



Unconquerable Callie

Deann Smallwood

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Callie Collins, a proud woman in the late 1800's, is a liar and a darned good one, a master of the dubious art. She is also a dreamer. Her greatest hope is to reach a new life in South Pass City, Wyoming, where she can open a bakery and live an independent life. To be successful, she will need her greatest deception to date, a mythical fiancé who waits at the end of the line. As a woman alone, she has to prove to Seth McCallister, the wagon master, that she has the wherewithal and the stamina to survive months of drought, dust, hardships, and even the risk of death.

Seth McCallister is mystified by the audacity and determination of Callie Collins. His initial distrust and concern for Callie, a woman traveling alone, opens first to admiration, then friendship, then love, a love that he is forced to hold at bay. What he doesn't realize is that there is no fiancé. To make matters worse, Callie develops feelings for Seth McCallister, too. Yet she feels certain that once he realizes her deception, he'll turn away, ashamed of his love and trust in her.

Unconquerable Callie Details

Date : Published February 26th 2013 by Soul Mate Publishing

ISBN :

Author : Deann Smallwood

Format : Kindle Edition 228 pages

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

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From Reader Review Unconquerable Callie for online ebook

Ronda Tutt says

Perfect Story to Capture your Heart!

What a perfect story that was heartwarming and guaranteed to capture your heart. From beginning to end the story completely captivated my heart and soul. The writing is smooth and addicting and before I knew it I found myself immersed into a wagon train journey I could have stayed on forever.

The characters are beautiful showing compassion and strength as they grew to become a team of one to help each other along their journey. The author does an excellent job capturing the elements of the season, along with the exciting encounters with the dangerous savage Indians, drought of water through the rough dusty terrain, diseases from the river's / creek's waters and the sickness and death from drinking it.

Their survival techniques and their positive attitudes in reaching their goals was 75% of what got them through their long journey – the other 25% was listening to their Captain instead of the one odd ball loud mouth drunk in the group. By listening, their learning experiences kept them alive for the long haul especially when it came to crossing some of the rivers.

I loved Callie and Seth. Callie is an amazing woman that I identified with immediately. Her independent ways and determination to conquer all made this story such a fun read. She could ride a horse, shoot a gun, cook the best cookies and bread, and she liked wearing men's clothing. I absolutely loved her. Seth on the other hand is such a dream. I mean what a man, what man, what a mighty fine man – LOL Seth is not only handsome but the author depicted his leadership skills with a firm but kind demeanor. The way he treated and talked to the group showed his respect for life and the men, women, and children in his train. Seth and Callie's romance was a sweet buildup and even had me tear up in the end as I felt each of the character's emotions wrap around my own heart.

This was just such a perfect read. Sigh, sniff – sniff but Smiling and feeling gleeful as I hug the book thinking about the heart melting happy ever after.

I'm a new fan of this author as well and I look forward to reading more of her awesome works. I highly recommend this beautiful western sweet romance to all readers.

Excellent read!

A copy was provided by Author for a Fair and Honest Review

Julie says

A thoroughly enjoyable, clean historical romance

I would actually give this book 4 ½ stars if that were possible. It repeatedly transitions very well back and forth among the threads of different character relationships and events throughout the plot with enough depth to be three dimensional. It has excellent, specific descriptions of what daily life was like at that time, in particular for those traveling west by wagon train. It is a historical romance that manages quite well to

demonstrate true depth of developing emotions while still being completely clean, with none of the explicit actions or descriptions many authors feel are necessary to their story's success. There is occasional profanity. The major characters are well described and mostly consistent.

(SPOILER ALERT FOR THIS PARAGRAPH) I did not think the ending consistent with a main character described throughout as bravely making her own path, far from all she has ever known, deliberately bucking the societal norms and expectations of her time and enduring months of extreme hardships to seek out a very distant place where women's rights were well ahead of what they were anywhere else at that point in history. She came up with innovative solutions to many situations that were not just unique, but which put her on the same level or above the intelligence and ingenuity of many of the men around her at a time when women were mostly regarded as completely incapable of such things. I think that Callie could easily have successfully managed marriage, family, and business, not giving up any of her dreams, because of all of the common sense and survival skills she had already demonstrated and continued to acquire.

