



## Seeing the Elephant

*Leah Banicki*

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\* \* \* \* \*Re-released as Finding Her Way, revised, rewritten and professionally edited.

After three long years of separation Corinne Temple is heading West to see her father again. She marries Andrew Temple the day she leaves for the Oregon Trail. He is a family friend but far from friendly. Her third generation knowledge of healing herbs makes her an asset to the wagon train but her husband's iron grip leaves Corinne confused and angry. In 1848 can a woman find any kind of freedom?

The lines between the classes blur and Corinne struggles as hardship and loss find her on the trail. The mountain peaks and turbulent waters are not the only obstacles. Corinne must search her heart and test her resilience in;

Seeing the Elephant

## Seeing the Elephant Details

Date : Published May 1st 2011 by Createspace

ISBN : 9781461144168

Author : Leah Banicki

Format : Paperback 210 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Christian Fiction, Romance, Westerns

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## From Reader Review Seeing the Elephant for online ebook

### Emma says

The story was really fun and I was never bored. I felt like I traveled the trail with the characters. I love getting to travel through history with a good book.

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### Belinda says

5 stars English Ebook - Wauw I have to let the dust settle down. ??? review follows later. ???

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### Jean Lawrence says

#### Awesome book

I chose this rating because it kept my interest. I didn't want to put it down. Every chance I could I picked it up and read it.

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### Kim Boutell says

#### Could have been good

This book could have been so many things but just kept missing the mark. First, it is full of grammatical errors and was obviously am written in first person and (poorly) changed at the last minute. There are several spots where it is both. A good editor, or friend to read through, would have been smart.

Second, the story lacked the right details for an Oregon Trail story. There were a few good scenes (finding the Indian tribe, river crossings, painting Independence Rock), but opportunities for major events were just glossed over, like mountain passes and the arrival in Oregon. It's like the author did only a little research.

Third, the characters were flat. Corinne had no faults. She valiantly succeeded each trail, even having her nasty husband conveniently die off. Giving her an odd skill, like healing and essential oils, is interesting but not character development. It just tied story bits together. Andrew was only nasty-mean. His journal was a poor story change obviously added only to help finish the story. Clive was the only character with a little depth. Maybe since he was older, his flaws were behind him and therefore he felt real.

Lastly, as a Christian romance (which I don't usually read) it missed the "God" mark. A few whispered prayers, some church attendance references and a few sentences about how God changed her life does not make a good Christian story. Corinne tells her Father on arriving in Oregon that God changed her but there is no difference in her personality. It feels like, similar to the change from first person, a few Christian phrases were added in at the last minute, just to change genres.

The author has potential, but needs help. Get a good editor, and a grammar checking software program. Thoroughly research your setting or go with a region you know. Develop characters before writing and don't change voice unless you rewrite the entire book. Be Christian or don't, but lukewarm, wishy-washy doesn't work. Take writing courses, get serious constructive criticism, edit and rewrite. Self publish doesn't mean you can be sloppy or lazy. I hope the other stories are better, but I won't waste my time.

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### **Joan says**

This is supposed to have been professionally edited. Unfortunately, the writing is riddled with errors: missing words, changes in tense, changes to first person pov from third. There was little to the story other than Corinne's miserable journey. Many chapters followed the same structure - Corinne waking up, dealing with what the day brought and then the chapter ending with her going to sleep. There was insufficient conflict to keep me reading and I dnf'd at 36%.

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### **Leah Banicki says**

A fast moving, family friendly adventure. From sea to shining sea. Explore young America with Corinne Temple, a young woman who learns how to face her challenges bravely in Seeing the elephant. The new edition is now available and the grammatical issues have been addressed. I hope you enjoy the journey. ~ Leah

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### **Skeeter Jorgensen says**

I really liked this book. I love stories about wagon trains and the hardship, love and adventure. I am afraid I would have made a very poor pioneer, but I enjoy the books.

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### **Kathy says**

I really liked this book! I live in Wyoming not far from the Oregon Trail and loved reading about the settlers as they went thru the various places along the trail. The author had completed her research very well and it was factual to events and places. As for the people in the book, very real. I would like to read other books from Leah Banicki

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### **Patricia Strefling says**

Read Seeing The Elephant and was immediately pulled into the story. It is a well-researched novel written in the 1800s. The author takes us back to real-time with a story about how a woman must make her own way. Her dreams, her mistakes, and her experiences. Even with some grammatical issues, the book is a good read! Especially for those who love historical time period.

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### **Laurel Anne says**

This is one of the first books I've read about the western wagon trails. Very interesting and told from a very good perspective.

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### **Dana says**

Loved this one!

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### **India says**

Setting off on the Oregon Trail with a cold fish of a new husband seemed like the least of her worries but as the gruelling journey begins Corinne realises just what she's taken on. She quickly immerses herself in her new role without support or love from her uncaring husband and she soon realises that her skills as a healer are in need but will the man who made it possible for her to travel block her from helping her friends and neighbours?

Corinne is a strong protagonist with a kind heart and the reader quickly learns to love her but her husband is another matter. Her friendships suffer while he seeks to crush her spirit but Corinne is made of stronger stuff and her caravan of travellers see that.

Banicki has researched the trail well and the sub-stories that happen along the journey are authentic to the historic setting and deeply emotive. I had to read quickly because I was desperate to know what would happen next. The book was thought-provoking.

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### **Greta Burroughs says**

In her novel "Seeing the Elephant," the effort Leah Banicki put into researching the lives and times of the brave souls traveling the Oregon Trail is very evident. Her descriptions of the route, scenery, difficulty and perseverance of the people looking for a new life "out west" make the book a very intriguing read.

The characters are clearly defined and the action is fast faced which makes for a captivating story. There are some grammatical issues and misspellings but the errors do not take the reader's attention away from the story line.

All in all, Ms. Banicki did a masterful job of describing what "Seeing the Elephant" really means and I'm sure many people will enjoy this book.

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### **Jeffery B. says**

Fact paced action, adventure. Never a dull moment, a quick and fun read.

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## Alyssa says

\*\*\*\*\* I WON THIS ON GOODREADS \*\*\*\*\*

This book has AMAZING potential. I love the characters, the dialog, the story line, the history, EVERYTHING.

The ONLY thing this book needs is a good editor and the right publisher.

This book is right on track to be worthily compared to a Jannete Oke book. And that's the exact shelf it will go on in my home library, right next to the Jannete Oke books. (After I pass it around to a few friends :o)

And the only thing that would have been helpful to me is an explanation of the title. It is mentioned in the book in 3 or 4 different places, but without the historical background on what the term means and where it came from, I am lost on that part.

AGAIN, an AMAZING historical fiction book that Jannete Oke fans will relish in and appreciate.

I will be IMPATIENTLY waiting for the next book!!!

You have an absolutely charming, likable, loveable story here Leah!! Keep up the good work :o)

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