




Sanctuary for a Lady

Naomi Rawlings

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The injured young woman Michel Belanger finds in the woods is certainly an aristocrat. And in the midst of France's bloody revolution, sheltering nobility merits a trip to the guillotine. Yet despite the risk, Michel knows he must bring the wounded girl to his cottage to heal.

Attacked by soldiers and left for dead, Isabelle de La Rouhecauld has lost everything. A duke's daughter cannot hope for mercy in France, so escaping to England is her best chance of survival. The only thing more dangerous than staying would be falling in love with this gruff yet tender man of the land. Even if she sees, for the first time, how truly noble a heart can be....

Sanctuary for a Lady Details

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Author : Naomi Rawlings

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From Reader Review Sanctuary for a Lady for online ebook

Kav says

It boggles this reader's mind that this is a debut novel. Rawlings writes like a seasoned pro. With the tight plot, impeccable characterization and enough emotional angst to water-log the Kleenex company, this is a romance lover's dream. Seriously good.

Love the unusual setting -- revolutionary France. There's a history lesson or two or three within the pages which I found to be a fascinating bonus. Kudos to Love Inspired for branching out from their norm and to Rawlings for inspiring them to do so.

This is a stomach-churning, knuckle-whitening read from cover to cover. I was an emotional wreck all the way through, between shouting warnings, chiding stubbornness and wanting to throw something at someone (including the author) occasionally! LOL. But I survived to tell the tale -- to dream about the tale -- to carry on the tale -- to dream up a new tale based on this one...well, let's just say the story is still with me and I'm praying it's not long before Rawlings' next book is out!

And the romance! Oh-la-la! It's there in spades despite the impossibility of it all. And Rawlings creates incredibly intimate moments even in the midst of anger and hurt. Scenes that shot daggers at this sensitive reader's heart. Totally amazing; completely fulfilling.

The powerful inspirational thread made me squirm and I battled right along with Michel and Isabelle, marveling at what a benevolent God we have and the faith and strength of so many in history who survived untold horrors but still believed.

This one is a gem, a definite must read!

Jessica Snell says

Being a terrible person, I always flip through new books before I read them, risking spoilers and disappointment. But when I got Naomi Rawling's new book, "Sanctuary for a Lady", the first thing I stumbled across was this exchange:

"Why do you keep trying to kiss me?"

"I'm not trying to kiss you. I'm . . ." What? Trying not to kiss her?

That made me laugh out loud and go back to the beginning of the book in order to start the story, hopeful for good things.

And I wasn't disappointed: the story is full of incident and romance, bouncing nicely back and forth between the peril of the plot and the sweetness of the love story. It's set in one of the more exciting times of history - i.e., one of those times that's fun to read about but that you really wouldn't want to have to live through - and despite the dangers of the time period, it made me want to go and visit northern France, to see if it's still as pretty as this book makes it sound. The descriptions of the countryside in this story are lush and inviting, and

the aristocrat-fleeing-the-Terror plot reminded me of the life and times of the Scarlet Pimpernel.

ASC Book Reviews says

Such a great book!!! I am SO happy that I got to read this book! God is so good! I never knew I wanted to read Sanctuary for a Lady, but it showed up in the mail along with a book I had won! I didn't know it was coming, I didn't know I would like it, and since this is her first published book I hadn't read anything from Naomi before! All I knew is that it had an intriguing book description! I was wonderfully surprised!!! From the start it was very deep and yet there were things that made me laugh as I read on! Set during the French Revolution, danger and sadness are rampant. They didn't call it The Terror for nothing! Fear is a huge obstacle for Isabelle, forgiveness is another one. I absolutely LOVED reading along with her as she overcomes them both by the grace of God! Michel also has obstacles he must overcome. The greatest being guilt. Because of these obstacles this book becomes filled with amazing messages of Truth and Faith! I love, love, love so many of these scenes! The twists that Naomi throws in are wonderful, even though I new one was coming it still blew me out of the water with unpredictable characters! There are few things that I wish were different, one being that a French dictionary was added. There are a few characters that we're not really sure what happens to them, but this goes with the times. Uncertainty abounded during the French Revolution and Naomi expresses that in this fantastic story of love, loss, pain, hope, forgiveness, and much more!

