



Heaven In His Arms

Lisa Ann Verge

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Struggling to survive on the streets of Paris, Genevieve will do anything to start a new life. She'll even switch places with a King's Girl, one of many penniless young noblewomen destined to be shipped to the savage French colonies. It's a dangerous masquerade that comes with a high price: Once in Quebec, Genny must marry a stranger....

Heaven In His Arms Details

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From Reader Review Heaven In His Arms for online ebook

Sally906 says

A lovely historical romance set in the wilds of Canada. The life of fur trappers was a rough one - and not usually something done by women - but our intrepid heroine is not going to be left behind by her husband - especially as he had already made arrangements to bury her before he left!!!

Luli says

Buddy-Read with Linda, Lyuda and Oana.

Ladies, I have never had so much fun reading a book, although it has been a dnf. It has been a pleasure. I hope we do it again soon. Thanks a lot!

Corrine says

4 1/2 stars

This was a very interesting take on the arranged marriage, with a unique setting: 17th Century Canada. The setting was what sold this book for me, because part of my family would have been coming over from France at the same time, and they settled Montreal for almost two hundred years before breaking up and migrating south to settle in Illinois.

Genevieve Lalande is a courtesan's daughter with nowhere to turn. She has been living in a charity house in Paris since she was sixteen after being picked up living on the streets. She will do anything to find a new life, even switch places with an orphaned aristocrat. After a horrible, illness-inducing ride across the Atlantic, Genevieve is barely alive as she lands in Montreal.

Andre Lefebvre is in need of a wife - not that he wants one, but the government is refusing to issue out trading licenses to men who are not married. So when Andre meets who he thinks is an exceedingly ill aristocrat, he marries her and leaves her to die in the Hotel de Dieu. Genevieve, however, recovers and sets out to find the man who would callously marry her and leave nothing more than instructions on her burial. She is unprepared for the attraction that springs up between them, but is more than willing to use it to get what she wants: a stable home, a husband, and children. Andre has other plans, as he has spent three years preparing for a journey west through Canada, his ultimate goal being to reach the China Sea. When Genevieve decides to go with, he knows nothing good will come of it, and sets out to make her beg to return to Montreal. But Genevieve isn't the spoiled, soft aristocrat Andre thinks she is. A-

Kim H says

A delightful French Colonial road romance. Fur trapper Andre Lefebvre is forced to marry in order to keep his fur-trading license. He chooses Genevieve Lalande from among the "King's Girls" (boatloads of women of good health and upbringing) shipped to New France to raise the numbers of eligible women of good breeding and help settle the French colonies), thinking she is deathly ill & won't survive long after he embarks on a trapping expedition into the interior. Andre has no interest in marriage, especially to a frail & pampered Frenchwoman who will require him to live in the settlements, when all he craves is the unfettered freedom of the wilderness. Genevieve proves stronger than Andre had thought, however, and she not only survives her illness but presents herself to Andre on the eve of his departure, refusing to be left behind. Andre agrees, thinking that the rigors of the trail will break Genevieve, and she will gladly return to the settlements. Yet once again, his inconvenient, unpredictable wife proves to be more than she seems - in more ways than one.

I'll just cut to the chase here: this is an enjoyable, fully engrossing story and I loved it. I initially thought it was something I've seen before, and in some ways it was, but Verge manages very nicely to bring something refreshing & unique to what might otherwise be a boring and predictable marriage of convenience plot. Despite the fact that Andre and Genevieve are basically deceiving each other, there is a surprising degree of candor and depth to their budding relationship. When the deceptions are fully revealed, they weather the storm with remarkable strength and devotion. Once I got to the second half of the story I literally couldn't put it down. The love scenes are scorching & very well-written, the dialogue witty and engaging. I gave it a solid A.

