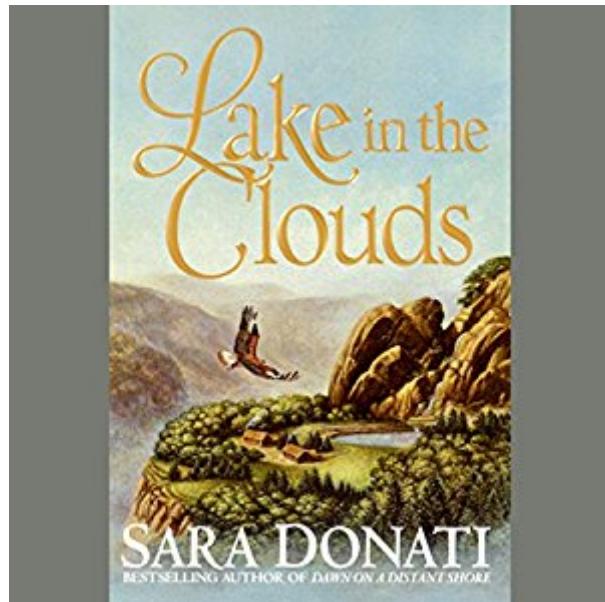


The book was found

Lake In The Clouds



Synopsis

In her extraordinary novels *Into the Wilderness* and *Dawn on a Distant Shore*, award-winning writer Sara Donati deftly captured the vast, untamed wilderness of late-eighteenth-century New York and the trials and triumphs of the Bonner family. Now Donati takes on a new and often overlooked chapter in our nation's past--and in the life of the spirited Bonners--as their oldest daughter, the brave and beautiful Hannah, comes of age with a challenge that will change her forever. Masterfully told, this passionate story is a moving tribute to a resilient, adventurous family and a people poised at the brink of a new century. It is the spring of 1802, and the village of Paradise is still reeling from the typhoid epidemic of the previous summer. Elizabeth and Nathaniel Bonner have lost their two-year-old son, Hannah's half brother Robbie, but they struggle on as always: the men in the forests, the twins Lily and Daniel in Elizabeth's school, and Hannah as a doctor in training, apprenticed to Richard Todd. Hannah is descended from healers on both sides--one Scots grandmother and one Mohawk--and her reputation as a skilled healer in her own right is growing. After a long night spent attending to a birth, Elizabeth and Hannah encounter an escaped slave hiding on the mountain. She calls herself Selah Voyager, and she is looking for Curiosity Freeman--a former slave herself, one of the village's wisest women and Elizabeth's closest friend. The Bonners take Selah, desperately ill, to Lake in the Clouds to care for her, and with that simple act they are drawn into the secret life that Curiosity and Galileo Freeman and their grown children have been leading for almost ten years. The Bonners will do what they must to protect the Freemans, just as Hannah will protect her patient, who presents more than one kind of challenge. For a bounty hunter is afoot--Hannah's childhood friend and first love, Liam Kirby. While Elizabeth and Nathaniel undertake a treacherous journey through the endless forests to bring Selah to safety in the north, Hannah embarks on a very different journey to New-York City, with two goals: to learn the secrets of vaccination against smallpox, a disease that threatens Paradise, and to find out what she can about Liam's immediate past and what caused him to change so drastically from the boy she once loved. The obstacles she faces as a woman and a Mohawk make her confront questions long avoided about her place in the world. Those questions follow her back to Paradise, where she finds that the medical miracle she brings with her will not cure prejudice or superstition, nor can it solve the problem of slavery. No sooner have the Bonners begun to rebound from their losses--old and new--than they find themselves confronted by more than one old enemy in a battle that will test the strength of their love for one another. Hannah faces the decision she has always dreaded: will she make a life for herself in a white world, or among her mother's people?

--This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Part three of the Into the Wilderness saga catches the Bonners as their oldest daughter Hannah comes into her own as an independent young woman and talented healer. It is a difficult time on the mountain and off. Slavery and all its ugliness is at issue. I was not aware that the northern states allowed slaves, so this point was particularly jarring to me. It prompted me to research a bit and indeed slavery was allowed in the northern states, New York in particular. The Bonner's with their strong moral code of freedom for all are caught up in the mess. All the while Hannah, struggles with her heart and her own moral compass as she travels away from the mountain for the first time to expand her medical knowledge. I found this to be a satisfying read. I'm invested in the characters and there's never a dull moment. The author knows how to spin her web.

With all the far-flung travel that went on in the last book, I was glad to see that for the most part, in Lake in the Clouds, adventure and danger, and romance, were much closer and was relieved to see the Bonner family come back home. An excellent read, I must say, I enjoyed this third installment over, the previous book. I especially loved Hannah's storyline. And I must say, that her story has-what I felt-was an excellent and rewarding finish, concerning a certain rival. Now I'm moving on to book four.

You take a dozen different readers and you're gonna get a dozen different opinions on the same

story. For me, this third book in the Wilderness Saga was quite good. A continuing epic that was basically Hannah's story, but still brought us our beloved Elizabeth, Nathaniel and a bit of the wise wit of legendary Hawkeye. As families grow, branch out in different interests and move on in their lives, so does Hannah and the Bonners. Hannah's interest in medicine has developed and she takes instruction, temporarily, in Albany under prestigious Drs. She (as well as Elizabeth and Nathaniel) are indirectly and unintentionally involved in running slaves to their freedom and thwarting the slave trade in general. There are bounty hunters and black riots. And Hannah meets a few famous people including the sitting Presidents' Secretary. Quite a coup for a half breed female of this era. This story gives us a little bit of NY Smallpox vaccination history as well as a scarlet fever epidemic and Hannah's involvement in those areas. And Hannah continues to generate respect from just about everyone she meets. Personally I loved this story and I thought it was well played. It held me captive with all the drama of slaves running for freedom and all the ugliness involved in slave trade. I love Hannah's character...I love her strength and wisdom. She's complex, serious and all things good. I continue to feel sorrow for Dr. Richard Todd..and I only hope we hear that he finds happiness in book four.

"Lake In The Clouds" by Sara Donati is the third in the series about the Bonner family, and is available in several forms, hard cover, paperback and kindle. I purchased it via kindle. This book is of the same high quality as her previous ones, with a mix of romance, humour, danger, and always, historical accuracy. Eight years have passed since the ending of the previous book. The twins are eight years old, Hannah is a woman grown who has been studying under Dr. Todd, and there have been many other changes. As opposed to slavery as Elizabeth Bonner has always been, it is not surprising that she becomes involved in the rescue of run-away slaves, and her intervention brings danger to them all. Hannah goes to Manhattan to learn how to protect her people from small-pox, both in her village of Paradise and elsewhere, but her expertise is not always well-received. Romance comes to her from an unexpected source, and she leaves home again, this time to join her husband in the fight for Indian lands which are forever being taken over by the white population. Donati moves seamlessly from one venue to another with her characters, keeping all of them 'in character' each with their foibles and their distinctive speech patterns. This is a great gift, and anyone who enjoys good writing and a good story should enjoy this book as much as the preceding ones.

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