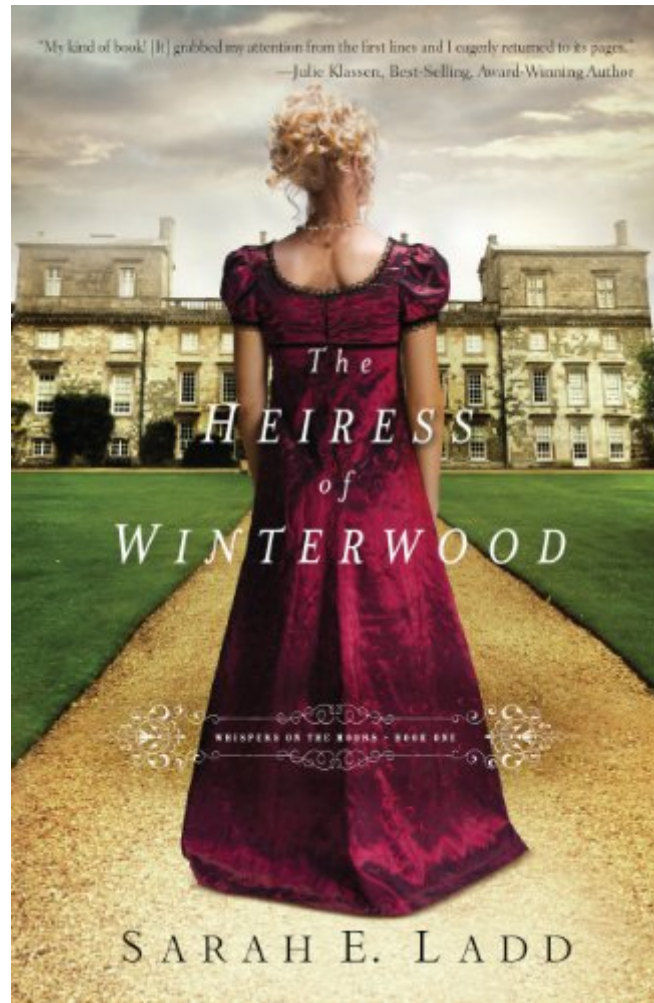


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The Heiress Of Winterwood (Whispers On The Moors Book 1)



Synopsis

Darbury, England, 1814 Amelia Barrett gave her word. Keeping it could cost her everything. Amelia Barrett, heiress to an estate nestled in the English moors, defies family expectations and promises to raise her dying friend's baby. She'll risk everything to keep her word—even to the point of proposing to the child's father—a sea captain she's never met. When the child vanishes with little more than an ominous ransom note hinting at her whereabouts, Amelia and Graham are driven to test the boundaries of their love for this little one. Amelia's detailed plans would normally see her through any trial, but now, desperate and shaken, she's forced to examine her soul and face her one weakness: pride. Graham's strength and self-control have served him well and earned him much respect, but chasing perfection has kept him a prisoner of his own discipline. And away from the family he has sworn to love and protect. Both must learn to have faith and relinquish control so they can embrace the future ahead of them. • My kind of book! [It] grabbed my attention from the first lines and I eagerly returned to its pages. • Julie Klassen, Best-Selling, Award-Winning Author • If you are a fan of Jane Austen and Jane Eyre, you will love Sarah E. Ladd's debut. • USAToday.com

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Customer Reviews

Age Appropriate For: 15 and up for mild violence and thematic elementsBest for Ages: 16 and upJust when you think that authors have exhausted a theme and there is no way that they can write something unique, someone like Sarah Ladd comes along and shakes it up. When I started reading *The Heiress of Winterwood* I thought I would have a cute book that was much like many other marriage of convenience books I had read. Half-way through the book, the book was nothing like what I thought it would be. Instead, I was drawn into a story with well-developed characters, amazing settings, and a plot that took many twists and turns. Amelia was a very strong woman and I love that she is willing to do so much to keep a promise to a friend. One thing that I have realized is that in our culture today, we don't value keeping our promises. Amelia makes the hard decision that she will propose marriage to a stranger rather than go back on that promise. With that said, the one thing I didn't like about the story is I felt she was also willing to break any other commitments she had made in order to keep her promise. I liked Graham as well. I loved how Sarah Ladd lead him through the grief of losing his wife, before any serious romance developed between him and Amelia. Graham was a strong hero with all the gentlemanly qualities that I love when reading a period book. I recommend this book for those who love period dramas, plots that twists and turns, and sweet romance. I received this book from the author in exchange for my honest review. I was under no obligation to write a positive review. The opinions in this review are entirely my own.

