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Babcock's "In search of destiny" (Book Review)

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Book Reviews



Babcock, D. (2016). *In search of destiny*. Atlanta: Elk Lake Publishing. 301 pp. ISBN 9781942513889

Would you welcome a time traveler into your home? Would you introduce her to your friends? How far would you go to keep your family safe if it risked altering history?

Apparently in Book One of *The Destiny Trilogy*, the Bell family of Kansas did just that. Now, in Book Two, the family has “lost” their time traveling friend back to her own day and age and must decide upon which parts of her advice to act. Lexie, the time traveler, warns the family that America is headed into a great civil war. Part of the family decides to head to Oregon for safety and employs some of their friend’s teachings to maintain their health and to succeed along the trail. The rest stay in Kansas. When war comes, there are Bell men on both sides of the conflict in spite of Lexie’s advice.

The difficult thing with this book is not the story. It is the way it is written: in dialect. A very dated dialect. One that calls Native Americans ‘*Injuns*’ and gives them old-time Western movie ‘Indian speech’. Worse still, the slaves in this story speak in a way not seen since *Gone with the Wind*, which was published in 1936. “Honey Child” is used, for example, as is “Massa”. This makes it very difficult to recommend this book, even though the story shows the family respecting the humanity of a slave. They give him his freedom, educate him and take him along on their trip to Oregon. They do not, however, offer to purchase the freedom of his family.

Other problems with the book include the amazing ability of the family to rattle off phrases such as “documentary film,” without having ever seen a film or known of its existence prior to being visited by Lexie. Poor research leads one woman to experience pressure building inside her like in a “pressure canner” generations before such an item was available for home use. And, though the words “documentary film,” trip off the tongue, the name “President Lincoln,” causes befuddlement and

an outburst. This is still the Buchanan Administration and apparently, though the Civil War is understood, Lexie forgot to mention that Illinois' Abraham Lincoln will succeed James Buchanan.

It is a shame that a Christian author chose to tell an otherwise interesting story using such a demeaning style. Any institution would think twice before offering such a title to patrons these days.

Reviewer

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