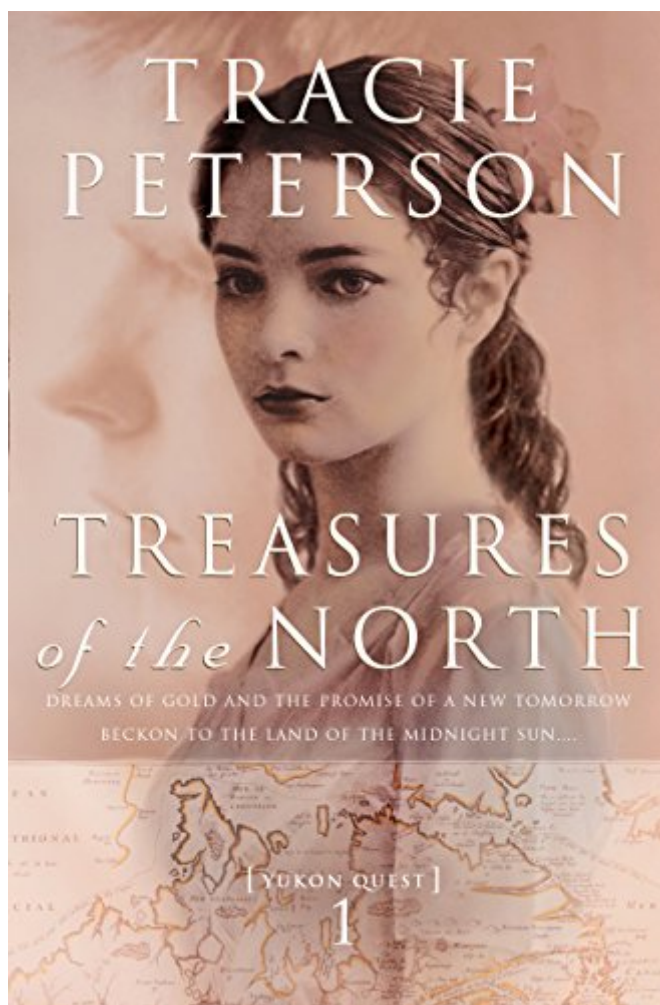


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Treasures Of The North (Yukon Quest Book #1)



Synopsis

Could They Fulfill Their Dreams in this Untamed Land? Driven by desperation, Grace Hawkins must forsake the affluent comfort of her upbringing to save herself from an arranged marriage. Disillusioned by her father's insistence, she forges a daring plan to escape the sinister hand of her intended. Peter Colton sees the Alaskan gold rush as an opportunity to establish his family's fledgling shipping business. An unexpected partnership enables him to pursue those dreams and opens the door to an acquaintance with Grace, who has purchased passage north. Drawn together by need and circumstance, Grace and Peter form a faltering friendship. But when her deserted fiancé continues to manipulate her loved ones, can she find peace in the wake of his wrath?

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Customer Reviews

This is another one of those "first" books in a series that leaves the reader in the predicament of either doing without the ending of the story, or forking over for the rest of the series. I wish that writers, especially established ones like Ms. Peterson would realize just how annoying and deceptive this practice is. Maybe it is the fault of the publishers. Who knows? I resent that the story

is unfinished. So much peripheral stuff through the book, that could have been excluded to leave room for the complete story. I love and believe the "gospel" presentation in the book, so don't lump this review with the others that were bothered by that, but the way the book ended was the wrong way to treat the folks who read her books. A bit "unchristian"???

