



Keowee Valley

Katherine Scott Crawford

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Spring, 1768. The Southern frontier is a treacherous wilderness inhabited by the powerful Cherokee people. In Charlestown, 25 year-old Quincy MacFadden receives news from beyond the grave: her cousin, a man she'd believed long dead, is alive—held captive by the Shawnee Indians. Unmarried, bookish, and plagued by visions of the future, Quinn is a woman out of place... and this is the opportunity for which she's been longing.

Determined to save two lives, her cousin's and her own, Quinn travels the rugged Cherokee Path into the South Carolina Blue Ridge. Defying her furious grandfather and colonial law, she barter for leverage against the Shawnee with a notorious Cherokee chief—and begins building a daring new home in the Keowee River Valley, a fiercely beautiful place.

But in order to rescue her cousin, Quinn must trust an enigmatic half-Cherokee tracker whose loyalties may lie elsewhere. As translator to the British army, Jack Wolf walks a perilous line between a King he hates and a homeland he loves.

Together they journey across the Appalachian Mountains and into the heart of Cherokee country. They encounter wily trappers, warring Indians, British soldiers, desperate settlers, and a contested backcountry on the brink of changing forever.

When Jack is ordered to negotiate for Indian loyalty in the Revolution to come, the pair must decide: obey the Crown, or commit treason....

Keowee Valley Details

Date : Published September 27th 2012 by Bell Bridge Books

ISBN : 9781611941722

Author : Katherine Scott Crawford

Format : Paperback 354 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Romance, Historical Romance

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From Reader Review Keowee Valley for online ebook

Jill says

4.5 stars

Debut

Set in the years prior to the War of Independence, this romantic historical fiction will suit readers who love their romance steeped in rich historical detail and lush descriptions of the wilderness of the Blue Ridge Mountains

But for all my gift of Sight, I had never foreseen Jack. He'd come into my world unbidden, a steady, muscled disturbance that had charmed his way onto my land and into my heart.

Quincy (Quinn) MacFadden at twenty-five is a single, wealthy and well-bred lady from Charlestown. Like most MacFadden women (and some of their men) she has the Sight. Both she and her cousin, Owen were orphaned and raised by their grandfather since children. When news comes that Owen, who was believed killed by the Shawnee, is alive Quinn decides to leave Charlestown and head to the frontier to trade for Owen's life. This also presents an opportunity for Quinn to settle on the frontier away from the constraints and expectations of Charlestown society.

Arriving in the Appalachians, Quinn is told that the one man that can guide and help her negotiate her cousin's freedom is Jackson Wolf. Having traded for land in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Quinn begins a settlement while waiting for Jack.

In 1768, the colonies are rife with rumours of an impending war and dangerous times are ahead for settlers with the Regulators. With Wolf being summoned back into service for the British as an interpreter in the coming war, which side will Jack and Quinn (Jack calls her Mac) support? Will they stay and fight or will they commit treason and seek safety elsewhere?

Jack is the ideal historical romantic hero. Half Cherokee, half Irish, he straddles both worlds acting as a part-time translator for the British. His appeal lies not only in his physical appearance but in his kindness and easy manner, offset by a contained ruthlessness, necessary in a time where justice was meted out the hard way.

Hopefully this is a first book in a continuing saga of the life and adventures of Jack and Mac, which would allow Ridge Runner, Jack's full-blood Cherokee brother, to get his story. Though there is a conclusion to *Keowee Valley* there are also some unanswered questions.

This debut will suit readers who enjoy romantic historical fiction and even American historical romance. It does contain some similar elements, themes, setting, era, characters to the following books.

Outlander series by Diana Gabaldon

Into the Wilderness by Sara Donati

Under the Same Sky by Genevieve Graham

Midwife of the Blue Ridge by Christine Blevins

MacKinnon's Rangers series by Pamela Clare

Action, adventure, history, romance all come together in this brilliant story. Katherine Scott Crawford's appreciation and love of the setting in the Appalachians shines through in her beautiful and at times, poetic prose.

A very impressive debut.