Julianna says

Reviewed for THC Reviews

"4.5 stars" *Heaven in His Arms* was a refreshing change of pace for a historical romance that was filled with unusual elements. First of all, it takes place in 17th century, colonial Canada when the country was still known as New France and largely unexplored. Both lead characters are also French. The heroine trades places with one of the King's Girls (the equivalent of a mail order bride, except she was sent by King Louis XIV's decree) who was bound for Quebec to become a wife to one of the men who was already settled there. The hero is a fur trader and intrepid explorer who loves the land and can't stand to be cooped up in a settlement. The characters take part in an expedition from Montreal to a tiny outpost on Lake Superior, battling nature and the elements all along the way, so fans who like epic adventure mingled with their romance should really enjoy this one. Despite all the exciting uniqueness of the story, I can't say that I fell in love with it immediately. The hero does a few things in the beginning that made me want to slap him, and early on, the adventure element seemed to outweigh the romance. However, the further and further I got into the story, the more and more it drew me in, until I was fully invested in all the ups and downs of the relationship and couldn't wait to see what challenges they might face next.

As I mentioned, Andre, the hero, kind of got on my bad side at first. Initially, he doesn't seem to have a compassionate side at all. He appears to be a stubborn man with selfish ambitions whose mistress is the land and she calls to the wanderlust in him constantly. The last thing he wants is a wife to muck up his plans of adventuring in the wilderness, but the government has decreed that he must marry in order to receive his fur trading license. He goes to meet the King's Girls, not really caring who he marries. He'll take anyone as long as he gets his license and can get away from the settlement as soon as possible. Andre chooses a sickly girl, simply because he doesn't think she'll survive, which will leave him free to do as he pleases. He seemingly has no care for his new wife whatsoever, leaving her to languish in a hospital for days without ever checking on her and only leaving instructions for her burial. When Genevieve recovers and goes after him, he doesn't recognize her at first and is ready to cheat on his wife with her, not knowing that she *is* his wife. As one can see, there doesn't appear to be much to recommend the guy at this point, but as the story progresses, I

discovered that he was not as bad as I originally feared. In fact, I came to admire and appreciate him very much. Even though Genevieve is doing everything in her power to seduce him, Andre refuses, for quite a while, to take her virginity on the hard ground within earshot of his men. His excuse was that he still wanted to seek an annulment when they returned to civilization, but it was pretty obvious that he was protesting too much. As it turns out, there are events in his past which make him quite vulnerable and afraid to allow himself to fall in love. We also find out that Andre has done some very nice things for some of his men, but he hates for anyone to know about them or make a fuss. In the end, Andre did harbor a soft heart beneath his hard body and stubborn personality. It just took a while for him to let it show, but when he finally did, he gave himself fully to Genevieve, body, heart, and soul and trusted her even when he found out the truth about her origins.

Genevieve was a strong, brave young woman to do what she did by switching places with the King's Girl. For years, her life was a desperate fight for survival, and finally tired of that, she took measures which she hoped would ensure her future. She aches for a home, husband, and family to call her own, and is willing to marry a stranger to find that peace she craves. She is just the kind of spitfire heroine I love, one who is tough and feisty without being TSTL or annoyingly obstinate. I liked her spunk in chasing after her errant husband and forcing him to take responsibility for her. It was pretty ingenious how she essentially blackmailed him into taking her with him on his expedition by threatening to go to the governor and request an annulment on the grounds that he was mistreating her. Andre expects Genevieve to cave no more than a couple of days into the journey and start whining to return to civilization, but she surprises everyone with her fortitude and determination. She's suffered through far worse than trekking through the wilderness, so she's not about to complain. She also doesn't want her husband to set her aside when they do return, so she's determined to seduce him and consummate their marriage if it's the last she does. Genevieve's backstory made her an incredibly sympathetic heroine who I greatly admired. She has many secrets in her past which she doesn't share with Andre, but she does share every other bit of herself with him and loves him to distraction. I liked how Genevieve intuitively knew that Andre was in love with her too even though he stubbornly refused to admit it for a long time. She just instinctively knew that he couldn't possibly treat her with such gentleness and passion if he weren't.

Andre and Genevieve made an interesting pair. They both have very troubled pasts, but are not what I would traditionally call tortured. This is because neither of them is particularly dark and brooding. Instead, they are both strong survivors who will do anything to stay alive which I admired a lot. Andre and Genevieve both have very bold personalities, so they begin the story spending quite a bit of time arguing. This isn't usually something I care for in a romance, but it didn't annoy me like it usually would, because it fit the situation and they gradually simmered down as they fell more and more in love. Their butting of heads also made for some amusing moments too. It did create a rather tumultuous relationship, but at least, I felt like I understood them most of the time, even though their stubbornness sometimes kept them from communicating effectively. When Andre and Genevieve finally give into their feelings for one another though, their passion is explosive and their love scenes are some of the most sensual I've read in a book that is only moderately descriptive.

