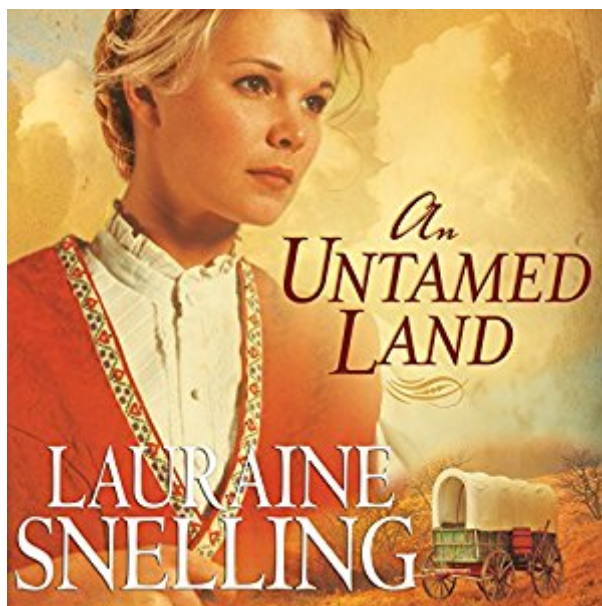


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An Untamed Land: Red River Of The North Series #1



Synopsis

After three long years of scrimping and saving to buy tickets for their passage to America, Roald and Ingeborg Bjorklund, along with their son, Thorliff, finally arrive at the docks of New York City. It was the promise of free land that fed their dream and lured them from their beloved home high above the fjords of Norway in 1880. As they join the throngs of countless immigrants passing through Castle Garden, the Bjorklunds soon discover that nothing is as they had envisioned it. Appalled by the horrid stories of fellow immigrants forced to live in squalid living conditions, they continue their long journey by train as far as Grand Forks. From there a covered wagon takes them into Dakota Territory, where they settle on the banks of the Red River. But there was no way for them to foresee the price they will have to pay to wrest a living from the indomitable land. The virgin prairie refuses to yield its treasure without a struggle. Will they be strong enough to overcome the hardships of that first winter?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

WARNING!!! This book and all the other 17 books about the Bjorklund family are wonderful. The author is a fantastic writer. Her stories want you to keep on reading. The family she writes about has tears and laughter and you experience those tears and laughter. Lauraine Snelling has a God given talent and I thank her for sharing it. But, be prepared to buy the next book and the next and the next. You got the first book free in the first, third and fourth series. If you want to read every book about the Bjorklund family be prepared to pay \$105.63. I think that is outrageous. These books are not

stand alone books. You must buy the next book to find out what happens. I call that a "cheap trick" but an expensive one for the reader.

Multi-published Lauraine Snelling drops the reader into 1880s America and brings to life that era's immigrant experience. From seasickness aboard ship, to lack of adequate nourishment, to squalid and crowded conditions, to the overwhelming impact of bustling New York City, to stuffy, smelly coal fired locomotive pulled trains, to rough Conestoga wagon living as they travel across the prairies, to the howling rage of North Dakota winters, the images drawn in the reader's mind by Mrs. Snelling captivate the reader and cause them to care deeply about the characters. At the end of the book, the story lingers in the mind as if the reader had actually lived alongside these immigrants.

Lauraine's way with words, her story pacing, her ability to pull the reader into the plot, all testify to her mastery of the art of storytelling. This historical novel is no predictable formula romance. Based upon the lives of real people, in a real time and place, vibrant life leaps from the pages. This reviewer found herself cheering for the character's victories and mourning their sorrows. While no person to person violence appears in this story, the North Dakota winters blow through the crevices of sturdy soddies with alarming violence. This is a book to keep the reader up way past their bedtime. Allow a full day to read this one. You won't be disappointed. It's an awesome read.

After talking with the author @ the Hostfest in Minot, North Dakota, last fall, I bought this book's "prequel", "An Untamed Heart," & I'm glad I started the series with that one, as it has the main character Ingeborg Bjorkland's back story. Anyway, this, too, is a riveting book bringing alive the many challenges facing homesteaders in the Red River Valley in the 1800's starting when they get off boats in NY City. Snelling is very skilled with vivid descriptions as well as probable characters' thoughts & actions. There are Christian overtones, but the book is also full of harsh realities that test the characters' faith and resolve. New characters are introduced at the end, so of course, I enter ahead and started "New Day Rising", the next one in the "Red River of the North" series. Great reads!

This is a great read for those who like to time travel to an exciting time in America's history and witness how a nation grows through the hard work and persistence of its settlers. An Untamed Land by Lauraine Snelling is a pioneering tale about a Norwegian family of immigrants, who immigrates to the Red River area in the 1880s in the Dakota Territory. It is a strong portrayal of human nature as we meet two brothers and their wives. We start off with the cross-Atlantic voyage

and their arrival in New York. I think Snelling does a great job capturing the day-to-day challenges immigrants faced as they traveled to their homestead. In addition to the day-to-day personal challenges and tragedies there were other challenges to overcome, such as the customs of the new land and new language. In addition to these challenges, the protagonist (Ingeborg) and her husband (Roald) are faced with adjusting to married life. Snelling did a good job with these characters making them multi-dimensional. As they face the challenges their inner strengths are tested by these two couples as they work to establish a rhythm to their new life. Snelling's scene descriptions were masterfully done. As I read this tale, I felt like I was right there with these characters experiencing first hand life as a pioneer. Snelling sets this book up for the subsequent books in this series by leaving the plot line unresolved.

Obviously Lauraine Snelling is a gifted author and very prolific. This novel certainly keeps one turning the pages to discover what crisis they will face next in the new land. It opened my eyes to the great sacrifices and difficulties our forefathers had to endure to settle this great land of ours. I can't imagine having to live like that for a moment!! Such courage and selflessness is what built this wonderful country. This novel will inspire and encourage you and make you grateful for what you have. A warning. You WILL want to buy the second book as it ends with a cliff hanger. Yep. I did. And glad too. No disappointments with Lauraine. Since my uncle by marriage was Norwegian and settled in North Dakota as a wheat farmer, it was especially delightful to me.

This book was aptly named. How anyone could survive all the troubles this family went through, and still smile! Only God could do that. He was there to help in all the perils the family had to face. Without God we are nothing but with him we can accomplish anything as the story proved..Facing hard times? Call on God, he will get you through. He is always just a whisper away.

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