



Roanoke: The Lost Colony

Angela Elwell Hunt

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Series premiere special price! "Roanoke: The Lost Colony" recounts the life of Jocelyn Colman, whose faith is tested and refined when she follows the husband she barely knows to an unexplored land. Jocelyn struggles with her husband's bitterness and guilt until God's forgiveness becomes a lifesaving reality.

Roanoke: The Lost Colony Details

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Author : Angela Elwell Hunt

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Christin says

I really wanted this to be an epic saga that drew me in and became a new favorite series but...sadly, it fell far below expectations. Though I enjoyed the beginning of the story, I was glad to finish it by the end. The pace is very, VERY slow...except when randomly 8 years go by. The characters were enjoyable in the beginning but by page 200 or so, you're thinking "oh my gosh...300 more pages like this?!" But you keep reading because surely it will get better...right? {spoiler alert!} WRONG. Thomas becomes a crazy person! I mean, I was glad that in the end Thomas and Jocelyn are FINALLY happy...but it was for like 5 minutes before the end of the book. I felt seriously jipped.

Erin says

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I knew the history of Roanoke prior to purchasing Angela Elwell Hunt's Roanoke: The Lost Colony, but my interest in the novel didn't begin with its subject matter. Truth be told, I stumbled over the book because I wanted to read one of its sequels. Unfortunately, the jacket description on Charles Town led me to believe the Keepers of the Ring series built on one another so rather than breaking sequence and jumping in at book five, I redirected my attention to book one.

I'll grant it's not the most auspicious start, but I've opened books on a lot less so let's not get caught up on the details. Roanoke: The Lost Colony actually has a few things going for it and while certain elements of the novel left me wanting, there was enough going on to hold my interest and satisfy my famously particular tastes.

Fair warning to all, the religious aspects of the novel are not subtle, but I felt Hunt's themes blended well with the historic details of her fiction. I know I'm in the minority when I say this, but I enjoy this kind of balance and am always impressed with writers who take the time and care to create it. Hunt obviously put a lot into researching the colony, but she put equal thought into integrating her message of faith into the material and I truly appreciated how the two complement one another as the story progressed.

I felt Jocelyn a likable heroine, and I appreciate much in both Audrey and Rowtag, but like many other reviewers, I struggled to appreciate Thomas. His views are rather extreme and while I've no problem with difficult characters, I felt his arc awkward and forced. I greatly enjoyed his entry and introduction, but his personality fractures and takes a seemingly unnatural tangent. In looking back at the book, I have to admit his character confused me and even now, I'm not entirely sure what Hunt was trying to accomplish with his role.

I found the pacing tedious, but became addicted to the authenticity and harsh descriptions of Hunt's narrative. Christian fiction is usually positive and upbeat, but Roanoke: The Lost Colony is decidedly bittersweet. Hunt allowed history to shape this story and while I recognize how disappointing that is for some readers, I personally respected the author more for her adherence to the historic record.

As a family saga, I can't say the Keepers of the Ring series has much on Jack Cavanaugh's American Family

Portrait, but I enjoyed the time I spent with piece and look forward to tackling additional installments in the near future.

Lynda says

While I shelved this as "historical fiction", I really felt like I was reading history. The author did her research. A lot of it. And it shines through in this novel. I found myself hoping I could grab some time to read 'more'.

You will recognize some names as those as based on facts; a few are created. Each is brought alive in this novel. The author addresses the lives they lived, why no ships arrived for a long time, where the colonists went and even what could have happened.

I highly recommend this book. It's a great read. But the 'historical' aspects of it make it fascinating to the history buff as well as a genealogical researcher. I'm thankful this was a free Amazon Kindle download. And as I write this review, it still is.

Lorie says

I do not usually read books like this. The first one that I read was *Uncharted* by this author, but this is really a different book. I remember in history learning about Roanoke, but nobody really knew what happened to it. Angela Hunt tries to create what she thinks might have happened to that lost colony. A very believable story with great characters that seem believable. I got to where I could not put the book down. This book continues with other tales. The next one is called *Jamestown* and I am excited to read that too. I really enjoyed this book.

Joleen says

Phew! I'm glad this book is done! This was an interesting read, and clearly the author tried to be historically accurate, with license enough to make it a fiction book rather than a textbook. Although at times it did read like a history book, for the most part the author did a good job of making it a story.

My problem was the lengthy drawn out drama between Jocelyn and her husband, Thomas. Most of that was fiction, but it was just too much.

Thomas was a preacher, a very legalistic preacher, bent on rules, and hell fire for those who break the rules. He married Jocelyn on the way to America in the 1500's and for 20 years (no really, 20 years) he withheld his affections. I know, I know, I'm giving some of the story away, but sooooooooo much of the book was about that, and his idiotic thoughts about "appearing" to be pure before the congregation. And by pure, you gather what I mean. Ugh. It was too long and protracted, and down right boring. I kept wishing the author would get on with it already.