I wouldn't call myself a Janeite exactly but I certainly love Austen's novels and often read other Regency set novels. I went on a Georgette Heyer readathon last Summer. I must have read about 10-15 of her books over the course of a few months. When I saw a regency set book listed on Booksneeze to review, I couldn't help but be drawn to that title. *The Heiress of Winterwood* by Sarah Ladd seemed to fit right into that regency genre. It had the feel of a Heyer novel with it's twists to the plot and bit of adventure to go along with the romance. I admit the characters weren't as well developed as Austen or Heyer were able to portray in their novels. I would have liked to know some of those characters a bit more. I may have felt more for them when they got into trouble if they weren't such cardboard characters. Thomas Nelson is the publisher of this book so you know it is a Christian novel. The scriptures used throughout were, to me, a nice addition. Amelia turned to the

Psalms a lot in her distress. It made me want to revisit the Psalms again. I wish Graham's character had been a little more filled out. We could have gotten more of a glimpse of what he went through to change from the wild sailor of his youth to the man of character that he is portrayed to be in this book. The book is worth a read. A very engaging plot that will keep you turning the pages (or swiping the screen on your ereader).

Thank you for writing a romance without graphic sex scenes (which are not needed unless you can't write a decent plot).

4.5 stars
The Heiress of Winterwood was a very good read! The story completely blew me away! I believe this is Sarah E. Ladd's debut novel, but I wouldn't have been able to tell that by reading the book. The Heiress of Winterwood starts off with a good prologue, but it was the first chapter that really grabbed my attention. I could tell Amelia was a great woman right away. I loved how protective she was of Lucy and that she was willing to do anything to care and raise her. I also loved her tenacity. Graham was another wonderful character. I loved how real he was about his grief over losing his wife and it was nice to see his character grow. A few times the writing/story seemed a little conflicting, but I did read an ARC copy so it might be different in the finished version. Not a big deal - at least to me. I didn't like when a character heard/felt replies from God - it's a pet peeve of mine. Still, I really enjoyed The Heiress of Winterwood and it held my attention throughout. The book even had a little mystery - which I loved. A very good read that I definitely recommend if you enjoy historical romances. I look forward to reading Sarah E. Ladd's next book.*
I received a complimentary ARC copy of this book for my review. I was not required to give a positive review, only my honest opinion - which I've done. All thoughts and opinions expressed are my own.*

Amelia Barrett is the heiress of the Winterwood estate, but must marry before her twenty-fourth birthday in order to inherit. She is engaged to Edward Littleton, but he has a condition to marriage: she must give up Lucy, the nine-month-old daughter of her best friend, who died shortly after giving birth. But Amelia has a plan... Captain Graham Sterling has just returned to his home of Darbury in England, and has met his baby daughter for the first time, having been at sea fighting the Americans for over a year. He is still mourning the loss of his beloved Katharine when Amelia makes him an unusual offer: to care for Lucy as her own daughter, if he will only marry her to secure her inheritance. However, her current fiancé - not to mention her guardians - won't like this development. I'm not a fan of the 'marry or be disinherited' plot line (was that even legal?), but I

accept the need for an unorthodox way of getting the lead characters where the author needs them. The best stories are the ones that are original, somewhat unpredictable and end up being better than expected. The Heiress of Winterwood certainly fits that description as both Amelia and Graham face obstacles from both their families which turn what could have been a predictable Regency romance into a fast-paced and exciting romantic suspense with some unexpected twists. The Heiress of Winterwood is Sarah Ladd's debut novel and was the recipient of the 2011 Genesis Award (for unpublished Christian fiction manuscripts). An author to watch. Recommended for those who enjoy Jane Austen, Kaye Dacus, Jody Hedlund and Julie Klassen. Thanks to Thomas Nelson and NetGalley for providing a free ebook for review.

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