In addition to the wonderful characters, *Heaven in His Arms* has richly drawn settings with lots of descriptive narration. I felt like I was there with Andre, Genevieve, and his men in this pristine, virgin wilderness. It makes me think of all the men and women of old who sacrificed in order to settle the western lands of North America, and yet, for someone like Andre, it really was no sacrifice. He loved the wilderness so much and was so curious about what was still out there that it was no hardship for him to explore, but it was still very dangerous. If it were not unfriendly Indians, then Mother Nature could take her toll on expeditions like theirs. Still, reading about their adventures left me feeling invigorated, so a part of me can understand why they would want to go on these journeys. It was like the setting became a character unto itself. Anyone who enjoys their romance laced with adventure should really like this one.

Heaven in His Arms was a very well-written book that was quite different than any other historical romance I've read and one that I would highly recommend. The story may have gotten off to a slightly slow start for

me, but it just got better and better as it went, making it a keeper in the end. This was my first read by Lisa Ann Verge, but it certainly won't be my last. It appears that her career as a romance writer was somewhat short-lived and more recently she has been writing women's fiction, but I'm certainly looking forward to checking out some of her other works.

Alina C?r?u says

All single men in the colony must marry within a fortnight of the arrival of the king's girls. If they don't, they'll be denied their precious fur trading licenses. (Loc. 500-501)

For today's post I've chosen to write a review for an adventure romance entitled Heaven in His Arms, written by Lisa Ann Verge, which is set in Quebec in the 17th century, a place of which I've never read anything before.

Genevieve Lalande's past is filled with grief, terrible events and circumstances that led her to the miserable existence on the streets of Paris. Her only chance to escape from the wretched underbelly of the French society and to begin a better life is to switch places with a king's girl (Marie Duplessis) in order to become a mail-order bride and to be sent to Quebec, the newest colony in King Louis XIV's possession.

Every year since she'd arrived in the Salpêtrière, dozens of girls had been given a dowry by the king and sent off to the Caribbean islands or to the northern settlements of New France, to marry and settle in the colonies. (Loc. 61-62)

<http://elitere.ro/heaven-in-his-arms/>

<http://alinasbookishhideout.com/revie...>

Misfit says

"King Louis XIV himself has dowered me. He has paid my passage to some horrible place called Quebec and he intends to marry me off to some coarse, half-savage settler—"

For once the blurb does a good job recapping the main story, so I'll be lazy and skip that. This has to be one of the better older Zebras that's popped up on the freebies lately. I like the relationship of the two, especially the heroine's determination not to be left behind, she's not some hot-house flower who can't take the elements and the wildness of the Canadian wilderness.

Lyuda says

Buddy-Read with Linda, Luli, and Oana

The premise of the story sounded interesting and quite unique-arranged marriage in the 17th century French colony of Quebec between the King's Girl and a fur-trader. And for the first 15-20%, it was just that-fairly interesting and unique. That is until the characters embarked on the journey into the Canadian wilderness. The more the story concentrated on the characters' relationship, the worse it became. Between their numerous sexy times, non-existing chemistry, and wooden (no pun intended) dialog, I wasn't sure what to

do- laugh or cringe. I chose the former thanks to my buddy-read group. Thank you ladies for the fun time! Your presence along the way was invaluable:)

RedL. says

4,5 Bring Me With You For A New Life Stars

Sometimes is not just a good book, but a good book at the right moment. This is pretty much what happened with *Heaven in his arms*: I was completely delighted by the plot, the locations, the pace and the lovestory, I wished the adventures would never stop...I needed a book like this right now. I didn't even realise this was actually published in 1995, it didn't feel or sound dated to me.

