived in a shanty town and they didn't have much in the way of money or food or clothes but she loved her daughter and was, as everyone could clearly see, a respectable widow and good mother and I liked her for that. I liked that both she and Clint jointly inherited the riverboat from a cousin four times removed, I liked that Jeanne was the Captain and was able to pilot it from her childhood on her parents riverboat. It was a interesting and unusual premise.

-The little girl, Marvel. Sometimes authors have a hard time writing children. They write them too old sounding or too young or they stick them in the background and only bring them out when they remember. Not the case on this one. In fact, Marvel was the only character I constantly enjoyed throughout this whole novel and part of the reason I continued reading into the end. Even though I ended up regretting it.

-The background characters: Vince, Ezra, Roberty. They all breathed life into their characters and as a result, breathed life into the main characters which, was dearly needed. .

### **Now the bad:**

-Clint Hardin, the main male lead. I did not get this man. At all. And I read through his scenes quite a few times. Apparently, he had "lots" of female friends (that we never saw) and was a real ladies man (again, that we never saw) yet never bragged about his conquests (though apparently everyone in the book minus the heroine knew) and yet, somehow, was redeemed by Christ during this book (again, that we never really saw) and was determined to turn his life around and be a better person for Jeanne and her daughter. I have to admit though, I struggled to picture this character, he was too all over the place and it was hard to pin down his motives and reasons and by halfway through, I had given up on him. Which brings me to my next point...

-Jeanne. I swear, this woman was the definition of hot and cold. One minute she's yelling at people for no reason, the next she's apologizing to them. She was constantly changing her mind, changing her thoughts, changing her wants and desires to the point that it was hard for me, the reader, to identify with her. She spends 70% of this book being courted by a wealthy man and then suddenly changed her mind one night and decides she loves Clint and goes and tells him so (Not even exaggerating on that one. She literally changes her mind in one evening and then goes and tells Clint). It's just really hard to like a character, to root for a couple, when you can't even understand their motives, when you can't understand what makes them tick. The main characters were too flat for me. I tried, I really tried but I could not figure them out. Which severely hampered my enjoyment of this novel.

-There's a plot twist about 75% of the way through that I thought was unnecessary and just added drama where there didn't need to be (view spoiler). It just didn't fit the earlier part of the story. At all. In my opinion, it should have ended 150 pages sooner. The last bit was hard(er) then usually to get through then the first half.

In conclusion I suppose if you are a fan of Christian fiction or a fan of this particular author or if you want a story about a woman piloting a river boat, feel free to pick it up. Other then that, don't bother. It's not worth your time.

\*ARC PROVIDED BY NETGALLEY

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**Lydia (Overweight Bookshelf) says**

Full post and GIVEAWAY here: <http://www.overweightbookshelf.com/20...>

As I have mentioned before, I have a special place in my heart for Gilbert Morris' books. Reading his books envelops me with a sense of comfort in the familiarity of his distinctive writing voice and style. His books usually release as part of a series and, for me, they have the "Lays Potato Chip" Effect on me: bet you can't read just one. Gilbert's ability to breathe life in to history through fiction was the beginning to my fascination with history, which would become my major in university and now one of the subjects that I teach. It is very true that everything you read becomes a part of you!

I adored The River Rose's unique and rich setting of a river boat-it is a niche topic that I was happy to explore through the lives of Jeanne, Marvel and Clint. Jeanne and Clint are unlikely partners but their personal journey and their relationship will pull on your heartstrings and keep you turning the pages. I loved that Jeanne wasn't cast as simpering or damsel in distress; instead she defies the odds with strength and courage to ensure a future for her family. Clint is a hero in need of reforming that is a complex character once you scratch beneath his self assured veneer. The plot continued to develop start to finish with a few unexpected twists and turns that added excitement to this river adventure. There are a few pivotal developments that occur off-page that I wish had been shown first hand to the reader, but otherwise the pacing was consistent.

Rating: 7.5/10

I received a complimentary copy of this book for review from B&H Publishing Group. 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.

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## **Charity says**

Wow! If there was one name in Christian fiction that most people have heard of, I think it would have to be this author here.

Gilbert Morris has been one of my heroes and I first got started reading Christian fiction with his Winslow series, and boy it took me a while to finish:) Would you know it? I started reading one of his books and found out it was part of a series. By the time a person is done reading the whole Winslow series, you will have gotten a whole history lesson from the beginning of America. You may think I am kidding but I am dead serious.

So, when I heard about a new series he had started, I knew I had to get them. I was very excited to actually be part of his blog tour for The River Rose. This is part of the Water Wheel series but they are pretty much stand-alone novels. The only thing that links them is the paddle wheeler aspect. The River Rose is the second one and after finishing it I have high hopes for the third installment in the series.