Songs: "One Day At A Time" sung by Cristy Lane, there are a handful of versions of this hymn on amazon, but I settled on this one..."Oh God Our Help In Ages Past" by Mike Curb Congregation Songs etc. May be changed and/or added in the future. ~ASC

1 Corinthians 6, Psalm 82

~ASC

Caitlyn says

I normally stick to Regency England and the American West, when it comes to Christian Fiction Historical Fiction. However, I decided to give this a shot because it's the FRENCH REVOLUTION, and it was awesome.

Michel is a French peasant who is NOT a strong supporter of the Revolution (tbh it was mainly the big cities that were 100% Long Live the Revolution, however I still applaud the author for having a character that still isn't the biggest fan of revolution) but he still HATES the French nobility. Isabelle is a French noble who has survived five or so YEARS in revolutionary France. I loved how we got a different look at the Revolution from these POVs.

The romance was sweet, the plot was great. All in all, it was a good read. Also, I'm really loving these Love Inspired Historical novels.

Crystal Memmott says

Naomi Rawlings book, Sanctuary for a Lady, is a well-written, compelling, historical romance. Set during the French Revolution this story shares inspirational messages of faith, hope, strength, determination, and love. It reminds us of God's love for everyone...no matter their station in life or bad decisions previously made. Sanctuary for a Lady is a story about the power of forgiveness and its importance in our lives.

Naomi presented realistic characters, lush settings, and great details while bringing the characters to life. I found myself engrossed in the story and yearning to read and learn more. Sanctuary for a Lady is overflowing with the struggles of everyday life, strife, tension, and danger. I was caught up in the heartbreaking decisions that Isabelle and Michel faced.

I really enjoyed this story and would love to read a sequel!

Christine Lindsay says

The Love Inspired line of Harlequin Romance has just found an awesome new author to add to their ranks.

I read Sanctuary for a Lady by Naomi Rawlings in one sitting as I couldn't put it down. And believe me, I had plenty to do.

This beautifully written historical romance is set in the era of the French Revolution so the drama is vividly real. Isabelle de La Rouchecauld, the daughter of a French Duke, is in danger of losing her life to the guillotine if farmer, Michel Belanger, doesn't hide her in his simple home.

I loved the fast pace of this novel that at the same time doesn't skimp on excellent writing. Historical detail is expertly woven in, but never detracts from a story full of danger and blossoming love.

But what made me give this book a 5-star rating was the twist near the end of the book that simply took my breath away. I never expected it. And yet it was so right. And how the author dovetailed that plot twist into an extremely satisfying ending sent tingles down my arms.

I want to read much, much more from this author.

Melissa says

The characters had such powerful emotions, a powerful love, and such insurmountable odds against them being able to be together. I wondered how the author would pull it off, but she did. A great book.

Norma Munson says

Well written. Set during French revolution when mobs were killing anyone they thought was connected to aristocracy and anyone who strived for reason.

Debbie Lynne says

Wow! I just finished Naomi Rawling's debut novel, Sanctuary for a Lady, and have to say it was terrific. Half way through the book I found myself saying, "I can't believe this is a debut novel." Rawling's delves deep into both the hero and heroines inner most emotions and brings them alive. Isabelle and Michel are well rounded flawed characters that have been carefully fleshed out. Rawlings knows how to make you fall in love with her characters. There is no sagging middle in this book, the stakes continually go up, keeping you turning the page. The book was rich in historic facts and details adding to the book's appeal. If you are tired of reading carbon copy books and looking for something that not only will keep your interest but has a fresh new twist, I highly recommend Sanctuary for a Lady.

Ausjenny says

I was lucky to win this book in a contest and was really looking forward to reading the book. The story had interested me as this period in time is interesting. The book is set during the French Revolution. The revolution has been going on 5 years and the book starts with Isabelle trying to get away when she's attacked and left for dead. Michel finds her and nurses her back to health. Helping Isabelle could mean death for Michel and his family but he feels he has to help her. The book shows how the revolution hasn't really improved the life of the average Frenchman it may have got rid of the Aristocrats but has replaced it with a regime of terror. I also learnt it was during the revolution that the metric system was first introduced. I would love to talk more of the story but it would give away too much. This book does show how often our lives are dictated to a degree by the circumstances we are born into. Being a daughter of an Aristocrat Isabelle was born to extravagance, servants and being able to do basically what she wanted without having to work for anything. Whereas Michel is born to a peasant family who have a farm which only just supports them and they know what it's like to be hungry and have no money. Unless you put yourself in the other's shoes or go out of your way to see how the other half live you have no idea and the lower classes will grow disgruntled at what they see as extravagance and waste while they are working so hard and hardly surviving. It's not the children's fault they were born to these circumstances and this is where the revolution was so cruel children were killed because of who they were. This book does show some of these issues when both Isabelle and Michel get to see the other side. This is a really good book and made me think and want to know more about the era. Great debut book.

