



The Dark Side of the Mountain

Bonnie S. Johnston

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A blend of fact and fiction, *The Dark Side of the Mountain* describes two turbulent decades in the life of Anna Margaretha Mallow, an extraordinary woman caught up in events she cannot understand or control. Moved by her husband to the frontier of Virginia at the beginning of the French and Indian War, she and her five children are forced to seek safety at Fort Seybert from the notorious Chief Killbuck, who is on a death march to save his people and culture. Surviving what becomes a deadly massacre, Anna and her children are taken captive and marched to the Ohio River Valley where she endures indescribable losses and change. Only courage and perseverance sustain her during his dark period in American history.

The Dark Side of the Mountain Details

Date : Published November 3rd 2014 by Soul Mate Publishing

ISBN :

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Format : Kindle Edition 276 pages

Genre : Historical

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Patricia says

Beautifully written

I received this book free from one of the book sites. I do not remember which one! This is my honest review. Historical fiction is one of my favorite genres. Bonnie S. Johnston has written the best book that I have read , in this genre, for a very long time.

Anna Mallow is one woman, captured by Indian warriors, while at Fort Seybert. Her & her 5 children's lives changed forever the day of the massacre. Even reading this book, I still have a hard time imaging the emotional pain she suffered. First, 2 of her children were taken away by warriors to an Indian village. 2 children taken from loving arms. Second, during the enforced march from Fort Seybert, she lost another child to death. Third, her oldest son was taken by a warrior to his village. Fourth, she was sold into slavery along with her oldest daugyter. Fifth, she lost her daughter, when she was gifted to an Indian chief. All through this, she was pregnant (the fifth child).

How she survived mentally, I will never understand because I don't believe that I would. What could the children have been thinking, as they were taken awwy? Thankfully, young children are able to adapt.

This book has been written with so much care & love that it shows in every word. Experience the fear, anger, & the acceptance of Anna's journey with her children. I am at a loss for anymore words. This book has overwhelmed me. I highly recommend this to everyone.

Crystal says

Good reading

This is an excellent book. Full of hope as well as tragedy and perseverance. I'm looking forward to reading the next two books.

billy says

Good story

It took brave people to settle this land. The hard work and hardships is unthinkable today. This was a great history lesson.

Raberta Beckwith says

Great story!

Loved all the history and detail ...can't imagine the hardships of clearing the land- and then when you move ,you had to do the same thing all over again!! Very rough life.I have great admiration for their generations!!

Brenda says

Fantastic read

A blending of fiction and facts really bring the characters and time period to life. It was interesting to learn about the raid and learn of the outcome of the people who were taken captive. The author notes at the end of the story really add to the story and left me wanting to learn more about The Mallows.

Yashari Glenn says

Interesting

Good read. I like the thoughts of Indian life versus immigrants life in the new world the author tried to convey. A little wordy at times. But overall a good book.

Kate Bombard says

The story was very repetitive. I became bored and felt as if I were re-reading the story over too many times.. The plot was OK, but could have had much more details. Than was written.. It read more like a genealogy, than a story...

Jill Miclean says

I really wanted to like this book but the blatant inconsistencies regarding story details, characters ages, and the main character herself - if she can't read or write, how can she keep a journal? And why was the story in 3rd person and the "journal" entries in first person? And why were those journal entries so repetitive, retelling exactly what I just read? Not to mention the spoken dialog was so formal and unemotional it just seemed silly.

I did find all of the details of frontier life for immigrants and the Indian's way of life fascinating, however, I never really got into this book or attached to the characters and I should have. What they went through was horrific but I never really felt sympathy or empathy for Anna, her family or the others captured along with her. Disappointing.

Barb says

This book is fact and fiction. Author tells the facts at the end of the book. It is about Indians and how they

lived., how the whites and Indians thought of each other. It was a bad situation for both. This book is about Anna and her family, she was captured by Indians.

Darlene Williams says

Slow start but gripping

The novel started off a tad slow but, when the plot picked up, it gained momentum that gripped. A harrowing tale of a woman abducted with her five children by Natives and sold into slavery. An experience beyond the imagination's capacity to comprehend the horrors and the determination to survive and return home. A remarkable tale.

Casey says

The story of Anna Mallow, I began reading this for information related to the Dyer family (from which I am descended). This was an interesting book, although not the most entertaining or fact filled I have ever read. I wasn't reading it for fact, however, but for the overall story. If you are interested in historical fiction here in the United States, this may be a good choice.

Peter M Smith says

This is a very good read. If you like the Frontiersman you will also love Dark Side of the Mountain. t

The author has really done an Outstanding job of helping us learn of the Sacrifices our ancestors made. It should be read by everyone

Donna Wagner says

It was good but long. I enjoyed it.

Colin says

A curious piece of historical fiction . . .

This book is a curious piece of historical fiction, relating a tale based on a true story of German immigrants to colonial America who were victims of a Native American raid - a woman captured, sold and kept as a slave, who eventually made her way home. In the epilogue, the author notes that the protagonist seems to be a maternal ancestor of President Barack Obama, so that was interesting.

Sophia Kimble says

Poignant and Heart-wrenching!

This book is not for the faint of heart. The accuracy and true to life account of what the early settlers of America went through will wrench your heart. The Amount of research that obviously went into the writing of this novel is great and it shows in the fluidity of the story. I'm a huge fan of history, as well as genealogy. This author pulled from research records, and turned the oft times, dry, two dimensional lives found in historical documents into a story of great sorrow and triumph over the hardships immigrants to America faced every day. I recommend to anyone interested in reading of how many of our ancestors lives truly were.
