



## **Julia's Last Hope**

*Janette Oke*

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When the local mill announces its closing, John and Julia Harrigan are determined to find a way to save the small Canadian lumber town of Calder Springs and their home.

## Julia's Last Hope Details

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Author : Janette Oke

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## **From Reader Review Julia's Last Hope for online ebook**

### **Debbie Phillips says**

Love this book. In this story a logging business closes and the few families that stay in the the town try and save their town. The families open their homes to guests, serving them and using their homes and the mountain town to earn money for their families. Part way through Julia and her family realize that the physical needs of feeding and clothing everyone are not the most important. This trial wakes them up to the spiritual needs of their guests and the other members of their town. Do they save the town??? You will have to read it and find out. Though this is part of the Women of the West series says it is part of a series, each of the books in this series is actually an individual story, so you can read them in any order.

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### **Reagan says**

When the timber mill closes in Calder springs, people are worried. The men who worked there don't have a job anymore. Julia has an idea to try and make Calder Springs a resort town. Some people do stay at Calder Springs for a little bit, but their neighbors start moving away. What is going to happen? What are they going to do? Read this fascinating book to find out!

I liked this book a lot!

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### **Salinn says**

Loved this book so much! Very highly recommend!

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### **LeonaJane says**

Great story of love and perseverance.

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### **Dorrice says**

O think this book must have been shorter than the first book in the series. I have read the whole thing today. A poignant story about what happens to a small pioneer town when the one source of employment and business closes. Julia, the protagonist, does her best to work toward making the town self sufficient again by advertising it as a place to vacation. Sadly, one by one the other families leave and only Julia and John are left. John has already found work in another town so has been away much of the time in the last few months. They had sent their daughters East for schooling since the school in the town had been closed. In the end John and Julia decide that a house in that little town was a lot less important than having the family together, and the book ends with the knowledge that the family was going to be reunited.

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## **Korah says**

very interesting book how Julia works through her hardship. i would recommend this book, but i can not say it has anything extremely thrilling but is still worth reading!

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## **Tashawna says**

Though slower paced, *Julia's Last Hope* was an enjoyable read for me. :)

Set in the early to mid 1900's (I'm guessing), this is a story about a family living in a mountain mining town. Julia Harrigan is living happily in a beautiful house with her husband and twin daughters when something happens that puts them all in a hard situation. The mine has closed, and the town will be abandoned. In an attempt to save the town, Julia and the families that decide to stay try to turn the place into a resort town.

It was kind of fun to see the different people who came to stay at the Harrigan's home. Some were rich and spoiled, some kept big secrets... It was kind of fun. Though some of the people! Ugh, they're terrible! :( (view spoiler)

There were good lessons imparted i this book, such as telling your neighbors the gospel message and loving "sinners". :)

I liked Julia. She was a nice character, not perfect, but striving to do right. And her and John were sweet. :) Jennifer and Felicity were fun to read about too, and I liked Constance and Hettie too.

Anyhow, it was a pretty good book all in all! Historical, a tad bit mysterious, faith-filled, and even a little sweet. ;)

my reccomendation: I'm thinking this book is classified as adult, but it's obviously fine for younger ages too (since I read it :P). Maybe 13-15+? Probably the most "mature" theme is that someone who isn't married has a baby and doesn't want (her\him). Then the book is about a married couple and all, too.

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## **Jerry says**

Another enjoyable historical fiction yarn from this author.

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## **Larisha says**

I fell in love with Julia Harrigan and her family as they fight to save the town they love. Though they end up leaving the now-ghost town of Calder Springs, it is evident that they stayed as long as they were needed to stay, and learned the lessons and had the experiences God had for them there.

Each new phase of their adventure in the dying town teaches them more about faith in God and being a witness...as well as introduces them to some interesting characters. The life journey God has for each of us.. Promises the same - growing faith, mountaintop, and valley experiences as we grow in our intimacy with our Heavenly Father!!

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### **Nellie Anne says**

This book has some real depth that it might be easy to miss. On the surface, it is about a family fighting to save the home and town the love (already a thought-provoking if not predictable plotline), but really, it is about fighting the tide, and about attempting to control things that are really out of human control. Also, the slowness of resignation to the inevitable is very lifelike. I first read this book on a long flight from the United States to Great Britain in 2000, and was nonplussed by the anticlimactic conclusion. However, upon rereading it numerous times since, I believe the author is really speaking to the idea of holding on and letting go in the proper time, and about God's grace and guidance in the process. Each phase in the adventures in Calder Springs had a purpose in this story. It mirrors an experience I had in ministry many years ago involving an attempt to help save a church that was on the edge of decline. The feelings and determination Julia and her family exhibit are so familiar to me that the book is truly a therapeutic read. I recommend it highly, but only for those who have a depth of thought on the subject of loss.

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### **Dianne says**

I found an old reading journal from 2001. I wrote "enjoyed listening to it"

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### **Hosanna says**

As with almost all of the books that I have read by Janette Oke, this novel was a great, Christian read! The main character had to rely on God during the ordeal that their family went through, and she showed her strong faith through the story line. The characters were real, and felt like real people. I think the ending could have been a bit better though. Overall, I enjoyed this book!