Steam: 2.5

ARC courtesy of Bell Bridge Books via NetGalley

Sandi *~The Pirate Wench~* says

Setting: My Home: DNF :(

I'm so disappointed with this one, I had such high hopes for it. I have tried three times to read it and always got to only a certain part then couldn't continue. Boring..boring..put you to sleep boring. The characters have no personality, way too much "scenic" information and just to fairy tale unrealistic for me. Where is the hardships? Struggles? Strengths? Passion? Quincy goes from a pampered heiress to a frontier woman with no problems and gets land and food just like that? And Jack Wolf? Just as boring :(There are so many good raving reviews on this one and I'm sure it worked for them, but alas.. not this reader. I think "Into The Wilderness" by Sara Donati spoiled it for me.

I'm not putting it on my "try again later shelf" Three strikes your out, I move on. But I will give another of this authors books in the future a try because it did have a lovely prose to it.

Erin says

OH MY GOODNESS! I have yet another author's books to obsess over. "Keowee Valley" is the debut novel by Katherine Scott Crawford and is filled with adventure and romance and a great historical setting. I was so disappointed when I came to the end of the book because I grew quite attached to the characters.

As an avid reader, I am a lover of words and Crawford's descriptions of the frontier of Cherokee territory were so vivid that I felt myself transported back to 18th century South Carolina.

I am quite in love with the character of Jack Wolf. I disagree with other reviewers who claim that he is too perfect. I am quite confident that Crawford shows some of the deeper and darker sides of the character.

Eagerly awaiting to find out what happens next for Jack, Quincy, Rebekah, and Ridge Runner!

Cinzia says

Keowee Valley is a beautiful historical book set in Southern frontier of what would become part of the United States of America. The historical period in fact refers to the years just before the war of independence of the new Americans.

We are in the spring of 1768, when a young woman Quincy MacFadden, of Scottish origin, grown by his grandfather since her earliest childhood, after the death of her parents, discovers that her cousin Owen is not dead, as she and her grandfather believed, but held prisoner from the Shwnee Indian.

Quincy, who is a rebellious girl, who does not accept the impositions and the judgments of a town like Charleston, against her desire to be really herself, decides that this is her chance and she convinces Grandpa to send her in South Carolina to try to negotiate the release of her cousin, with the help of some local intermediary and, at the same time, she wants to try to live the life that she has always dreamed of, in that wild frontier territory.

She challenges to fate, the dangers that await are huge, but she is stubborn and she knows that this might be her only chance to live the way she has always wanted.

Arrived at destination she trades with an Indian Chief for the ownership of the land where she wants to build her new house with the help of other settlers: she offers them land to build their own houses for their work.

Quincy managed to contact, Jack Wolf, a halfbreed man who is the only person who can help her to rescue her cousin, but this is only the beginning of a wonderful adventure, in new Quincy's life, and Jack is the surprise that the fate reserved to the woman who swore since she was small child not to marry and submit to anyman.

Jack is a man who lives between two worlds, his loyalty goes to his Indian people and this is something it will be a great problem with the arrival of war, where he'll be called to fulfil his duties towards the Crown, because in this case Jack is also a man of Irish descent. Accepting it would mean betraying his soul, to refuse it would accuse him of high treason and by this choice it will depend Jack and Quincy's life.

This the first novel by this author and she has managed to build a story that provides a well defined historical context without being heavy, and it gives a realistic view of life at the time: the difficult coexistence between settlers and native Americans, the battle that begins to arise between old Europe and new America, the very hard reality affronted by the settlers in order to achieve the dream that has pushed them into these wildlands, the lure of a new life and freedom.

In this novel are described beautiful landscapes, with details that it seems almost to be able to see those still wild land dominated by the law of nature.

Throughout this fits the story between Quincy and Jack, an unconventional love story, as the two wonderful characters. A man torn between two worlds, a wild spirit, but loyal and a woman outside the rules of morality, with a free spirit and open-mindedness, who takes her to fall in love with a world totally different from that in which she was bred. Theirs is not the usual romantic love story, but a meeting of two souls are perfect for each other, soulmate, they face a difficult path for living their unique life together.

