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Franz's "A bound heart" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Franz, L. (2019). *A bound heart*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 416 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 97800800726645

Laura Franz's tale begins on the Isle of Kerrera, Scotland. Magnus MacLeish is the local laird. He's married Ilsa, his wealthy, attractive wife, out of duty, but tries to make her happy. Sadly, Ilsa is also barren. Lark Mac Dougal is from a well-respected island family who is now in reduced circumstances. She has known Magnus since early childhood and was even given lessons with him. Lark is now the beekeeper for the castle and manages the "still room," where she prepares herbal remedies among other products for the household.

Then one night, something happens to unhappy and desperate Ilsa. Lark is unjustly charged, though Magnus does his best to defend her. She is sentenced to indentured servitude and "transportation," to colonial Virginia. She questions why God would want her to leave her Grandmother and her only home, but she holds on to her faith. Magnus receives a similar sentence for wearing a kilt in front of the Edinburgh judge, in a display of Scottish nationalism, which was not appreciated by the crown. After making the crossing with Lark he will be sent to work as a factor on a Jamaican sugar plantation.

Many adventures and obstacles befall them which continue to test their faith in God. They see Him working in these various circumstances and experience His faithful protection. This is an exciting and romantic story which will appeal to historical fiction fans. It also includes a short glossary of Scottish dialect words used by the author to make it easier for the reader. I would recommend it for public and other types of libraries that collect similar fiction.

Reviewer

Cynthia Hammell