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Dooley's "The gold digger" (Book Review)

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Book Reviews



Dooley, Lena N. (2016). *The gold digger*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. 294 pp. \$12.99. ISBN 9781530806836

Author Lena Nelson Dooly has written a sweet historical romance filled with some important foundational Christian principles: salvation, forgiveness, and redemption. After reading the back book cover, this story appears to be a typical romance of a mail-order-bride who arrives in a strange town, has a tough time fitting in, falls in love, and then finds her place in the community and lives happily ever after with a new man in town; but there is more underneath the surface of *The Gold Digger*. The story begins with Philip Smith, a God fearing man, telling his dear friend Jeremiah his mail-order bride idea. The opening line “Are you plumb crazy?” instantly creates a desire in the reader to understand why a man in Philip’s situation would need a bride. Although Jeremiah dislikes the idea, he honors his friend’s request because Philip has insisted that this is something God wants him to do. Next we are introduced to Madeline Mercer who lives with her two servants after her father has passed away. As she prioritizes her time to care for a friend who has fallen ill, she is pursued by a former employee of her father who lays claim to her hand even when Madeline rejects him. The suitor is authoritative in his advances toward her and proclaims “I will give you two weeks to get used to the idea. Then we *will* wed.” As the story progresses, the true nature of the characters are revealed. While some characters need to humble themselves to the love of God, others find the struggle with forgiveness holds back the plans of God in their lives. Through it all, the characters experience the redemption of God that shifts their souls and lives for the better.

Dooley is a Christian author who has sold over 850,000 copies of her books. She is a member of American Christian Fiction Writers, Christian Authors’ Network, CROWN Fiction Marketing, and Gateway Church in Southlake, Texas. She has been the recipient of several awards including the Will Rogers Medallion Award, Selah Award, Reader’s Choice contest, and more. She has a strong social media presence and loves receiving feedback from her readers. Dooley’s writing comes from her heart. As she has matured spiritually she believes that God places His desires inside of His children and those desires become their own. God told Dooley he would give her words to write, and He has not broken His promise to her.

This story and Dooley's testimony will grab you and create a craving to read more of the God encounters in her fictional characters, while desire more of your own God encounters. *The Gold Digger* is a blessing. I would recommend this book to readers on all walks of life.

Reviewer

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