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Rosemillion (Appalachian Trilogy Book 1)



Synopsis

Remember fairy tales? They're back. The strangers came first for the timber. Next they came for the coal. Now, they've returned for Widows Hollow. Pick McKinley is cursed with a fear of strangers. The strangers taunt mountain people and call them Hillbillies. Now, newly orphaned, illiterate, and impoverished, Pick must leave her mountain home and go among the strangers in town to find work if she and her younger siblings are to survive. Maybe it won't be so bad. Her mama had worked among them, cleaning and mending. Pick could not have been more mistaken. Her first encounter with Dr. Stephen Stalworth, Ashford's favorite son and one of its wealthiest, most powerful citizens, almost cost Pick her life and would have but for intervening fate and her rescuer, Jan Vandeventer, the handsome Bluegrass Son of wealthy, world famous horse breeders. Pick is no hillbilly. She's a survivor who has survived against all odds. She must save herself, her siblings, and her community from Stalworth who has vowed to destroy them and she must do it with the only weapons she possesses; faith, and a fairy tale-- called Rosemillion. In her debut novel, J. Helen Elza has crafted a tale of struggle and survival that transcends reading. Rosemillion is a tale to experience and Widows Hollow, despite its poverty, is a place you will want to return to time and again; To fish with the feisty and unapologetic mountain man, Samuel Llewellyn Simpson, "Stump"; "Pay 'em no mind, Miss, they's hollower 'n a cane pole and not nearly so useful." Or to laugh at the fiery-tempered Early Mae, "Mama- John Johnson"; "What is you up to, Old Man? You a grinnin like a possum in a hen house!" Or to commiserate with Jan who is caught between his world of ivy-league universities and world champion thoroughbreds and her world of illiteracy and poverty; "Jacques, if you want to end our friendship here and now, you call her a hillbilly one more time! I'm sick of it! You and any one of the rest of our so-called peers pick a label, any label, and it's official! Margaret and Victoria call Pick a hillbilly, so she's a hillbilly, right?" Or to grab your hanky and sob or to stand up and shout for sixteen-year old Pick McKinley; "You may call me white trash and hillbilly. You may hate me and my kind, BUT YOU AIN'T GONNA CAUSE THAT LITTLE BABY TO BE A DYIN!" Written as a woman's novel, Rosemillion also appeals to men: "I really did enjoy reading the book and thought Ms. Miller did a wonderful job of placing the reader in the moment. Also, her character development is superb. I've told friends that I never found myself bored reading Rosemillion as I often do when reading other books. Jerry Snow USN/Retired Rosemillion will leave you cheering and wanting more. Fortunately, there is more. Rosemillion is book one in J. Helen Elza's Appalachian Trilogy. Look for book two, "Return to Widows Hollow", and book three, "The Red Amaryllis," coming soon to book stores and kindles near you.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I just finished Rosemillion and I can say that I was well entertained while reading it. I loved the character descriptions and quickly identified with them. I was transported to the primitive Appalachian enclave by the author and I thoroughly enjoyed the journey. Most everyone knows that there are pockets of people living in Appalachia who live in abject poverty and this tale describes that very well. The genuine warmth and love that the residents of Widow's Hollow feel for each other is heartwarming. In this story a 16 year old girl suddenly has to step up and raise her siblings due to the deaths of her parents. She is an overcomer and has the grit and determination to see it through in spite of the odds being against her. This is a well written and tender love story sprinkled with surprises, and I will want to read more of the life and times of the heroine, Pick McKinley.

An extremely well-written story showing that all differences between the bigoted, well bred rich people in a small Kentucky community and the poor as dirt, uneducated people from Widows Hollow come to nothing when the truth is discovered in the end. A seemingly impossible love develops

between a wealthy man from town and a girl with no formal education from the Hollows. A wonderful mystery is solved in the books last pages.

I've read a lot of books and on many different subjects and cultures, by this one has been by far one of the most delightful and heartwarming stories ever. Yes, it's predictable but it still makes you feel good; yes, you expect the "privileged" son to take advantage, and he does...but I feel the characters came to life here and you were able to feel what they felt in their happy and very sad times.

Needless to say, I very much recommend this book.

I was looking for interesting characters from those mountains, but I got a romance story with the typical very bad or very good characters, and with a very happy end. I think this book could be very appealing to teenager girls.

You will find yourself immersed in the story. The author does a wonderful job of developing the characters and allowing the story to develop, while keeping you interested and curious as to what will unfold.

This book transported me to another world. I laughed and cried. Many twists and turns. I wish the other two books were published. I plan to read both of them.

I always loved reading about the Appalachian people and the mountains. Even though I live in the Midwest my childhood was similar to there's. But as like those families we didn't know we were poor or different, until we were forced out and family was separated from each other, etc.. This is not a sad story like most are written, it's a story written so beautiful, both about their lives and how important when one family loses the patriarchs and a (ten or eleven) year old girl is left to raise her yunings with the help of her community. You will understand the reference to her age because in her life it wasn't important, I was not only personal effected by Pix's story and journey but had to refer and share and pass this beautiful story on to YOU the lover of true stories, maybe to appreciate how some families still live in this world or maybe to like me, a 63yr. Old woman who brought back the good memories if my life with grandma and grandpa until life changed and the outside world entered are lives after they passed away. No more spoiler alerts. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, it will change your outlook on what people call,families who live on the other side of the tracks. NAMASTE

Upon starting the book, I would have preferred the setting/situation to move along faster and in it's bouncing around to be clearer. As I continued reading new facts began to roll in a bit faster. I stayed with book until end and by doing so found tears arrived by the ending. Tears of happiness and I was immersed in the characters. I'll give it a 3 1/2 stars.

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