



The Reapers' Song

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Ever so slowly Dakota Territory is being transformed from a vast prairie into rich farmland. With the coming of the railroad, the small town of Blessing begins to prosper, and the Bjorklund family is reaping the promised harvest that had lured them from their beloved home in Norway.

But for Ingeborg and Haakan, realizing their dreams will not come without a struggle. After their own fields are harvested, Haakan and the neighboring men take the steam engine and the separator on the road, threshing for other homesteaders in return for a portion of their grain. With Haakan away and the fields standing idle, Ingeborg frets over work yet to be done. Fearing an early change of seasons, she takes matters into her own hands.

Has the land become more important to Ingeborg than her own family?

The Reapers' Song Details

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From Reader Review The Reapers' Song for online ebook

Kathryn says

Zeb MacCallister comes onto the scene after fleeing from Missouri where he shot a man (Mr. Galloway) in self defense, but since the families were always at odds revenge would be pursued. He left a sister, mother, and uncle behind on the farm. On his way to Canada, he came upon a two girls, Manda, a headstrong fiesty one and Deborah, the sickly, quiet one. Their mother had died and their father had left for supplies and hadn't returned after a snowstorm in the Dakota Territory. Zeb couldn't leave them behind and so after much convincing, he takes them with him and finds the Bjorklund family and work. The Bjorklund clan has gotten bigger, Bridget, Kaaren and Inge's first mother-in-law and her daughter Katja have immigrated along with Hamre Bridget's nephew and another girl that is an orphan since her parents died on the ship. All the newcomers get settled in to the old soddies now that new wood houses were built. Katja or Katie and Zeb get married and go off to round up some wild horses in Montana in which to breed with back in Dakota. When Zeb goes back east for a stallion, he meets up with his sister, Mary Martha and finds out all the Galloways are dead except for the daughter. Miss Galloway finds Zeb and shoots him. In an attempt to keep Katie and the girls safe he leave Dakota. He doesn't get far with his wound and Metz, Babtiste, and Katie nurse him back to the living.

During a accident with the wheat thresher Anner Valder's loses his arm and thinks all is lost. The good men of Blessing rally around him till his bitterness and anger give way to healing. They adopt two runaway boys found on the boxcars of the train. Anner starts working as a clerk at the store and bookkeeper at the bank and sells his farm to Zeb and Katie. Penny still isn't expecting a family of her own, but finds a distant uncle when Ephraim comes to town. She wants to find her siblings that were separated when their parents died. Inge and Agnus still don't get the desire of their hearts to carry another child. The woman are trying to find a way to get the vote. Mary Martha comes for a visit to Dakota.

Kelly says

So many changes are taking place in a growing town. God is still good and helps them through it all.

Alice says

The Bjorklund family remains the core of the Red River series. However, by the time we were half way into the book, I was becoming bewildered by more and more characters. Some more of the family immigrated from Norway. Some neighbors moved in from other areas of America. Finally, a unifying theme emerged from the chaos: developing a community.

In the first book of the series, two isolated couples on the prairie faced everything alone. At the lowest point, the two husbands died, leaving the two widows to survive through a lonely winter. Now we realize that some problems require the combined effort of the community: reaping the harvest with the new giant reaping machines; starting a cooperative bank; confronting an abusive neighbor.

I'm still looking forward to following this series!

Sarah Grace says

This one is definitely one of my favorites in the Red River of the North series! It's got all the classic characters - Ingeborge, Haaken, Agnes, Kaaren, Lars, Penny and Hjelmer, the kids, and even the Valdenses. Zeb's storyline is so, so good, and his redemption story is just utterly beautiful, as is Mr. Valdres. I love the rich history and beautiful themes of love, family, and redemption throughout.

Recommended for ages 16+ for a few mature scenes\references.

Cheryl says

While this book can be read as a stand alone it would be better to read the first 3 so you know how the people ended up where they are. The Bjorklund family is finally getting the land and houses they wanted when they moved from Norway to the USA. Haaken goes on a tressing trip and the crops are ready to be harvested so his wife Ingeborg is worried about frost and not getting the outside work done. She goes out to the fields herself and has an accident. The children and Haaken get the mumps and he is unable to work for a long time. The one thing that really stands out is how hard their lives were and how hard they worked.