The ending, in my opinion can be considered quite open and perhaps lead to a sequel.

Thanks Netgalley and la Belle Bridge Books for the vision of the book.

Rating: 4 stars

Keowee Valley è un bellissimo libro historical, ambientato nei territori di frontiera del sud di quelli che dovranno poi divenire gli Stati Uniti d'America. Il periodo storici infatti si riferisce agli anni appena precedenti alla guerra d'Indipendenza dei nuovi americani nei confronti dell'Inghilterra.

Tutto comincia nella primavera del 1768, quando una giovane donna Quincy MacFadden, di origine

scozzese, cresciuta dal nonno sin dalla più tenera infanzia, dopo la morte dei genitori, scopre che il cugino Owen non è morto, come lei e il nonno credevano, ma tenuto prigioniero dalla tribù degli Shawnee.

Quincy, che è una ragazza ribelle, che non accetta le imposizioni e i giudizi di una cittadina come Charleston, nei confronti del suo desiderio di essere realmente se stessa, decide di cogliere l'occasione e convincere il nonno a inviarla nella Carolina del Sud per tentare di contrattare la liberazione del cugino, con l'aiuto di qualche intermediario del posto e, nello stesso tempo, trasferirsi là e dare vita alla vita che ha sempre sognato per lei, in quel territorio di frontiera selvaggio, di cui ha sempre letto nei libri.

La sua è una vera sfida al destino, i pericoli che l'attendono immensi, ma lei è testarda e sa che questa potrebbe essere la sua unica possibilità per vivere nel modo che ha sempre desiderato.

Arrivata a destinazione riesce a barattare con un capo indiano la proprietà di un terreno dove vuole costruire la sua casa con l'aiuto di persone che l'aiuteranno a coltivarla e allevare animali, in cambio a loro volta della possibilità di costruirsi una casa.

Quincy riesce a contattare, tramite il capo indiano, Jack Wolf, un uomo mezzosangue che è l'unica persona in grado di aiutarla a far liberare il cugino, ma questo è solo l'inizio di una splendida avventura, nella nuova vita di Quincy, e Jack è per lei la sorpresa che il destino ha riservato alla donna che ha giurato sin da piccola di non sposarsi e non assoggettarsi mai a un uomo.

Jack è un uomo però che vive tra due mondi, la sua lealtà va al suo popolo indiano e questa sarà una cosa con cui fare i conti con l'arrivo della guerra, dove verrà chiamato a rispettare i suoi doveri nei confronti della Corona, perché in questo caso Jack è anche un uomo di origine irlandese, con dei doveri da portare a termine. Accettare vorrebbe dire tradire la sua anima, rifiutare lo farebbe accusare di alto tradimento e da questa scelta dipenderà la vita di Jack e Quincy.

La scrittrice in questo suo primo romanzo è riuscita a costruire una storia che fornisce un contesto storico ben definito, senza essere pesante, e dona uno spaccato realistico della vita dell'epoca: la difficile convivenza tra coloni e nativi americani, lo scontro che comincia a nascere tra la vecchia Europa e la nuova America, le avversità affrontate dai coloni per realizzare il sogno che li ha spinti in queste terre selvagge, il miraggio di una nuova vita e della libertà.

I paesaggi stupendi in cui è ambientata la storia sono descritti nei minimi dettagli e sembra quasi di poter vedere quelle terra ancora selvagge in cui domina la legge della natura.

In tutto questo si inserisce la storia tra Quincy e Jack, storia d'amore non convenzionale, come i due splendidi personaggi. Un uomo diviso tra i due mondi, dallo spirito selvaggio, ma leale e una donna al di fuori delle regole del buon costume, con uno spirito indomito e una apertura mentale, che la porta a rispettare il diverso e amare un mondo totalmente differente da quello nel quale è stata allevata. La loro non è la solita storia d'amore romantica, ma un incontro di due anime perfette l'una per l'altra, che affrontano un percorso per trovarsi e vivere una vita unica insieme.

Il finale, secondo me può considerarsi abbastanza aperto e forse dare luogo a un seguito.