My only distractions from this story were a few things that should have been caught in editing. Callie's eyes kept switching back and forth between green and blue. If you are going to furnish such details in your character descriptions, they should be consistent. Her beautiful eyes are mentioned several times, but keep changing colors. Seth's horse changed names 3 times – Tramp, Buck, and Patch. The character Phyllis Monroe is sometimes called Millie instead. Sometimes characters stand only to stand again a few lines later, 'you' should be 'your' in some places, and other similar mistakes are present. Few edits are perfect, but much of the above could and should have been caught at that stage.

Jeanne Miller says

Great Read

This was the first book I ever read of Ms Smallwood's but it will not be my last. Once I started I couldn't put it down. The characters were great and the plot was cute.

Jan says

I think the thing I will take away from this book is Callie's attitude. She had courage and determination to go forth even though women at the time weren't allowed or permitted to do what she wanted to do without a husband. I loved her "can do" attitude - she jumped in and was a leader and encouraged the other women that they could be more helpful too. She stood with courage when she needed to. I loved her dream to open a bakery in Wyoming and how she baked along the way to share with others and to make them happy.

Callie's flaw was to tell lies to get her where she needed to go - like a fiancé, Frank, waiting for her at the end of the trail. She had a goal and didn't feel there was another way. I liked that she knew telling lies was not honest and she needed to tell the truth. If someone needed to tell an untruth it better be her. She didn't want others to lie but since she had already ---But what I liked was that in the end she came through and apologized and told the truth and seemed to give up all she grew to love.

Maria says

Head strong Callie

Loved this story about a woman who is not afraid to follow her dreams. Although she did lie to achieve them, she still had good values. I got lost in the story. I felt like I was living Callie's life. Living on a wagon train was a hard life. Loved the happy ending.

Casey says

Dreams come true...

If you are determined, If you let no barriers stand, if you have courage, strength, generosity, then it can all be yours.

Steph says

A new author and setting for me, UNCONQUERABLE CALLIE was a very interesting book that would make a good reading requirement for students learning American History.

It's 1850 and Callie Collins has made the decision to brave the Oregon Trail and head out west...on her own. She'll have to lie her way into passage on the trail with the train, since women just aren't able to travel that route alone. But Callie is nothing if not determined, and if it takes a faux fiancé in Oregon to make her dream a reality, then Callie will tell all the lies she has to. When she meets Seth McCallister, the captain leading the train, he is one of her biggest detractors. Until he sees Miss Callie in action.

Callie Collins is a menace. Not only is she traveling without a man by her side, but she takes risks that usually only the strongest man is willing to take. Eventually, Callie's indeterminable spirit takes Seth by surprise, as she becomes one of the leaders in this train of wagons heading west on the Oregon Trail. Seth is an honorable man, but his honor is sorely tested with the wildly strong white-haired woman, and it takes everything in him to stay away from another man's fiancé. Between crossing the mighty Missouri River, breathing endless dust for days on the prairie and facing down a bout of cholera, the trip to Oregon will be an experience only those with a strong will and heart will survive.

UNCONQUERABLE CALLIE was a surprisingly good read and the first I've ever read that features the Oregon Trail as a setting. How incredibly brave Callie is, and history is full of untold stories of women just like her who braved unimaginable trials in order to make a new life in an untamed land. Even though UNCONQUERABLE CALLIE read more like a companion read to American History classes rather than a romance novel, I found that I really didn't care. I was surprised to find that I didn't know as much as I thought I did about the trials the early pioneers faced when building our great country. I've always been a big history buff, so I found myself doing research on Ms. Smallwood's accuracy (which was very well done).

As for the romance portion of UNCONQUERABLE CALLIE...there really wasn't much of that going on. Other than a few chaste kisses here and there, the story instead focused on the adventurous spirit of those who braved the Western world before us. The romance between Callie and Seth was secondary, and their chemistry felt more geared toward a solid, once in a lifetime friendship rather than a great love.

Bottom Line: this surprisingly historically accurate 1850's pioneer novel will keep you fascinated just thinking about how far we've come in just 165 years.