Pegg says

The saga continues from the North Dakota plains. Lauraine Snelling does an excellent job of keeping the story moving forward, the characters true to the books before, and interesting new characters added to the mix.

Bridget Bjorklund - Ingeborg's first mother-in-law - arrives on the plains. She brings with her a daughter, a nephew, a cousin, and an orphan she collected on the boat from Norway. The Bjorklund houses are filled to capacity.

Zeb MacCallister, a non-Norwegian, rides into town looking for work. A man of secrets with two children not his own, he captures the eye of pretty Katy Bjorklund.

And the town of Blessing takes shape as more of the Bjorklund clan and others move off the farms and into town. But not everything goes off without a hitch. In the land where dangers are many and doctors are few, hardships are unavoidable. Their deep-seated belief in God and the willingness to help each other is all that pulls them through.

Lynette says

I really like this family.

Pam says

I've enjoyed learning about the hardships and successes of the Norwegian immigrants who settled in the North Dakota Territory. The courage and strength of these determined people is amazing and their faith inspiring. Lauraine Snelling has developed a cast of characters in this Red River of the North series who are engaging, inspiring and memorable. I have enjoyed all the books in this series!

Johazel Ehnes says

I like this series of books. Lauraine Snelling knows how to keep the interest up in a story. I can hardly wait to read the next book.

CC says

This well researched historical fiction series is one of the better I have ever read, and this book continued and added new aspects to the story.

Carol says

I had read this before, but had forgotten many of the details! Well worth reading again!

The story begins in Springfield, Missouri in the Early Summer of 1885. He was dead. Zeb MacCallister held the rifle instead of throwing it because of his pa's training to "Treat your rifle better than any woman...." His had saved his life. Why had Abe Galloway gone for his gun? They hid the body in a cave that Zeb & his sister's had played in as children. When he got home, his sister, Mary Martha, noticed the blood from what Zeb said was a flesh wound. Mary Martha joined Zeb on the horse & began to inspect it. When they got in the house, Zeb considered that his mother was older, the war had been hard on the women. He didn't know how he had known that. As he finished his birthday breakfast he prepared to leave home. Mary Martha fixed his bedroll & his mother handed him her bible. The last time he saw them they were on the porch as he waved good-bye, he had a long way to go and only God knew what would become of him.

Christy says

Another great read in the Red River Series. This is probably my favorite historical series thus far. The small town of Blessing is growing and with that many new faces. There is a lot to keep up with in this series but I feel it's worth it. These Lauraine Snelling books are pure family and community and light on the romance; which will always be my favorite. They are not fluffy or cheesy or dripping with sweet words. Just raw grit and determination to seek out God's will in the Dakota territory. Wonderful descriptions of homesteading!!!

Brenda Nommensen says**Red River Series**

Love reading about the struggles of the immigrants that settled and started our country. Living in Minnesota. Find this series feels so close to home. Love how the author brings the feelings of the hard working women to life.

Bria Perozzo says**Another great read by Lauraine Snelling**

I just love reading about the Bjorkland family and their trials and triumphs as they homestead. Lauraine Snelling is amazing.

Allan67 says

Another book read to the wife. She loves to be read to, she always has. Reading is one of the few things that we can do together.

This book is a continuation of the Bjorklund family story on the prairie in the Dakota territory, later to become North Dakota. In this book, the coming of the railroad brings about the successful creation of the town of Blessing, complete with blacksmith shop, grain storehouse, general store, and soon to be boarding house. Various new Bjorklund family members, plus some others, come to Blessing and contribute to the community.

A lot happens in this story so you have to stay on your toes to keep up. In the second half of the book, we found ourselves wondering from time to time about who some of the characters were who were introduced in the early part of the book.

Diana liked the book, she thought it was four and a half, but since there are no half stars, she gave it a four star rating - she said it was a little short of a five star.