Si ringraziano Netgalley e la Belle Bridge Books per la visione del libro.

VOTO: 4 stelle

TITOLO: Keowee Valley

AUTRICE: Katherine Scott Crawford

EDITORE: Belle Bridge Books

DATA PUBBLICAZIONE: settembre 2012

Amber Stokes says

Imagine an independent young woman eager to build a home for herself on land that is both achingly beautiful in its wildness and freeing in the familiarity it breeds. Imagine a community composed of those of all different ages and all different backgrounds - all looking for a refuge and a new start. Imagine a place where visitors come and go, danger lurks in the woods, and the sheer grandeur of nature astounds. Imagine a place from which to embark on a life-changing adventure. Imagine a place to long to return to after facing the uncertainties of new frontiers and a society on the brink of chaos.

Welcome to Keowee Valley.

Wonderful imagery and characterization combine to make this pre-Revolutionary War story a great read. Quinn is an interesting heroine who has dreams/visions of future events. She is very independent, very strong (in some ways), and very caring. Not only does she leave Charlestown in order to find her cousin, but also to buy land from the Cherokee where she and others can build homes and share the responsibilities of caring for the valley.

We meet many interesting characters who decide to take Quinn up on her offer. We also meet Jack Wolf, a tracker whom Quinn sends in search of her captive cousin. The characters are endearing and intriguing, from the settler's children who look up to Quinn to Jack's tall and silently protective brother, Ridge Runner. The whole cast makes Quinn's adventures and endeavors engaging to read about.

Back to Jack... He's the sort of hero one would expect with this sort of novel, with his own unique quirks and handsome traits. He is the son of a Cherokee man and a white woman. He has dark blond hair and green eyes, an Irish accent, and a warrior's build. Yes, romance is inevitable in a story with a pretty, stubborn heroine and a hero like that!

Regarding the romance, I offer a caution. There is sexual content in this story, including a few "bedroom" scenes. The way the story is divided up into scenes, I'd say it's fairly easy to skip over the explicit content without taking away from the gist of the plot. However, even being aware of this content and determined to skip over it, it's easy to still come across some references to nudity (etc.)... So, just realize that, while this is historical fiction and not entirely focused on the romance, the romantic element is heavy.

Keowee Valley is epic as it shares Quinn's dreams and the obstacles she, Jack, the Cherokee, and the colonists have to face as war looms. The plot contains a lot of tension and interesting events, but the nature of the story makes it more of a slow read. And the ending... Let's just say that while there is resolution in some ways, many questions remain. For those looking for an imaginative and romantic fictional snapshot of the pre-Revolutionary War era, with an emphasis on the characterization, you might consider visiting Keowee Valley.

With thanks to the author for providing me with an ARC of the book in exchange for my honest opinion.

Note: I read an ARC of the book, so any edits made to the final version of the book that were not in the ARC would not be taken into account in this review.

Romancing the Book says

Reviewed by: Desere

Book provided by: NetGalley

Review originally posted at Romancing the Book

This was a superb debut from a brilliant author! I loved each and every moment of a truly historical and phenomenal read. I had a really hard time trying to put this one down as the author took every aspect of this book and changed it into so much more. The characters are the kind that will forever stay in my mind.

The author took me on a journey that felt unbelievably real, it was as if I could touch each character, feel every move and hear every sentence spoken. I loved that the author's landscape and other descriptions were so stunningly and exquisitely described.

Both characters were strong and determined to make the best of a difficult situation but each also has their own inner turmoil to overcome. The plot was very well laid out, and surprisingly it turned out very differently than I envisioned when I started reading this book, but yes the author did a great job at bringing the plot together with precision and intrigue.

The sex scenes were very tastefully written. This was a really fantastic read. The dialogue was at times almost snippy and fun but others again so emotional that I was almost brought to tears. This book is guaranteed to transport you back in time where nothing is ever what it seems.

Excellent work Katherine!