To start with, I don't think this was a bad book. I found the premise interesting and was eager to dive into it. There were a few things I took issue with within the first few chapters. I found Grace's mother to be inconsistent, going from who she was when we meet her in the first few pages to who she became upon learning what Paxton did to her daughter. To me, it opened with Mom being one personality and quickly changing to another. Initially, I liked Karen, Grace's governess, but as the book went on, I found myself liking her less and less. There didn't seem to be any reason for her dislike of Peter upon meeting him: she just didn't like him. I got to the point where I was annoyed every time she spoke, whether with him or anyone else. She just seemed mouthy and arrogant to me, and not in a charming way. I liked Grace's character, but I didn't find her defined. In her predicament with Paxton, I didn't find myself feeling sorry for her as much as I found myself sorry for the situation. On the ship headed north, all of a sudden, Karen starts pointing out/talking about how different Grace seemed. I have no doubt someone in Grace's situation would feel liberated in an escape from a cruel fate, but I found it hard to believe that anyone as sheltered as Grace had been could suddenly find themselves carefree and confident over the course of a ride on a ship. She maintained this sort of independence throughout the book without struggle. I just feel the story would have benefited from making her more relatable to life and allowing us to see her struggle and become strong over the course of the novel--perhaps even taking Paxton down herself at book's end, as a result. I have no sympathy for Grace's father at all (not sure if that was the author's intent or not, I'm just saying), regardless of whether Paxton could be held responsible for his demise or not; because of Mr. Hawkins' pride, he was willing to sell his daughter off to avoid accountability for his actions. I do not feel sorry for him in the least. Which brings me to my next point. I didn't much like the way the "good guy" men were portrayed in this novel. I didn't feel men and women were equally yoked, as far as decision-making skills go. Each man--Hawkins, Peter, Bill, (didn't get a clear enough picture of Andrik to make an assessment)--were good in nature, but the women in their lives/women they encountered were always wiser and stronger and advising the ever-stubborn men in their selfish, clueless manners of decision-making. Even as a woman, it frustrated me. As far as the writing goes, (and this is all my personal opinion; I realize others may not agree), I found the use of adverbs excessive. I'm not one to criticize the use of adverbs in general, but in this case, they

appear so often as to make the writing seem lazy. There were also instances of sentence fragments, as well as being told what was going on in the story rather than being shown (I.e., with Karen on the boat saying, "Grace, you've changed so much!" And then going on to state all the reasons she felt this way. It took me by surprise because I hadn't seen anything to indicate Grace had changed at all). And when they weren't praying, the majority of characters have at least one instance of talking to themselves as if to make the reader aware of what they are thinking...but we are already in their head. We can already see what they're thinking. To be honest, the budding friendship/romance between Peter and Grace were what I looked forward to the most. I do like the idea of them finding in each other what they've never found in other people, however, I do still see the threat of the same theme, with this "wise woman" changing the "erroneous man". As a Christian, I should hope Peter (one of my favorite characters) may come to know and love God, but I'd like to see it brought about by more than just Grace's hope and wisdom. Overall, I think this is a good book, but with a few tweaks, I think it could be great.

Another great story from a great author. Very well written, adventurous novel mainly about Grace but lots of other people are involved & their own stories unfold.--- I have always disliked reading reviews that told me all about the book - so you will not get that from me. -----I will only say that I did get frustrated about the man who wants harm done to Grace's family. This is a long novel and therefore ends with the beginning of the "Second Chapter" of Grace's life - which I hope to find out more in book#2 - but it will be mainly about Karen which will be very interesting, I am sure as I find out about all of those from #1

Grace Hawkins is stunned when her father arranges a marriage for her with a business associate. Her parents had always been rather distant, but they had always spoiled her and given her what she wanted. When she meets Martin Paxton, her worst fears are confirmed. He is cold, almost evil, and hits her in the face when she refuses to allow him liberties no proper lady would ever agree to. To escape the impossible situation, she runs away to Skagway and Dyea with her governess and the woman's aunt. The other two women are looking for their family member who is a missionary to the Tlinget. The three of them trust God to see them through, but Grace had not expected to meet someone who attracted her as much as Peter Colton does. Peter Colton liked the fact that his family always turned to him for leadership and advice. He believed in a God, but he didn't think God concerned Himself with the everyday affairs of man. That's where strong, capable men like him came in. When the three women came for passage on his ship to

Alaska, he was appalled. Where was a man to see to their welfare, and why would three women attempt such a journey? He was even more amazed to find himself attracted to gentle Grace, but some of the lady's ideas would rock his belief system. When Martin Paxton shows up to claim his bride, Peter begins to recognize too many of his own views in the evil man. The only grammatical error I found was "Between Aunt Doris and I." Despite the sometimes strange spacing and unedited formatting, I enjoyed the book until I got to the end. Most of the problems in the book were not solved. Normally I rate a book without a conclusion because they want readers to buy the next one no higher than one star. However, this one was not a total cliffhanger. Grace does end up with a semi-happy ending. However, there's still many questions left. What happens to Grace's mother? What happens to Paxton, and does he give up his quest for vengeance, or does he continue to cause problems? What about the two children who had recently lost their mother and their father leaves them to go north to join the stampeders in the gold rush? What about Peter and Grace's differences? Will they be able to work things out? Will Karen find her father? Most of the questions and plot points the novel had set up were unanswered. I have no plans to buy the next in the series although I would love to know some of the answers. When I read the reviews, I thought each one in the series was about a different character and would have a firm ending. This turned out not to be the case, and I hope my review will help some others.

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