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Hope's Reward: From Best Selling Author (The ChristKeepers Book 4)



Synopsis

Book Four in Best Selling Author, Grace Walton's, Inspirational Medieval ChristKeepers series. Magnus is the new Scottish Earl of Windham. It was not a title he wanted, nor one he sought. But he will do his duty and take up the mantle of stewardship over his lands. He's been a rough-hewn blacksmith all his life. Now he must become an aristocrat. A rake and a rogue in his youth, he's had his fill of the lures and snares of females. Hope, the virgin Dowager Countess of Windham, wants nothing more than peace and her widow's jointure. She's secured a place for herself in a cloistered abbey. There she will accomplish her heart's desire- learning to read. And there she will be free from the abuses she suffered from both her husband and his courtiers. She wants nothing to do with men. A scheming steward, a treacherous Mother Superior, an unknown baseborn daughter, stolen riches, and wretched pain and guilt cripple both Magnus and Hope. They each need the other for very different reasons. Magnus wants Hope as a tutor for his newfound daughter. Hope wants her promised dower to pay her way into the convent. Neither likes or trusts the other, though the passion between them is undeniable. Can they face an uncertain future together when they cannot even secure Hope's Reward?

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Customer Reviews

I love this series! However, I've noticed a change in how I feel during and even after reading the books in this series. The last 2 made me feel very uncomfortable. I was so excited to read Magpie & Rafe's story in book 3. It was excruciatingly painful to live through Magpie's torment. Of course I was so excited for their triumph at the end. In my opinion, the tragedy felt understandable because they had been so close and so adventurous for years. We already knew and loved Magpie (and even Rafe). However, Hope's sexual abuse and the perversion from Odin and his men did not feel like a clean read. "Mercy's Heart" and "Faith's Keys" revealed suffering w/o requiring a sexual aspect to that suffering. Also, as inappropriate as Hope's actual abuse was it felt like it had been built up to be something much worse. As a survivor of sexual abuse I was relieved that her abuse had not been as awful as my imagination had built up. I strive to steer clear of sexual abuse stories because of the PTSD that I still experience from it. I don't even watch the news anymore. I just feel like the atmosphere changed from the first 2 books to the last 2 and it makes me worried about reading the fifth book in the series. I hope this review makes sense.

The stories in this series are written about a time in history that was both violent and not always moral. In this story Magnus is the new Scottish Earl of Windham and though he has a sinful past, he has character to lead, is fair and protective of his people. Hope, the Dowager Countess of Windham has had a difficult and abusive life by her late husband, the former Earl of Windham and grand shire to Magnus. There are details of physical abuses, badgering and name calling towards Hope by the late earl and his soldiers that were done to demoralize Hope. These are not explicit sexual scenes, but abuse that might be offensive or unpleasant and are for mature adults.

As always, I enjoy G. Walton's tales of love and faith. I must say, that I rushed through this book too fast and read it in only one sitting. The only disappointments I felt were these: I wished that This book included more of the other characters of the series and that we would have seen a bit more of the "Christkeeper Magnus". I love Mrs Walton's books because of her characters that are shrouded in mystery and intrigue, but maybe next time she will write a book about a not so much jaded, male character. I know Magnus had a hard life but next time for the future, the next male protagonist could be gentle because of his suffering and not so harsh -(for example: because of his sufferings

he realized the sufferings in others). Please excuse my fantasies. This book, in my opinion, had no "inappropriate" scenes; however, the heroine suffered harsh sexual abuse, and if that might make anyone uncomfortable, you should either skim over that part or read those parts (not very large sections) with caution. As always, I cannot wait for another one of Grace Wilton's books to be published! Oh, and Mrs. Walton, please don't forget about the Low Country love books!! I also am waiting with baited breath for the story of Simon the Jew. With as much polite honesty as possible, KMH.

I enjoy reading Grace Walton's books. I love this series with the love and tension between the H and h. I also like the struggle of the non-believer coming to have a relationship with Christ. My favorite book by this author is *The Last Rose Pearl*.

I have read just about everything this author has written, and I am never disappointed. The truth of the Gospel comes through in a compelling and honest way. The book also reminds me that I am blessed to be living in a time and place where I have access to education and am not treated as chattel but as a cherished woman loved and given the freedom to know God's word for my self.

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