The plot of this book was very intriguing. A widow with a little girl, a boxer who has an amazing singing voice, and a wealthy plantation owner all mix for a delightful cast of characters. What happens when the widow and the boxer have to work together after they inherit a paddle wheeler? A lot of fun, tough times, and some romance thrown in! Jeanne was my favorite out of them all. She is so proud and stubborn at first but slowly changes throughout the book. Marvel is her cute little six year old who is ill. She is such a sweetheart though! So many times I just wanted to hug her! I kind of went back and forth on Clint. He is quite the gentleman but at times it didn't mix with his seeing other women, etc.

One of my favorite parts is when Marvel is so sick and Clint sings to her, Ave Maria;) I don't want it to be a

spoiler but that part will about make you cry. This book runs you through the gamut of emotions including sadness, a victory dance, and joy. And Morris takes you through twists and turns as well. You think everything is wrapped up nicely and someone shows up who throws a big wrench in the plans.

Overall an excellent book with a 5 star that showcases the writing skill of author Gilbert Morris. There is a lot of history included in this book like many of his previous ones. I found the history of the paddle wheeler on the Mississippi river quite interesting. This book just makes me wish for the simpler life but also makes me glad I don't have to live without the simple amenities. Can't wait for the next book in this series!

This is an author that you will really want to stay up with. Whether you catch him on his blog, Facebook or Twitter, you won't want to miss his updates. While you are at it, check out the next series he is working on set in the Oklahoma territory. It is called Western Justice and features western lawmen. Already have the first one on my wish list!

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### **Charlene says**

Honestly, I kind of wish they made George the hero...

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### **Robyn says**

I should say upfront I don't indulge in a lot of inspirational historical romances. Because the ones I have read are cheesy. And was nervous this book would be cheesy. And then I wouldn't know what to write about.

However, after asking around to (what I assume is) the target audience of this genre I learned there are many people who enjoy not only the subject matter but this author in particular. So I opted to press on. Maybe they were on to something.

We meet Jeanne in Memphis, at the turn of the 20th century. Over the past few years she's had a rough go of things but a surprise inheritance—of half a steamboat—is about to change her life...in more ways than you expect!

That's my blurb, just so you know. The book blurb goes on for a few more sentences (like 17) and tells you most of the plot. This makes the first 100 pages a bit redundant but once you actually get on the steamboat the story picks up.

Because the steamboat actually is the main setting, not Memphis. For me this is where the storyline became interesting as I've rarely read about steamboats and never considered how trading and export actually happened along the rivers before trains and planes and automobiles.

And guess what? It was a grand adventure! And it wasn't too cheesy! And after swearing to my husband this book would NOT cause me to cry I found myself not only getting teary, but laughing out loud at a couple



surprising plot twists.

Although predictable in some aspects (it is a romance) there were really enough logical surprises to hold my interest. I'm glad I read this book.

Disclaimer: I received a complimentary copy of this book for review from B&H Publishing Group. I was not required to write a positive review and the opinions are my own.

Original post: <http://www.arbynblog.com/2012/07/rive...>

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### **Nona King says**

While I was intrigued by the back cover description, above, I'm afraid this particular novel did not hold my interest through to the end. By page 142 of this 392 page book I still did not feel emotionally invested in the characters and stopped reading.

There was a lot of descriptive detail, but this served more as a distraction than a definition of setting, especially since I did not feel it was presented with the unique flavor of the characters. Character definition only caused irritation rather than empathy with their plight.

The main character, Jeanne Bettencourt, acted out of character from her initial presentation during interactions with the love interests, Clint Hardin and George Masters. Also, emotions and interactions were presented with 80-90% telling rather than showing. This may have contributed to my lack of emotional engagement with the situations and characters presented.

I feel horrible writing up this negative review. After all, what if these words were being said about one of my books? About my characters? But I must be honest, not only with myself but with my readers. I might, in the future, pick up the book again and try to finish - to give the characters and the story a chance to redeem themselves. Unfortunately, at the moment I simply cannot imagine reading an additional 200 pages of a story that comes across as an article or historical telling rather than a piece of fiction that draws me in.

Overall Rating: 1.5 stars out of 5. I did not hate the book, but I could not make it halfway before moving to my next project.

Would I read it again? No

Would I recommend it to others? No

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### **Ariel Uppstrom says**

It started off kind of interesting and historically accurate. About halfway through, it got a little too preachy for me, but I kept going. By the end courtroom scene, it had become ridiculous and trite. The courtroom scene showed how little the author had actually put into researching because it was very "TV" style and the way the prosecution just threw in the towel was absurd.

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## **Danica Page (One Page at a Time) says**

My Rating: 4 out of 5 stars.

Disclaimers: I received a temporary electronic of this book from the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for my honest opinion.

My Overall Thoughts/Impressions: I did not expect this book to be as good as it was. From the second I started reading, the characters and the writing style swept me away.

The world that Morris created was one that I found fascinating. Jeanne has not been dealt an easy hand in life. She's a widow struggling to make ends meet while trying to provide for her eight year old daughter, and yet she is incredible. I loved learning about her. Like many of my favorite characters, I wanted to hit her upside the head a few times. But I thoroughly enjoyed watching her progression.

