



Love Is a Wild Assault

Elithe Hamilton Kirkland

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Delicate and dark-eyed, Harriet Potter became a legend for all time--a woman compelling sudden loves and fierce loyalties against the colorful backdrop of a brawling, newborn republic.

Abandoned to the savage wilderness and left to die, she fought a courageous battle for survival. And soon she was a proud beauty dressed in a silken gown--boldly escaping the approaching Mexican army in the arms of the man she loved.

Harriet Potter was known throughout the land as the heroine of a thousand tales, each one taller than the last, and each one true.

Love Is a Wild Assault Details

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From Reader Review Love Is a Wild Assault for online ebook

Melissa says

A museum book club choice, so a re-read for me.

One of those classic woman/frontier/men (mostly no-good) epic novels. But a few things make this one special: it's based on the memoirs of Harriet Potter Ames (the main character) and is packed with plenty of scholarly research. So though it's definitely fictionalized history, it's also not exactly made-up. And when you consider her story, that's a pretty amazing thing. Parts of it will hit you straight in the gut.

My only issues with this book are slight ones--the book is framed as Harriet writing out her story for her granddaughter, and in the first third or so, it goes back and forth between present and past. And then for the majority of the last two-thirds, this little narrative trick vanishes. And the ending feels very rushed--there's very little about Harriet's less tumultuous years, and it would have been nice for 10 pages or so about that. Which would have been better spent than the 20-30 pages on the granddaughter choosing a husband. Still, a page turner and worth checking out, especially if you have an affinity for frontier stories. It just sounds like a bodice-ripper romance novel. It definitely isn't.

Kristin says

Absolutely loved this book, both for its history of Texas as well as the fascinating and probably mostly true story about Harriett Ames. Some of her story is set in south central Texas where I live, so that made it come to life even more.

Carol Flatten says

The book was loaned to me by a retired history professor after a discussion of our early Texas ancestors. It is a historical novel about the most remarkable women I have ever read about. The story was developed from the an account of her life written, but lost for many years, by Harriet More Page Potter Ames. The novel traces Harriet's life from before her first marriage in Tennessee through her life in the Caddo Lake area of Texas. Her adventures, as her trials were many. The only disappointment was that very little of her life was written after the death of her husband, Robert Potter.

Cherie says

What a wonderful book. Thank you Elorra for recommending it!! I loved it.

Mel Thornton says

A Texas historical fiction novel that will surprise you at several turns. So glad I read this book!

Kim says

very good

Rebecca says

I finished this book last week, and I still can't quite put my finger on why I was a little disappointed with it. I think it might be in part because it received such high praise from other readers, yet I didn't walk away feeling wowed as I have with some other books recently. As I live in the area, I definitely appreciated the fascinating look into east Texas/west Louisiana history. And the fact that it is the true story of Harriet Moore, much of which is told in her own words from her memoirs and letters. I would recommend it to any Texan, especially women as the story provides great insight into one woman's unique contributions to Texas' struggle for independence. As women's stories are often left out of the history books or are afterthoughts, I believe it's so important to read books that tell these stories. But perhaps the writing quality overall left a something to be desired, or since the book was written in the 1950s, something about the style bothered me? I hope to have more insight into my own feelings after we discuss the book at our book club meeting later this month . . .

Shelley says

Fascinating! I highly recommend!

Dennis O'Daniel says

Enjoyed it

Diane Lynn says

4.5 stars

This is the story of Harriet Potter's life in the wilds of southeast Texas before Texas became a state. The author used Harriet's own manuscript of her life plus court records, land deeds, newspaper articles, and letters as source materials. Woven throughout Harriet's story is a good picture of what it was like to live in the lawless strip of land that wasn't really under Texas or Louisiana control. Not only did she survive panthers and starvation, but she survived 18 pregnancies and a couple of really crappy husbands. That last bit is not spoiling, it's on the back of the book!

Thanks go to Hannah for the recommendation!

Peggy Biggs says

I'm rather torn in my opinion of this book. Although I couldn't put it down, I still felt disappointed. If the author were still living I wouldn't be as honest about what I think. It appears to be an exceptionally well researched historical/biographical novel about one of the most amazing women I've ever heard of. I think the reason I couldn't put it down is because Harriet Potter's story is so compelling. The writing doesn't do justice to this woman's life. Instead of a good book, this could have been one of the great classic biographies. It reminded me of an "almost good as" Gone with the Wind type of romantic novel. The writing style was too flowery for my taste and, at times, seemed a bit like a cheap romance novel. I agree with several other reviewers that the end was terribly disappointing. After all the heartbreak & deaths of the first 3/4ths of the book, I longed to read about her happy marriage and the last 10 children. The switch to the granddaughter's romantic decisions seemed so silly and anticlimatic. In spite of my criticisms, I still recommend it as a shocking bit of Texas history (I kept doing internet searches to see if some of the more wild things were true, & they are).

Hannah says

The first 3/4ths of this truth-based historical novel were excellent. The final 1/4th was rushed and anticlimatic.

Be advised that it was written in the 1950's, so PC sensibilities don't apply.
:)

Dawn says

Of course, being a Texan myself, I had to read the story of Harriet Moore and her struggles in the new Texas Republic. I really enjoyed this book and had a great admiration for Harriet throughout the years as she fell prey to some ruthless, selfish men and kept her wits about her in order to stay alive and nurture her children as best she could. This is a true historical novel, based on the memoirs Harriet left her granddaughter, Tricky, describing in detail the ordeals she overcame to make it to her age with the odds so stacked against her. There is a lot of information about Rob Potter who was once Secretary of the Navy for the Texas Republic, as well as a polished poet and attorney. What kept me from giving it five stars is the last couple of chapters. It seemed to end a bit abruptly, although I do realize that is how life ends at times, but I was looking for more closure. I think anyone would enjoy reading this book, but especially women who are familiar with the beautiful East Texas country.

Linda Rowland says

Liked the book well enough but hate the title. Would never have considered reading it from the title. Interesting look at Texas history, but way too long. As with many telling their own story the main character seems to have an unrealistic view of her effect on the opposite sex. The cover also made it not appeal to me. Did the actual book have maps? Living in Northeast Texas I wanted to know where things happened.

Jo says

I wasn't born in Texas, but I got here as quickly as I could! This book should be required reading for anyone living in Texas. It's a broad historical account from one grandmother's point of view and how she lived to pass some womanly advise to her granddaughter, who is considering marrying.
