



# Holderby's Landing

*John D. Ferguson*

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## **Holderby's Landing** John D. Ferguson

When Justin Thorne, coddled student and heir apparent to Sylvan Springs Plantation, is forced to find his heritage, his manhood, and his destiny, in the space of one brief spring, all hell breaks loose on the banks of the Ohio River. His Virginia of 1836 is a time of transition and enormous growth. Northern Industry and Southern aristocracy, abolition and slave cultures collide in turmoil and lay bare the needs and desires of those intrepid spirits confronting the frontiers of the antebellum south.

Coming of age is an expected result of time and circumstance. It happens to all who live so long; to each within the singular dictates of their own lives. The process is on-going and ever dynamic. Every person, who they are now and who they will become, is the product of nature and nurture. Ancestry, culture, and environment collude in myriad ways to make us all, so each life's story is as different as we are ourselves. This theme is played out over and over throughout the world and throughout history, in millions of places like Holderby's Landing; as similar and as different as each of us to the other. Holderby's Landing is a single glimpse in time at the coming of age of a land, a community, and a few determined souls thrown together in love, strife and chance. What they make of the time, the opportunities and themselves is the story told and the living breath of the book.

## **Holderby's Landing Details**

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Author : John D. Ferguson

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## From Reader Review Holderby's Landing for online ebook

### Susan says

I didn't finish this book. The story/plot line was moving along well and I was interested to see where it lead, however, I didn't care for all the sexual interludes that seemed to appear in every chapter. I read about 6 chapters and called it "quits"

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### Tex Reader says

3.5 of 5 stars – Enjoyable Tale of Becoming a Man along the Ohio in 1830's  
(I'm excited to have won this as a Goodreads First Read – so thanks, John!)

This novel clicked in many ways for me – being a fan of historical fiction, having been born in the south, and having lived in beautiful Virginia as well as Ohio. The story and the characters, both the good and bad guys, were so well told with such descriptive language that I was drawn in from the beginning.

The plot moves along briskly, with just the right amount of tension and desire that keeps you engaged. Having travelled the same roads many times (although not on horseback) through the forests and valleys of Virginia, West Virginia (Virginia at the time) and along the Ohio, I was taken with how nicely Ferguson painted the settings, and the times, so that I could picture them in my mind. I also loved some of the descriptions of the characters and their actions, such as when Philby is first introduced. As part of the story, and like the better coming of age stories, Ferguson nicely, maybe a bit lightly, handles the questioning and philosophical explorations of youth as they try to understand the adult world and who they are.

I had a few surprises along the way. The social and political issues of the time were to be expected, but were not as deeply explored as might have been. And I found that all the good folks were a bit quick to perceive the good and bad in others quite astutely. That said, I did like the development of relationships between characters, including romance. As part of that, it was actually a little more risqué than I initially expected, but it was well done and a nice surprise.

All in all, I enjoyed this tale of a young man making his way in this time and place.

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### Bill Mcewen says

This is John's third book to date and his first period piece. The book is the coming of age adventure of Justin Thorne, southern aristocratic college student who discovers his heritage, his manhood, and his destiny, in the space of one brief spring trip to Holderby's Landing. The story moves along quickly building to a great and satisfying ending. I highly recommend this book!

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