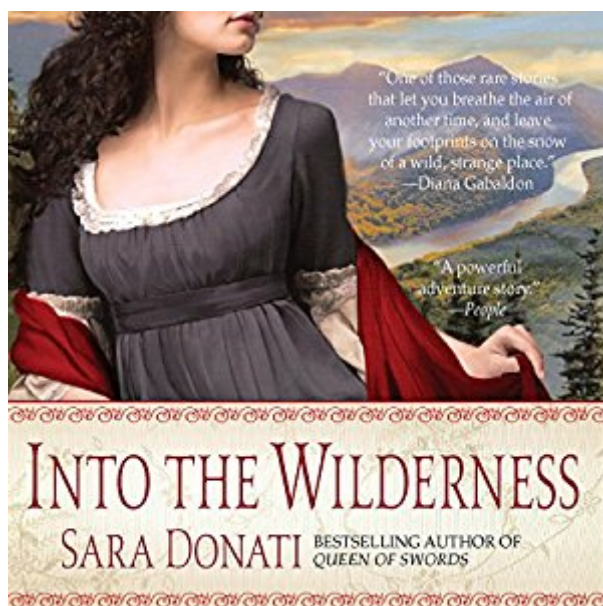


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Into The Wilderness: Wilderness Saga, Book 1



Synopsis

Weaving a vibrant tapestry of fact and fiction, *Into the Wilderness* sweeps us into another time and place...and into the heart of a forbidden, incandescent affair between a spinster Englishwoman and an American frontiersman. Here is an epic of romance and history that will captivate readers from the very first page. When Elizabeth Middleton, twenty-nine years old and unmarried, leaves her Aunt Merriweather's comfortable English estate to join her father and brother in the remote mountain village of Paradise on the edge of the New York wilderness, she does so with a strong will and an unwavering purpose: to teach school. It is December of 1792 when she arrives in a cold climate unlike any she has ever experienced. And she meets a man different from any she has ever encountered--a white man dressed like a Native American, tall and lean and unsettling in his blunt honesty. He is Nathaniel Bonner, also known to the Mohawk people as *Between-Two-Lives*. Determined to provide schooling for all the children of the village--white, black, and Native American--Elizabeth soon finds herself at odds with local slave owners. Much to her surprise, she clashes with her own father as well. Financially strapped, Judge Middleton has plans for his daughter--betrothal to local doctor Richard Todd. An alliance with Todd could extract her father from ruin but would call into question the ownership of Hidden Wolf, the mountain where Nathaniel, his father, and a small group of Native Americans live and hunt. As Judge Middleton brings pressure to bear against his daughter, she is faced with a choice between compliance and deception, a flight into the forest, and a desire that will bend her hard will to compromise and transformation. Elizabeth's ultimate destiny, here in the heart of the wilderness, lies in the odyssey to come: trials of faith and flesh, and passion born amid Nathaniel's own secrets and divided soul. Interweaving the fate of the remnants of the Mohawk Nation with the destiny of two lovers, Sara Donati's compelling novel creates a complex, profound, passionate portrait of an emerging America.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

I love this series. I am currently reading the 4th in the series. The series was recommended by a friend and I was intrigued by the weaving of characters from one of my favorite historicals, but this book pulled me in entirely on its own merits. I love the storytelling theme as it relates to the time, and how all the characters have their own style of "telling their stories". The characters are varied and deep and the story has unexpected twists and turns. I don't know much about the history of this area, so it was quite interesting to read about, even if from a fictional perspective. This is my favorite type of book to read, a large sweeping, epic story, following the lives and generations of the family. I have recommended this book to so many of my reader friends and will keep doing so.

The reviews on this book and subsequent books are all over the place because people expect it to be just like the Outlander series. These are two different books and should be reviewed on their own merits. Both are excellent. Into the Wilderness throws you right into the action from the first chapter. As you read, the action slows down because the author is laying the groundwork, like who the major players are, the main plot and the various sub plots. The main plot is rather simple. Father tricks daughter into moving from England to upstate New York by promising her a schoolhouse. All Elizabeth wants is to be able to teach all children. Very noble of her. She finds out rather quickly that her Father's scheme is to marry her to a wealthy landowner so that they can join their land (the more the merrier). Upon her marriage she will get Hidden Wolf (the name of the land) which Richard (her father's chosen suitor) wants. Enter Nathaniel, a white man raised as a Mohawk, he sees Elizabeth and the attraction is instant. I rather liked that instead of the long, drawn out romance. Nathaniel's "family" wants Hidden Wolf as they believe it is their rightful home (plus it is good for hunting). Elizabeth is caught in between all these men. Of course Elizabeth loves Nathaniel not Richard which will anger her father and Richard as their plan is thwarted but it will also alienate her against the town folks who sees her cavorting with Nathaniel as a personal insult because he considers himself more Mohawk than American. However, Elizabeth is a very spunky and determined person and she is sympathetic to the Native American cause. Will Elizabeth choose

Richard to please her father which is what she is expected to do even though it feels wrong or will she choose Nathaniel at the cost of losing family and friends but gaining so much more. Not hard to guess; however, there is more to the plot as you read along. The reason I liked this book is because I got to learn more about Native Americans, I was able to visualize via the book's lush descriptions, the beauty of America (Upstate New York/Adirondaks) and be entertained by a complex plot with romance and action thrown in. Any book that can do that, deserves 5 stars.

To waste on this book. I can't finish it. I'm sorry but I just can't do it. I can't quite pinpoint what is is but the writing and the characters grate on my nerves the point if I had the hard copy in my hands I would throw it against the wall and probably stomp on it for good measure. I know this review isn't helpful in view of so many positive reviews but I would pay attention to the less positive if you are a picky reader.

This book wasn't bad...I'm an avid reader and kind of picky though. My favorite author is Diana Gibaldon and her Outlander series, and I chose this book because it was a historical novel and I'd heard similar to her writing style. I have to say, it is not nearly as good as DG, but no one is. I feel like this author is actually trying to mimic her style, which is fine but it does fall a little short. The interesting thing is that this book is kind of like a sequel to Last of the Mohicans, but it is a different author. There are several nods to LotM. There is also a nod to DG when the main character is told a tale about Ian, who is DG's character. I would say it was a decent read, not spectacular. This is the first book in a series but I haven't read the rest.

I enjoyed reading this book very much. The characters were well defined and the story and its various twists and turns held my interest. I got a kick out of the couple of quick references to characters from Outlander series. I did not love this as much as any of the Outlander series books but I would recommend reading it...it is enjoyable. The only thing I wish the author did not choose to have Nathaniel use the word "aint" . This did not contribute to the image I feel the author wanted to portray but took away from his image. It may have been an attempt to portray him as a man who grew up in a wilderness environment??? It did not work. That was the only thing that I feel got in the way of the flow of the story. I do feel it is well written and enjoyable. Do read .

As a huge fan of Diana Gabaldon's writing, I was eager to find something else to read once I finished her latest book. This was recommended and I gave it a shot. Is this equal to Gabaldon's

writing? Not hardly (is anything?). But, if you go in understanding that, it's a wonderful story. It is well-written and the characters are wonderful. I particularly enjoy the Native American perspective and struggles they faced during this time period. I'm eager to see where the characters will go next!

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