Karla says

\$1.99 on Amazon as of 12/15/12 was \$9.99

KatLynne says

4.5 Stars - Brilliant Debut!

... Backcountry... "Enter these enchanted woods, You who dare." ...George Meredith

Katherine Scott Crawford's debut novel, **Keowee Valley** is one of the best books I've read this year. It held me spellbound as I traveled back in time to the Pre-Revolutionary period and into the savage, untamed, and utterly breathtaking beauty of the Carolinas and the surrounding Appalachian region. Her vivid descriptions of the Blue Ridge Mountains convey the majestic wonder and spectacular beauty one still can find in this area today.

But this book is so much more than just the locale. It is the story of lovely, strong, gutsy Quincy MacFadden and her quest for a home and a land where she isn't restricted by the demands society places on women; a place where she's free to be herself and not have to live by the expectation of others. This is not a whim and this longing runs so deep to her core that this young, brave Scot is willing to sacrifice her comfort, her safety, leave behind everything she holds dear and venture into unknown territories to reach her goal.

Discovering that her dear beloved cousin, Owen, is alive after years of believing him dead opens the door to her adventure. She's determined to find him and barter for his release from the Shawnee. And while there,

she plans to make a home for herself in this wild but magnificent wilderness. In order to accomplish this goal, she will need a guide. And while waiting on the one man who can help her, she gets busy obtaining the land and building her settlement in the Keowee Valley.

Jackson Wolf, half-Irish and half-Cherokee tracker, descended from six generations of priest-chiefs, is a magnificent man. He's handsome, strong, knows the land and how to survive. He loves his homeland and his people. In these troubled times with war brewing, he walks a dangerous line. In the past he's served as translator for the British army and now if he refuses, he'll be charged with treason.

Both Quincy and Jack are extraordinary people, ones whom you will come to adore, admire and respect. This book is so well written I could hardly believe it a debut. The cast of secondary characters flows beautifully with the story. The "sight" that plagues Quincy fits perfectly and is well balanced. The author does a wonderful job capturing the essence of the Cherokee people and their plight in colonial America and her love of the land and its people shines through.

I enjoy Appalachian history, colonial America and those years before the Revolutionary war. Keowee Valley is steeped in these aspects and woven throughout is a love story that captured my heart. Having grown up in this area I am very familiar with Charleston as well as the mountainous regions along with their historical landmarks. All of this added to my pleasure of this book.

While this had a satisfying ending, I am left with unanswered questions. Hopefully, there will be more books coming and we will learn the mystery surrounding Jack's full bloodied Cherokee brother, Ridge Runner, as well as continuing the saga of Jack and Quinn.

Keowee Valley is a story of passion, courage and one filled with adventure, danger and romance. It is finding your dream, holding it tight in your heart, and never letting go. It is a keeper and one that I'll enjoy again. Many thanks to my GR friend Jill who gave such a stellar review that led me to this one. Congratulations Ms. Crawford on a winning debut!

(view spoiler)

My Rating: 4.5/5

Steam: 2.5

ARC courtesy of Bell Bridge Books via NetGalley

Nicole Brown says

This highly descriptive book that looks at the interplay between the whites and the Cherokee before the Revolutionary War.

"A Duke overpowered by a woman," Owen scoffed, tucking his hands in the pockets of this jacket and raising a rust colored eyebrow. "Why does he allow his own mother to rule over him?" Grandfather reached out, popped him lightly on the back of the head. "We're all ruled by women, boy—you're just too much the bantam rooster to recognize it."

-Katherine Scott Crawford (Keowee Valley p 281)

Arlena says

Author: Katherine Scott

Published by: Bell Bridge Books

Age Recommended: Adult

Reviewed By: Arlena Dean

Book Blog For: GMTA

Rating: 5

Review:

