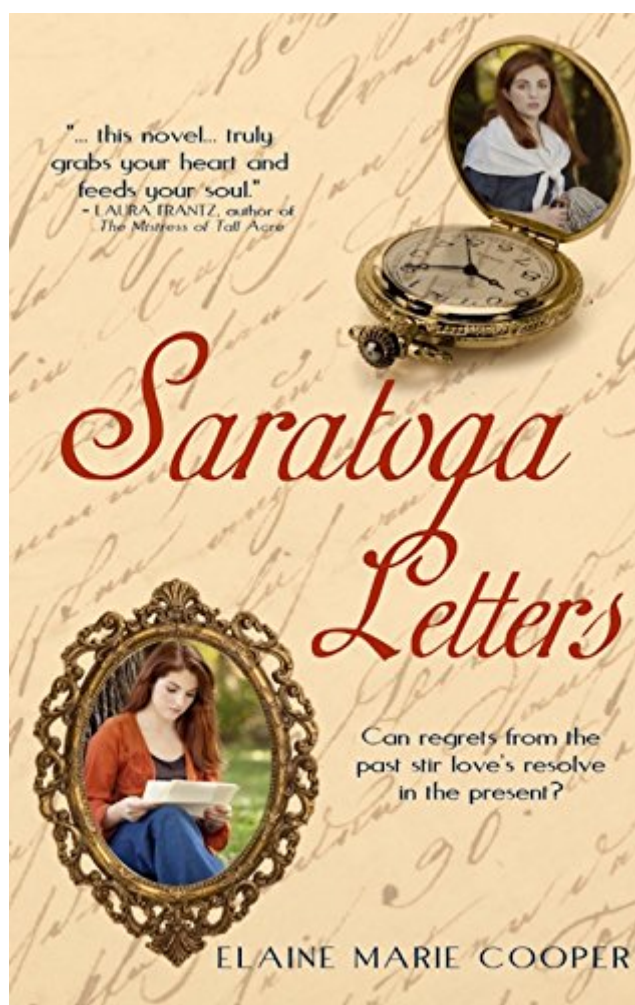


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Saratoga Letters: Can Regrets From The Past Stir Love's Resolve In The Present?



Synopsis

2017 Selah Awards Finalist It is 1777. The Battle of Saratoga, a turning point of the Revolutionary War, encourages the American Continental Army with their first great victory. But there seems little to celebrate for one patriotic woman forced to nurse wounded British soldiers right in their war camp. Thrust into deception by a cruel Loyalist uncle, Abigail lies in order to survive, all the while dealing with doubts that challenge her faith. Then — Two hundred years later, on the anniversary of the Battle of Saratoga, thousands arrive from Europe and the United States to celebrate the event — including descendants from the war. One young American, Abby, meets the offspring of a British soldier. When she is threatened, Abby turns to the only person she knows at the event — her British ally. Can she trust him with her life? Or will he betray her in the same way loyalist spies betrayed her ancestors? Perhaps letters from long ago will reveal the truth. Mature Content (M): Contains one or more of the following: violence (V), references to human sexuality (S), or language (L) certain readers may deem objectionable. May also contain some — content of an inspirational/religious nature.

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Customer Reviews

Friday, November 25, 2016
Saratoga Letters by Elaine Marie Cooper, © 2016
In Pursuit of Liberty and Love series, Book 1
I was so excited to begin reading this story... I did not look at the cover or read about it ~ I went right to Chapter 1. How surprised I was, absorbed to the finish, to see Part 2 and a new story. Obviously, if... I hadn't gone directly to the Chapter 1 heading, I would have seen it said Part 1. Some stories will have a Chapter 1 preview of the next book... This is complete. Read on to find the connection between them!
So well written, Part 1 tells the story of a Patriot nurse tending the wounded King's Army soldiers. She got on-the-job training as she was a local young woman pressed into service with her hidden alliance and introduced as Mrs. Gillingham, as unmarrieds were not accepted as caregivers. Fortunate for the injured, Abigail was the daughter of a doctor and had skills with his medicinals.
Revolutionary War of 1777 ~ Colonists vs British ~ two Battles of Saratoga
The characters portrayed in this time period were lively and visual. The author was extremely attentive to accuracy and detail. As I was reading, I was unaware the emotions and reasoning were directed at repair ~ readying to re-enter battle a second time following their injuries. The hospital tent was a place of constant change and rapid decisions keeping tasks anew for each patient as they entered. Although not there on her own accord, Abigail is valuable and resourceful for both staff and wounded under her care. Dedicated and dependable, she is trusted by the matron of nurses. She is watched out for and favored upon observation of her visible compassion. The throngs of war, without and within.
The 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Saratoga
Abby Carpenter and her brother are preparing to leave for Saratoga Springs to attend the bicentennial celebration in the place of their father. Surgery recovery keeps Scott from going, and a mix up at the arrival terminal keeps Abby from renting a car. Fortunately, three other people in line are going to the same ceremony, and Abby shares a car with one of them. A Brit, and an ancestral story begins.
In Part 2, letters written following the Battle of Saratoga are handed down through the generations. Interesting the similarity of turmoil and questioning carried forward through misunderstandings and supposed blame. Regrets become promises of good. I liked the descriptions and travels of the characters as trust was built. I enjoyed reading this follow-up story to Part 1 together, and read it straight through!
Thank you, author Elaine Marie Cooper for sharing a copy of Saratoga Letters with me. This review was written in my own words. No other compensation was received.

