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"The California gold rush romance collection" (Book Review)

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students because it would lure them to begin to contemplate telling their story as a testimony to others. The reader begins to ponder what characteristic of the Lord illustrates with his or her own life. An evangelism class would benefit from reading this book because it helps the reader think of sharing the gospel through their life story. The question that the reader left pondering after reading this book: How is your life being lived out for the Lord?

Reviewer

Craig Rosenbeck, University of North Texas

Barratt, A., Bell, A., Christner, D., Harris, L. F., Hickey, C., Hillman, P., ... Wright, J. J. (2016). *The California gold rush romance collection*. Uhrichsville, OH: Barbour Books. 444 pp. \$14.99. ISBN 9781634099127

The California Gold Rush Romance Collection gathers nine talented authors each with a unique tale of the time of the California gold rush. In each novella a treasure is found, though it may not be glittering gold.

In *The Price of Love* by Amanda Barratt, a headstrong, talented newspaper journalist, Lorena Quinn, is sent to California to cover the exciting news on the gold fields. Unused to the harsh realities she encounters, Lorena finds herself in need of rescue from her newspaper contact Caleb Maddox while she is searching for both story material and the mother of a baby.

The Best Man in Brookside by Angela Bell tells the story of valet, Donovan Gallagher, who after being falsely accused of theft, leaves England and finds gold in America. Returning to care for his invalid sister, he pursues revenge on the accuser. However, the closer he gets to his goal, the more the facts are revealed that illustrate plainly the apparent misunderstanding of both parties.

The hilarious adventure *Civilizing Clementine*, is Dianne Christner's playfully written story of the roughly masculine daughter of a gold miner, Clementine Cahill. Trying to tame her into a refined lady, her father hires the services of two lady teachers of etiquette. A reporter friend, Samuel Whitburn, is asked to partner in her practice sessions making for a satisfying outcome.

There is a certain unlikelihood of joining these forces, but the adventures in Anne Greene's *The Marriage Broker and the Mortician* lead to just such an unlikely alliance.

Linda Farmer Harris illustrates the prejudices against women in her tale *The Lye Water Bride*. When her branch banker brother falls ill, the daughter of a banker is able to avoid catastrophe with her intuition, quick wit, and accounting capabilities. She finds a questionable assistant/protector in Zeke Keller who comes from the east with a past.

A Sketch of Gold by Cynthia Hickey shows a father trying to protect his daughter from unwanted attention by dressing her as a boy. Rose becomes Rory McIlroy helping mine the claim of her debilitated father. All goes well until a reporter, Jackson Westin, decides their story, punctuated with his sketches, would be perfect to share with his readers.

Pam Hillman presents Shanyn Duvall's search for her cartographer father in *Love is a Puzzle*. Nick Johnston, unhappy with having a woman on his newly assembled mapping team, ends up finding her an asset. Using her father's training, Shanyn locates his wooden puzzle pieces left at various locations, convincing her she will find her father though others insist he is dead.

Touching on a different side of the Goldrush years in *The Golden Cross*, Jennifer Rogers Spinola shows the Asian ideal of community. Wang Ming hires herself as a laborer to pay for her and her uncle's passage from China to California. On board she meets Zheng Bao, a modern-day 'Jonah,' on his way to make his fortune mining. When both her uncle and Bao have exhausted mining, Ming and Bao reconnect at her Asian restaurant.

One ghost town, two people with plans, *Gold Haven Heiress* by Jaime Jo Wright weaves a web of cross-purposes into a perfect conclusion. Jack Taylor wants a community, Thalia Simmons a solitary refuge ... can the two find a reasonable solution to their predicaments?

These stories show the variety of personalities encapsulated in one historical event. Each is entertaining and reflects the skill and craft of its author.

Reviewer

Christine S. Gaskin, Southern Methodist College