"Keowee Valley" by Katherine Scott wonderful, romantic, historical fiction read that turned out to be a amazing good read. This author really knows how to keep you on the edge of your seat with this read and gave you the feeling that you were right there in this read as she has you all caught up dreaming her(Quinn's)way to her ambitions. The descriptions of this South Carolina Blue Ridge area seem to come to life being so beautifully described. The plot of this story was very interesting how this author was able to bring it all together told in first person. Many times I thought this story was going one way then before I knew what was happening it had changed which made this so intriguing. Basically this story was of Quincy(Quinn) MacFadden who"confessing to having been plagued with strange visions(dreams), of which she is positive are omens" and with this Quincy feels that this will help her find her missing cousin, Owen who she had earlier thought had been killed by the 'Shawnee.' Owen has been kidnapped by Indians. So, she decides to leave Charleston and head to the frontier to trade for Owen's life. After arriving in the Appalachians, Quinn is told of a guide named Jackson Wolf who could help her negotiate her cousins freedom.Then this story leads us to Jack Wolf who Quinn employs to track her cousin and then this story takes off from here. We find that Jack is half Cherokee and Irish who also works in the service as a part time translator for the British and a guide and from this he will have some real decisions to make. "With the impending war, Jack is to make a choice: either to be entrusted by the King as a translator, or to commit treason." Now, this is where I say you must pick up "Keowee Valley" to see what all this author will have for the reader. This will be a interesting read on how this author will get this all together for the reader. Be prepared for plenty of action, adventure, romance and the history as it all comes together giving the reader in the end a amazing good and well written read.

Happy says

This book really frustrated me. It had so much potential. The first 10% I'd give a 4/5, from 10-50% a 2/5 (and in a way I feel that is generous), from 50% and on I'd give a 3/5--with a sprinkling of 4/5 moments. The ending is anti-climactic. The writing was so beautifully poetic in spots but it wasn't grounded. I often felt disconnected from the characters and the plot.

I loved the premise of the book, it's similar to *Into the Wilderness* and *The Last of the Mohicans*. This book had an added more mystical feel to it. If it was done properly this book could of been truly amazing. Unfortunately the characters and plot were poorly developed. (I felt more for the main characters's horse than her. She's an unappreciative brat most of the story (a pet peeve of mine.))

I wanted to read what it was like to go from being a lady who was used to having slaves, and all the greatest comforts to being a frontier woman starting her own settlement. Frontier life is a challenge, but you never got a feel for that in this book. The author jumps right from her purchasing her lands to having a cabin and food. How did that happen? What does she do all day? Errr....

Jeanette says

I really enjoyed this book. I thought it was a little bit slow at times and I would have liked to see a little bit more background on Jack but overall it was very good. The descriptions of the scenery were beautiful but a little long winded.

Emmy says

It is clear from the often poetic descriptions of the South Carolina landscape, that the author has a deep love of the place. However, I would have loved to see a little less of these sometimes lengthy descriptions and a little more character and/or plot development. The first half of the story is a little slow moving with all of these scenic descriptions and I kept waiting to hear more about the characters. I particularly felt that something was lacking in the early development of Quinn and Jack's relationship.

I understand that the author left the ending more open for future books, but it was a little *too* open for my taste. I felt the ending lacked the closure that I usually need from my books.

It's difficult to read this book and not compare it to *Into the Wilderness*, which might be what prevented me from liking this more. For me, character development is the most important part of a book, and where ITW excelled in that, I felt it was a bit lacking in this book.

Still, *Keowee Valley* presents a debut from a clearly talented author. I will be interested to see how her writing progresses in future books.

Reviewer The Brown Bookloft says

3.5 stars.

5 stars for readability. This was a thoroughly engrossing, readable novel. I read through it eagerly.

4 stars for descriptions of place. I felt completely drawn into Quinn's world in the pre-Revolutionary Carolina wilderness. I could completely visualize it.

3 stars for characterization. On the plus side--the main characters were likable, sympathetic people. On the negative, I felt that their motivations and thoughts were shallow and often unrealistic for the people they were and the times they lived in. I craved more depth.

2 stars for the last 1/4 of the book. I felt that the ending--and the short path to it--made little sense.

However, for a first novel, it was pretty darn good. I would like to see more books from this author.

Katrina says

I was absolutely swept away into Quinn's world each time I opened this book. The love that Katherine Scott Crawford has for the area of the South Carolina mountains that she writes about comes through in every word. I am waiting as patiently as possible for the sequel.