And then there was Clint Hardin. Clint was roguish enough for me to absolutely adore him, but refined enough that I didn't feel bad about liking him. He was so kind to Jeanne and her daughter and I loved him from the moment I met him.

Morris' world was full of intrigue, suspense, and romance on the backdrop of the Mississippi. I found myself thoroughly entranced by the tale and recommend this to all fans of historical romance with spunky characters.

In Summary: Brilliantly written and full of lovable characters set against a backdrop that lends to an incredible tale of romance, suspense, and intrigue. I definitely recommend this one. I for one will definitely be checking out Morris' other novels.

The Wrap-up: This book managed to be heart-warming, heart-breaking, hilarious, and poignant all at once. Any book that causes me to feel that wide range of emotions automatically makes its way onto my favorites list. Definitely recommend this book if you are looking for a touching romance with spunky characters who will have you rooting for them from the very beginning. In short, this was a great read that I recommend.

Love,

Danica Page

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## **Laura says**

Mature reading audience.

1851, Memphis, TN. After being widowed, Jeanne Bettencourt struggled to make ends meet for her and her six-year-old daughter, Marvel, as a chambermaid at the Gayoso House Hotel. Jeanne was always leery and alert when working in the rooms of the men staying at the hotel. Even her daughter was aware that “she didn’t like men very much.” The real issue is that she didn’t trust them.

Her life was about to change for the better when a distant, unknown Hardin relative passed away and she became a half-heir to his estate—a paddle wheeler steamboat. She grew up on one, so she was elated. However, the other half-heir was Clint Hardin, a tough man who had his way with women. Being a Christian woman, Jeanne was uncomfortable “living” on the boat with him, but both needed money, so they made a business arrangement where she would pilot the boat and he would keep up the mechanical end. Though courting wealthy plantation owner, Mr. George Masters, Jeanne began her new life as a steamer pilot. Masters wasn’t happy with the arrangement, but she needed income.

The River Rose, by Gilbert Morris, was an entertaining and great historical book! I found that the descriptive events of the daily trappings of the river, the gathering of supplies, the procuring of new customers and cargo, the bantering from the male pilots, the noise and filth of the docks, and the keeping of the logs during the eight-day trips made for an interesting read. I loved the bantering of being nicknamed the ‘petticoat’ pilot. The author fires up the ante with Clint falling for Jeanne and an unexpected shock waiting for Jeanne at the end of their fourth run.

Though I did not care for Clint’s lifestyle before working on the steamer, he endeared himself to me as he was so gentle and caring for Marvel. He thoroughly loved the little girl. All the other characters who worked the steamer each had their own little quirks, but I really enjoyed Ezra Givens. He seemed gruff and crusty hard, but he was really a softy on the inside. He’d been working the steamer with the previous owner, and remained as part of the ‘inheritance.’

Jeanne’s thankfulness to God for the small things in life as a chambermaid, and the circumstances that followed her after receiving the steamer, were a light to those around her, and was instrumental for steering her through her daughter’s illness and the shocking news and trial upon returning from her river trip. Her care for Roberty came from a heart willing to help this homeless child.

Having read other books by Mr. Morris, I knew I’d find an excellent read with detailed descriptions of every episode. He accomplished it once again. You will be amazed at how his writing will stay with you, as he has a way of gleaning and sharing historical information that sticks with you.

There was one thing that somewhat frustrated me. The title of the boat on the cover didn’t match the name on the boat in the book. I kept waiting for it to be renamed. Not sure if that was intentional or an oversight. Though Jeanne had been raised on a steamer, I found it hard to imagine a single woman working on a steamer with all men, except for her daughter, in that time era.

The River Rose is Book 2 in a three-book series. However, The River Rose is a stand-alone novel with zero overlap in characters or plot lines between the books. They are a series in the sense that all three books take place on Mississippi River paddle wheelers during the 1850s.

I received a complimentary copy of this book for review from B&H Publishing Group. 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.

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## **Valerie says**

I really liked this Romance. It was written with just enough Christian theory without hitting the reader over the head. I also liked the final conflict which helped Jeanne realize the true nature of her feelings for Clint.

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## **Margaret Chind says**

I was so excited about this book and this series, but I guess I am more a fan of the Winslow Breed series (haven't read Chaney Duvall yet but I plan to). Set in Memphis which is very nearly what we are now calling home was pretty neat for me in the historical setting. I'm not sure what it was but I just did not find a single character that I was really rooting for. They all were just off setting to me and that is for the ones that did not just disappear ...

In general I will always give a Gibert Morris novel a try, but I think I will skip the rest of this series.

\*Thanks to B&H for providing a copy for review through Blogging Bistro.\*

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<http://creativemadnessmama.com/blog/2...>

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## **Rose Marie Ray says**

This was another excellent book in the Riverboat series. Telling of adventure and intrigue on the river and how two people inheriting a river boat wind up being a family. This is a great series to read.

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