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### **Nadine Keels says**

#### **Thoughts on the entire series.**

Overall, *Women of the West* is my favorite series (that I've read so far) by Oke, where I really reveled in what the author had to bring in all of her sweet, warm, and simplistic glory. However, the books aren't only warm fuzzies, as Oke does deal with some tough, and even some potentially controversial, issues, giving the reader some points to chew on but doing it in her warm style.

I've read most of the books in the series more than once (maybe even three times, with *The Measure of a Heart*), and while not each of them are individual favorites of mine, the series as a whole took me places I'm so grateful to have gone.

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## **Cheryl says**

This was definitely one of the better Women of the West books, albeit one of the shortest and simplest. It is such a sweet and cheerful story, even with the sadness of the town dieing when the mill closed.

I actually had read this before when I was a teen and forgot about it until near the end when the baby is born. It had started to feel familiar at times midway through the book but apparently that one scene really stuck with me.

There really isn't much hardship and adversity in this book. Julia's family was very blessed and fortunate that they had an inheritance from a rich uncle, a nice house, nice wedding gifts to sell, and a rich father back East to ship the daughters off to when things got bad. I would have liked to see the perspective of some of the other townspeople who suffered a lot more.

I think the best part of this book was the stories of the boarders that Julia took in. It gave the book a sense of adventure and made it much more interesting than it would have been otherwise.

As with all of Janette Oke's books, you have to put up with some preachiness in the story but it made sense in this book and barely escaped feeling overdone.

I would recommend this book to anyone wanting a quick, easy, lighthearted read. There are also some good lessons about gratefulness, materialism, and hard work that would make this a good book for young girls.

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## **Hannah says**

Julia's Last Hope is a beautiful, heartwarming story of a young women trying to help her family survive and make ends meet. I really loved this story and the break from romance was nice as well. => Another wonderful Janette Oke book!

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## **Terri says**

I don't know if I've just read too many of Oke's books lately or if this one just isn't as good. It's hard to tell. In this one Julia and her family face the closure of the mill and the emptying of the town. Most of the time I kept thinking that Julia and her husband should just sit down and talk to each other instead of assuming they knew what the other was thinking. They spend 2-3 years trying to save their town and save their beautiful home for each other when the other one doesn't need the home saved and would be willing to leave. To me it was a message about how couples need to communicate better! The rest of the book adventures seemed like small mini stories to fill pages and I didn't come close to the characters or their lives at all.

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## **Andrea says**

**2015 Review:** It seems I've read this one before, but it didn't seem familiar. Perhaps that because it was felt a little underwhelming. It had all the classic elements of Oke's "new adventures in the West" gentle romances, but I just didn't connect with these characters. The book tried to cover a lot of territory so the children all sort of started running together, which probably didn't add to my enjoyment. Overall, not a bad read but not my favorite.

**2012 Review:** Reread 8 or 9? Maybe? I used to own the first four Women of the West books and would reread them at the drop of a hat.

In my early teens I devoured Janette Oke's books about women in the frontier west and they are still among my favorite "romances", if they can be called that. This one is less about finding love than about the challenges and struggles a family may face, but I remember really liking the way the relationship between Julia and John is portrayed and thinking that I wanted the support and teamwork they showed to be part of my own marriage someday.

On this reread (as it's been at least 10 years), the simplicity and sweetness of this story still appeals but I don't find the characters as interesting as I once did. I don't think this is Oke's strongest writing but it's a nice story about family and overcoming adversity and not a terribly long read so – time well spent, I think.

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## **Lindsay says**

This book was boring even for Christian fiction. I was disappointed since Janette Oke is usually such an excellent writer. It was almost as if she didn't put any effort at all into writing this book.

There was no conflict whatsoever. Even the usual "struggle to retain faith in the midst of doubt" was superficial at best. All of the characters were almost perfect and got along wonderfully...BORING and unrealistic. The ending was completely rushed, jumping over months with just a few sentences. In addition, the ending was a huge letdown and didn't even fit the rest of the plot.

The only reason this book got even 2 stars is because Oke is still a very articulate writer. The quality of the writing itself - grammar, sentence structure, mechanics, and comprehensibility - is good and the book is readable. Considering that many books can't even claim that much, I had to at least give it an additional star.

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## **Morris Graham says**

Julia's Last Hope seems to not have a valid point, like the author was rushed to deadline or something. Julia and her husband live in a very fine house that they acquired in a logging community. The mill shuts down and the town dries up. Julia stays and encourages some of the hold outs to persevere. In the end, there was no real point to the book, just failed communication between husband and wife. Not the quality of her other books which always seemed to not only have a point but got you well invested. Not worth your time.

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## **Hanna says**

This didn't keep me interested, as I took very long breaks between reads, and I didn't even really like the ending. This is probably my least favorite Janette Oke book so far.

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