Jane says

Would give it 4.5 Stars if I could

Jessica Nelson says

I really enjoyed the writing in this story. Rawlings is an emotional writer and while the plot may have not been surprising for me personally, the writing was wonderful and so were the characters. You know if a book makes your heart clench or your eyes sting that there's something special there, in the writing. I also love, love, love the setting Rawlings has chosen. She wove historical details and information naturally into the story. The information was seamless and yet so very interesting. I'm looking forward to more books by this author (hopefully the next one is with the heroine's sister?) *hint, hint* :-)

Faye says

Hope shines against the backdrop of the bloody French Revolution.

Isabelle de La Rouchecauld flees Paris in hopes of escaping the indescribable war of terror being waged on the aristocrats amidst the turmoil of the French Revolution.

After being severely beaten by a group of soldiers, Isabelle is taken in by a handsome farmer, named Michel Belanger.

But when the threat of the Revolution draws nearer, will they be willing to sacrifice the past, in exchange for a chance at brighter future...together?

I love how Sanctuary for a Lady captured the genuine fear and situation of that time period for those of the aristocracy. This book gave me a window into the French Revolution without the typical gore that we typically relate to the terrible events of the revolution.

In this story I saw glimpses of the Good Samaritan, in the form of the handsome farmer, Michel, who was something of a brooding hero with a heart of gold. And when Michel and Isabelle were together, sparks flew! Both of the main characters were so well developed. Isabelle with her stubborn determination, yet her sense of guilt over past events, made her a compelling character that was complex, yet easy for the reader to understand. With both Michel and Isabelle, I think what made them so real and relatable, was how it was easy to see how where they both had been in the past translated into the present.

The one thing that I think was just plain fantastic about this book was how hard questions, like, how bad things can happen to normal people, were answered in a simple, straightforward, easy-to-understand way that was not preachy in the least! Not only is this a wonderful romance, but it also has a strong Biblical foundation.

Overall this is a terrific debut from author Naomi Rawlings, I found myself staying up late into the wee hours just so I could find out what would happen next. This book has it all, strong characters, wonderful plot, firm

Biblical foundation, and an amazing historical setting and feel. Oh, and let's not forget the the romantic tension! Overall a great book that shows another side of the French Revolution.

Thanks to the author from whom I received this book in exchange for an honest review. Thanks!

Laura AKA Loves 2 Read Romance says

Isabelle de La Rouchecauld has lost everything due to the French Revolution. Her only hope of a new life is to reach England. Michel Belanger discovers Isabelle in the woods near his home. Injured and alone he knows he has to try and save her. However if anyone discovers that Michel is hiding an aristocrat they will both be sent to the guillotine. As Isabelle starts to recover her strength she finds herself drawn to Michel. Can the two find love and safety in the midst of the revolution?

I really enjoyed learning more about this era of history. The characters seem to come alive as I read about their struggles and hopes for the future. I can't wait to read the follow up!

Jane says

I don't know if I've read any other book by this author but I sure will. A book that draws you into the French Revolution and how it would affect a family in more than one way.

Isabelle is an Aristocrat hated by the peasants. The distinction of the classes comes through. The poor blame the rich. The rich abuse the poor. But yet a child cannot be blamed for what class they were born into.

Isabelle was running for her life when beaten and left for dead in the woods. This is where Michel finds her. He takes her to his house and tends her wounds and broken arm. This alone puts him and his Mom at stake of arrest. Yet God's love crosses the class barrier.

This is truly a story of learning not to judge people by their background and forgive. Also how sin can cause the innocent to suffer. People suffer just because sin is in the world. Yet God works in the midst of the evil for good.

A story I will not give the ending. Hatred hurts the person who harbors it more than those it is aimed at. Also it is sometimes misguided. Also forgiveness frees a person. They aren't bound because of hating someone.

I'd like to see another story about Isabelle and Michel.