It is not a literary masterpiece, but it works so perfectly at every level, even if the tension slacks during the last part. The language flew and swept me along, there is a warmth, effervescence and verve running through all of it that got me easily captivated. The historical period is one of my favourites, same as the settings - France after La Fronde, colonialism in Canada - and I felt right at home. I watched the story unfold with the excitement of a child in a unicorn shop. The plot was perhaps not super original but perfectly executed, the pace kept me holding my breath almost constantly and the lovestory is equally sweet and wonderfully lustful.

Two strongheaded protagonists, André and Genevieve, bound to have memorable clashes of will, words and yes, eventually sex too. They fight, they banter, they plot, they try to up each other, they seduce and run from it at the same time and believe me, there are some mean pranks too here, something I didn't see coming at all in a romance. After so much UST and the abandon or real consumption of such bottled desire, seeing them fall in love, full selfless love, not only lust, was a beautiful thing. Both characters had the chance to grow and change during the story arch, becoming both softer and stronger at the same time. They are not perfect, they are not noble, they are fighters and survivors, self-making individuals, but when they give, they give completely. Jealousy and virginity tropes are used in a way I didn't expect but very much worked.

I fell in love with the nature of course, I love Canada, how could I not? I found it again an important character and it had to be, most of this book being spent travelling through breathtaking but unforgiving wilderness to establish a steady fur trade. I wanted to know more about every single canoemen of the expedition! I had a slight problem with how some Indian tribes were repeatedly described, very one-sided, but it did make sense to the period and the characters. There were also quite some consistent jabs at nobility and societal wrong limitations.

I am not giving 5 stars because the last section became a bit tamer, the sex scenes (which are welcome of course) more frequent but not adding anything to the story anymore and the end was wrapped a bit too quickly. I will remember André and Genevieve with fondness and gratitude but I will let them go at a certain point. They gave me what I needed right now.

Thank you Celestine for bringing this to my attention! <3

Linda says

Buddy Read

I love buddy-reads because we can share passages and thoughts. Thank you, Lyuda, Luli and Oana!

On my own, I would have marked this story as not finished long before the halfway point. The initial narrative was intriguing and I looked forward to reading a story that was set in France and Canada during the 1600s. After all, like others, I appreciate a well-written historical romance in a country other than England or the US. And maybe, just a teensy bit, I was expecting something like *The Last of the Mohicans*.

Also, be aware that my other GR buddy-friends would have given *Heaven In His Arms* more than one star: this is just my two cents. Please, please, please DON'T look at my review if you have any intention of reading the story. Clearly, I am in the minority with my rating.

Adult-rated review: (view spoiler)

Celestine says

So much to like.

The first thing I liked about this book is that it was free when I downloaded it six months ago. *And when I checked today, this book was still free through Amazon!*

The second thing I liked was the setting. It takes place in 1670 France and then moves to frontier Montreal and interior Canada. The plot is centered around André, a fur trader with aristocratic blood, and Genevieve, whose background is a little muddled. Since her story is revealed piecemeal throughout the book, I don't want to expose it here. Suffice it to say that her struggles in France make her imminently suitable to take on the dangers of colonial Canada. She travels there under the auspices of the King's Daughters immigration program sponsored by Louis XIV. The program was apparently a rousing success, with 700 children born rapidly after the women arrived, with the population of New France doubling in less than 10 years.

Third, I liked the tone. This book had the sensibility - at the beginning - of a Regency. The quips were sardonically spot-on: "She's well and expecting another child." Philippe puffed out his chest whenever he uttered those words, as if he had succeeded at some feat never before accomplished. In André's opinion, it was the prevention of conception that was the trickier task." and "Of course, if she has any intelligence, she

won't marry you, so we'll just have to settle for good manners." Some of this playful tone is lost as the story travels onward, but every once in a while it pops back up to delight the reader.

Fourth, I thought the story was paced very well. Verge excels at dropping the proverbial word bomb at just the right time. She maintains surprise, suspense and freshness with information revealed at just the right moment. In addition, the information revealed develops the story, moving the narrative down a newly forged path.

