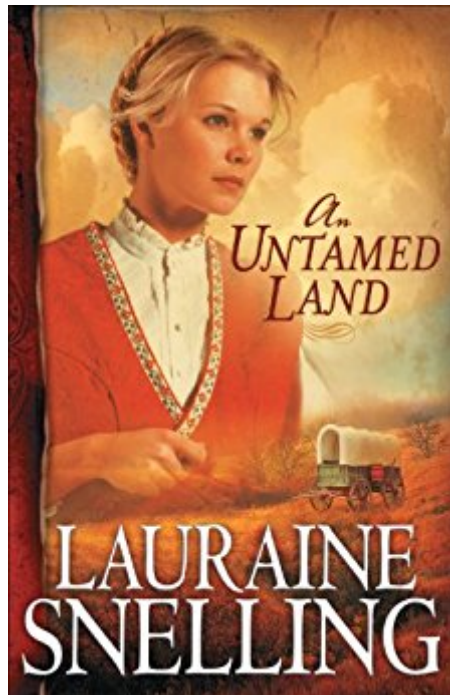


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An Untamed Land (Red River Of The North Book #1)



Synopsis

Proud of Their Heritage and Sustained by Their Faith, They Came to Tame a New Land She had promised herself that once they left the fjords of Norway, she would not look back. After three long years of scrimping and saving to buy tickets for their passage to America, Roald and Ingeborg Bjorklund, along with their son, Thorliff, finally arrive at the docks of New York City. It was the promise of free land that fed their dream and lured them from their beloved home high above the fjords of Norway in 1880. Together with Roald's brother Carl and his family, they will build a good life in a new land that promises untold wealth and vast farmsteads for their children. As they join the throngs of countless immigrants passing through Castle Garden, they soon discover that nothing is as they had envisioned it. Appalled by the horrid stories of fellow immigrants bilked of all their money and forced to live in squalid living conditions, the Bjorklunds continue their long journey by train as far as Grand Forks. From there a covered wagon takes them into Dakota Territory, where they settle on the banks of the Red River. But there was no way for them to foresee the price they will have to pay to wrest a living from the indomitable land. The virgin prairie refuses to yield its treasure without a struggle. Will they be strong enough to overcome the hardships of that first winter?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In 1999 I bought this book for my Norwegian mother who later passed it on to my Asian wife. They both loved the book. I have continued to buy later books in the Snelling's Norwegian immigrant series as gifts to this day (April 2010) which now comprises sixteen books, plus four ancillary works in the same genre (the Dakotah Treasures series). I started reading *An Untamed Land* myself in 2008 and I am now starting on my eleventh "Bjorklund" book. Reviewers would categorize these books as Christian chick lit, so what is a man doing reading them? It started with curiosity because of the Norwegian connection, in addition to my interest in European 19th century immigration to North America. In this world of much pessimism, violence, cynicism, family disconnection, Hollywood hype and disbelief in the Divine I thought it might be worthwhile to spend some time with positive, character-building, and inspirational, family oriented literature. Lauraine Snelling knows how to write books infused with elevated human values and the emotions that accompany doubts, trials, depression and tragedies as well as joys and celebrations. I must say that I was quite disappointed by this first book's lack of genealogical research and historical integrity. I can't understand how Snelling could venture into this project without getting information verified by Norwegians. Since I found myself editorializing as I was reading this spoiled some of my reading pleasure and it became a sufficient irritation for me so I began to mark the book whenever I met with these distractions. Here are some examples (apply also to the second volume, *A New Day Rising*): The worst errors concern personal names, first names as well as last, many of which are improvised and inauthentic.

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