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Scott's "A distance too grand" (book review)

Jaclyn Lee Parrott
Eastern Washington University

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Book Reviews



Scott, R. (2019). *A distance too grand*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 384 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800736392

A historical romance set in 1871 in Fort Wilverton, AZ along the North Rim of the Grand Canyon National Park, this adventure filled Christian fictional work offers passion with a purpose, danger, mystery, teamwork, duty, resilience, love, and trusting in God through faith as its main themes. Meg Pero, our twenty-six-year-old heroine, learned her photography skills from her recently deceased father, as she served as his assistant from a young age. Unable to meet other's narrow expectations for her gender, she is determined to support herself by following in her father's career footsteps by making photographs of her own. Independent and persistent, she embarks on a journey with an expedition commissioned by the army to survey the vast and beautiful Grand Canyon, whilst uncovering other secrets and lost longings along the way.

It just so happens the leader of the expedition is none other than Ben Coleridge, an engineer and army captain who once tried to court Meg, only to have his proposal turned down. Will their love be rekindled? And will the army's dual mission be accomplished despite setbacks and deception along the way? Many other characters make the journey more interesting, including Dot Newcomb, a spirited cook assigned to chaperone Miss Pero, Hank Newcomb, her husband cartographer, Rudy Pike, their gruff expedition guide, Corporal Christopher Adams, a specimen note taker, and Private Frank Larson and Private Josiah Meadows, eager to please cavalry men.

Writing with accurate historical detail, while engaging the reader's curiosity and longings for purpose and love, Scott is bound to captivate readers of any Christian young adult to adult age group through this first in the American Wonders Collection series. In the ways it lacks depth, it makes up for in suspense. It is well-researched and it brings faith and yearning to life in a practical setting. It ends with a preview to the second book in the series, which is set in Yellowstone National Park in 1886.

Reviewer

Jaclyn Lee Parrott, Eastern Washington University