5) Both main characters grow throughout the story. André marries Genny under the most despicable circumstances and continues to prove his deviousness through the journey into the interior. Despite himself he is attracted to his "wife," and goes to great lengths to avoid consummating the marriage. This fodder provided one of the real laugh-out-loud moments in the book for me. Should I have laughed? No. But I still did. Genny, bless her, hands it right back to her husband. No hand-wringing here. Just a pragmatic approach to a difficult situation and a verve for life that shines through the most difficult circumstances. I liked her. **"It occurred to him that she wasn't afraid. Someone had woven steel into this bit of French lace."**

Sixth, we rarely see - in such wondrous detail - the moment where affection or regard turns to love. This was a pivotal moment in this book, and Verge executed it with panache. I had to go back and re-read the scene I liked it so much.

For some reason, the later part of the book lost some of its sparkle for me, but there is no shortage of conclusion or hope. I would love to see Verge pen another "King's Daughters" sequel. I would definitely go back to 1670 Quebec.

4.5 rounded to 5 stars.

Book source: Amazon Freebie.

kate says

I loved it. This takes place in Canada in the late 1600's. It was a rare book in that the couple had the ability to actually communicate with each other. They didn't spend half the book in some type of vague misunderstanding. If they had something to say they said it. The heroine was spunky and likable. The hero was a bit of a jerk at times but that's just who he is. If she loves him then the reader has to put up with him. Sort of like a goof ball son in law. There are some twists in the end and a very hopeful ending. This is my first book by this author and I will definitely try her again. In fact I'm hoping there is a book on Marie the woman she swipes places with to become a contracted bride. She seemed like an interesting character.

I might add that pretty much all romance type novels have a HEA. But in this one you really feel that the couple were soul mates. A nice touch.

Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says

OMG I am so damn bored with this book. I got to the 25% mark and it's like torture!!!! I walked away from this book 5 times yesterday. Came back and was so bored I went to bed thinking tomorrow I would try again.

I tried all day today and I just can't get into this book. It's so fucking boring!

The plot didn't draw me in. The hero is a total unlikable asswipe, and the heroine has no real personality. I couldn't give a fuck if they get together or fall off a cliff and die. Their fake people so it's okay to be that bloodthirsty. :)

I was sitting here trying to make myself finish this book even though watching paint dry would be funner, but then I thought fuck this! I can totally DNF this book I don't gotta read it if I don't wanna.

So DNF at 25%

Amanda says

Never before have I encountered a historical romance set during Canada's colonial period. So Heaven In His Arms proved to be quite the educational, fascinating and refreshing read. Lisa Ann Verge's lush, descriptive writing style and wonderful characters captivated me completely from beginning to end.

After assuming the identity of a highborn lady, penniless orphan Genevieve Lalande embarks on the adventure of her life. Though for Genevieve, the danger that could await her is worth the risk because it is her only chance to start a new and hopefully better life, and an escape from her constricting and painful past. By impersonating a King's Girl/Daughter (a young but impoverished French woman of noble birth who is sent to Quebec to be the bride of a French settler) Genevieve is soon wed to (and abandoned by) one Andre Lefebvre, a fur trader who only marries Genevieve in order to get the trading license he needs for his latest expedition. Never one to be left behind, Genevieve tracks down her wayward husband and demands to be taken with him on his perilous journey. And from that point on I was hooked.

I loved Genny. She was a survivor, a fighter and made of much stronger stuff than anyone ever gave her credit for. Her bravery and resilience endeared her to me from the very first chapter onward. Genny was a ginger-haired firecracker who faced down any danger or obstacle in her path making her the very best kind of heroine.

Andre was a much tougher nut to crack. He didn't come across as all that likable at first, but nor was he outrightly cruel either. His determination to succeed was commendable and his obvious love of the land and what he did for a living offered glimpses of his true self. Genny's fiery spirit and unrelenting fortitude did wonders of breaking down his roughened exterior and revealing the honest to good man beneath. Their palpable chemistry and terrific banter had me laughing, grinning and even tearing up at times.

The neverending hijinks, hot and heart wrenching moments throughout once again reminded me why road trip romances have become my absolute favorite trope in the romance genre. The colorful cast of characters that made up Andre's ragtag team of fellow explorers were wonderful additions as well. Lisa Ann Verge is a new author to me and after finishing this surprise delight of a book, I can't wait to read more from her soon.

Jessica says

3.5 stars