Review copy provided via Reading Alley in exchange for an honest review.

ksstannard says

Read it again

Callie is such a strong, lovable character, I have re-read her story again and again. Seth, Caleb, Phyllis, Henry, all add humor and a feeling of family to the mix. If you love western romances, there is none better.

Karen says

Review copy provided via Reading Alley in exchange for an honest review

Unconquerable Callie

Summary:

Sometimes a lie can lead to love. Callie Collins, a proud woman in the late 1800's is a liar and a darned good one, a master of the dubious art. She is also a dreamer. Her greatest hope is to reach a new life in South Pass City Wyoming, where she can open a bakery and live an independent life. To be successful, she will need her greatest gifts of deception to date. As a woman alone, she has to prove to Seth McCalister, the wagon master, that she has the wherewithal (a wagon and a set of oxen), the stamina to survive months of drought, dust, hardships and even risk of death, and a mythical fiancé who waits at the end of the line. McCallister is uneasy, but also mystified by the audacity and determination of the young woman. He allows her to join the train west. What he doesn't realize is there is no fiancé. To make matters worse, Callie is in love with Seth McCallister, too. For the first time, the lies that have brought her so far in life threaten to keep her from her one, true love. McCallister is a man of strong character and Callie feels certain that once he realizes her deception, he'll turn away, ashamed of his love and trust in her.

Review:

First off, I've got to say I hate liars and don't normally read books if the summer has anything in it about liars, but something drew me to go ahead and read this story and wow... I became Callie Collins, it's been a long time since I became the character in a story, most times it's like watching a live show. Her motives for lying are self-serving, but also understandable for the time frame in which this story takes place. Women just weren't taken seriously and very few made names for themselves on the frontier.

I just loved this book; you came to love each character and rooted for them as the journey west continued. If you know anything about history of this time period, you know each wagon train had many obstacles, which they had to concur to survive the journey west. It gave a real clear picture and pretty accurate on this journey west.

I don't recall any grammatical or punctuation errors, and those are pet peeves of mine and an automatic three star rating; this is one of the very few five stars I've read in a while.

The development of the story plot, and characters was beautifully done as well as complex and complete. The flow was perfection. There as not one slow spot in the plot

Conclusion:

I would recommend this story to all my friends. This book could and should be read by anyone age sixteen and older, as for the price, it's conservatively priced, in fact, I think the author, and publisher could have gone up in price to \$4.99, and still it would be a great buy for this full-length novel.

Nancy Wilkinson says

A perfect easy read... Enough history (Oregon Trail) to keep you checking Wiki and Google maps, and a sweet romance between likeable characters.

K. Ryner says

3.5 * - it was an ok read, nothing special but funny - I enjoyed it

C. says

Sweet, Clean and Fun Historical

I enjoyed myself reading this book. The H/H are both totally endearing. Callie's actions/accomplishments are pretty unbelievable hence the reduction of one star, but the author made her so likeable and the story such a pleasant read, that it didn't really bother me. I wanted to see the wagon train ride with it's really interesting info, to it's conclusion. I felt like I was on that wagon train! Would love to find more clean/non Christian historicals set in this time.

Highly recommended for those looking for clean/non Christian romance with a heroine who is not desperate for a man or TSTL!

Barbara Van Zandt says

Adventure

The things Callie had to do and how brave she was. The lying well...she had to do what was needed. Making friends and fighting with the captain and then becoming friends and falling in love. Loved this story.

Mel says

Ooooooh, I just loved *Unconquerable Callie* :-)
It was just my kind of love story. I give it 4.6 stars!

With all these free ebook offers on Amazon you never know what awaits you when you start reading and every now and again you get to read a really good story and this was the case with *Unconquerable Callie*...

I liked Callie, her strength and determination to join a wagon train all by herself in order to fulfill her dreams of opening a bakery. Seth turned out to be quite a catch as well, once he let go of his suspicion of Callie and his skepticism about women. They really seemed like equal partners until (view spoiler)

Ester says

I read this book and find that it was about a young woman who desired a future of her own. She had to lie to people to get a place on a wagon train. It's about finding true love and facing the hardships that they had to endure on the trail west. Very good book would recommend as a good read.