Saratoga Letters***** by Elaine Marie Cooper

Saratoga Letters spans two eras two hundred years apart. The 1777 battlefield of the Revolutionary war and 1977 reenactment of the Battle of Saratoga. Elaine Cooper has penned two-in-one gripping, heartwarming stories that pulled me into the characters lives from the first page. With historical detail that paints a vivid picture of a time of war, not only its physical but emotional toll it has on the communities, their lives and the soldiers on both sides.

Part 1: September 19, 1777 Saratoga, New York

As Abigail Gillingham mourns the recent death of her beloved father her cruel, abusive, loyalist uncle forces her to nurse wounded soldiers in a nearby British army hospital marquee. He informs the matron of nurses, Mrs. Carberry, that Abigail is Mrs. Gillingham as only married women are allowed to nurse the wounded soldiers. Bless Mrs. Carberry's heart, she saw right through Abigail's uncle and will protect her from him. The next days and weeks are hard for Abigail for many reasons, yet she strives to ease the patients suffering and pray over them. I admire her strength and the way her heart changes toward her patients her enemy and her faith. Enemy or not, one gentle soldier with intense blue eyes captivates her how can her heart yearn for a young soldier who is British? Is it possible to find love in the midst of such tragedy and suffering? There is evil present and Abigail must stay on her guard so as not to be caught in its grasp. British soldier Corporal William Carpenter is seriously wounded and taken to the hospital marquee where he is cared for by a lovely, red-haired nurse. As he watches her care for her patients he finds himself drawn to her but tries to guard his heart as she is married. As he grieves for the loss of so many of his fellow soldiers and healing from his wounds, he also sees an evil that is threatening those around him. But how can he keep it at bay being so weak from his wounds? I love William's heart for others and his strength in the midst of such suffering and pain and his faith. Can he help Abigail when she needs it most? We get a glimpse of the suffering and pain of those caught in the war. Not only those with physical wounds but wounds of the heart as well. As a retired RN I found the descriptions of the hospital marquee, how the wounded are cared for, the medicinals used and the nursing practices of the time very interesting. It is heartbreaking enough to see soldiers who are so very young but to see children caught up in the battles truly breaks my heart.

Part 2: September 1977, Redlands, California and Saratoga, New York

Pediatric nurse Abby Carpenter agrees to accompany her brother, Scott to the bicentenary celebration and reenactment of the Battle of Saratoga in Saratoga, New York to honor their deceased father. Unexpected surgery keeps Scott from going and Abby travels alone. She meets Ian Thacker, a British constable who is also attending the event. Over the next weeks Abby and Ian spend a lot of

time together and have a mutual attraction. But how can they have a future together when they live thousands of miles away from each other? I appreciate the letters included in the book that sheds more details regarding Abigail and William, Abby and Ian's stories. Mystery and danger follow and Ian vows to protect Abby at all costs. Twists and turns in the storyline kept me turning the pages with an unexpected ending.

Elaine Cooper has quickly become one of my favorite Historical fiction writers, taking actual events and using them as a backdrop for a well-crafted story. Her latest novel, *Saratoga Letters*, is classic Elaine Cooper with a bit of a twist, because the book is not only one story, but two with the Battle of Saratoga being the tie that binds them. Not to mention the span of two hundred years in between. The book begins in 1777 in Saratoga, New York during the Revolutionary War. Abigail Gillingham, a supporter of the Patriots, finds herself alone with no family except a cruel uncle, who immediately forces her into service, helping as a nurse at the nearest enemy camp. A British camp. While there, she discovers she has a couple of allies, including an attractive British soldier entrusted to her care. Amidst the dangers of war and a plot against her, Abigail must learn to rely on God and her new found friendship with the handsome William Carpenter, even if it means consorting with the enemy. Fast forward to 1977, the two hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Saratoga. Though Abby Carpenter isn't much of a history buff, she decides to make the journey to Saratoga to commemorate the battle of her ancestors, in memory of her father. Upon arrival, everything seems to go wrong, until help is offered by a complete stranger from London. Handsome Ian Thacker. A quick camaraderie forms as Abby and Ian take in the sights of the celebration. Everything is fine until strange things begin happening involving Abby and Ian is determined to find out what's going on, even if it puts him at risk as well as his heart. Two heroines, two heroes, two stories, one book. *Saratoga Letters* is definitely going down as one of my favorite reads of 2017.

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