The saving grace was all the little plots that were happening around that couple. Far more interesting. But his preaching, his rules, his distorted view of a marriage relationship with a demanding, punishing God... I grew weary.

This was a colony the people were supposed to be setting up for Sir Walter Raleigh in Virginia. Not being farmers in England, their first year was pretty bad, so their leader set out back to England for further provisions and more colonists. So the colonists in Virginia waited and waited for their return. In the mean time they did what they could to survive, including making friends with a tribe of Indians. This saved them for years to come. Plus they brought the gospel to them.

Would I recommend it?...I'm not sure. Probably not. But some of it was quite interesting on the historical front.

Ellen says

When I discovered that Angela Elwell Hunt, author of The Note, had tried her hand at historical fiction, I was eager to give it a try. I had enjoyed The Note as evidenced by my favorable review here on GoodReads. In addition to inspirational romance, historical fiction is always a favorite for me.

Now, anyone with even an elementary grasp of American history knows that any book with the title of Roanoke should not expect a light and flowery tale of romance, so I wasn't surprised that it was fraught with hardship and difficulty that might border on the depressing. I expected mystery and challenge, but here's the problem: it goes on FOREVER! Page after page after page of miserable time on ships, battles, people getting sick and dying... but worst of all was the relationship between Jocelyn and her minister husband. Although I respect the message that she fought for her marriage and loved him through so many desperate days, I grew sick at heart in this seemingly-endless story of a woman trapped in loveless marriage. I fought my way to the bitter end of the book, hoping to end with at least a sense of satisfaction. Nope. I was merely relieved it was over.

Does this mean I won't be reading the rest of the series? Most definitely. I am still interested in giving another Hunt book a chance. Perhaps her Biblical fiction will hold my interest a bit longer.

Cambria says

One of my favorite books. I love historical fiction, and this has strong Christian themes. I think I cried during each book of this series.

Becky Fleming says

This book made my heart soar with joy and then broke it with searing pain and loss so many times! I loved this story! The characters were very realistic. I loved the author's faithfulness to the the facts we do have in history of The Lost Colony. Can't wait to read the others in this series!

Liza says

Although this book frustrated me to some extent, I kept reading. Disregarding any historical inaccuracies (it

is, after all, fiction), I thought the first half of this book was richly detailed. I became irritated towards the last quarter of the book when dates started to run together (and beargut was replaced by catgut, although no cats were ever mentioned anywhere else in the book), and disliked how the relationship between Jocelyn and her husband was concluded (I mean, you spent at least a third of the book hating him, right? Hard to just *poof!* magically fix that). I'm tempted to seek out the second book, but honestly, I don't think I'd want to pay for it.

Alanna says

Double Wow! I really don't have words to describe this book except heartwrenching and amazing! As the title suggests, Hunt gives her take on what happened to those colonists on Roanoke Island, and her suggestion seems very plausible. Her writing style is phenomenal and the story line and characters captivating. But this book isn't just happy go lucky. Sometimes it is so sad, you wonder how you'll ever go on. Some parts are gruesome, so I wouldn't recommend it for young people, but if you are ready for a story that will grip you and tear at your heart, here it is! *This is the first book in the "Keeper of the Rings" Series, and I know she has at least four other books in the series, which I haven't read, but want to read them sometime.*

Katie says

A little too long and dreary. And Thomas...lets just say I wanted the Indians to get him! But I've already read the next book and it's much better!

Series Review:

Full of history, this series is very unique in its setting. I have read very few books (Christian or not) about pre-Revolutionary America and I cannot think of a book-outside of the Dear America series-about the Native American/settlers war and conflicts. Covering Roanoke, Jamestown, Hartford, King Philip's War, and the early slave trade, Angela Hunt wrote a very unique series.

I enjoyed some books in the series more than others, and found some parts of the series redundant and far-fetched, but I was fascinated by the history.

Jennifer says

Absolutely gut-wrenching. Ordinarily, I cannot read sad books. And sad is ...an understatement for this book. But I just could not put this book down. Some parts were absolutely horrifying, but I'm thankful for having read them. It really gave me a deeper gratefulness for what sacrifices were made so that I could now live in this country. I'm just in awe.

I really loved Jocelyn's character. Her virtue. She was quite amazing, but believable. I found myself so frustrated with Thomas, but I think his character was an excellent example of the damages of a proud, hard, legalistic heart.

This book was just really a great read! I'd definitely recommend it.

R.J. Rodda says

I was quite gripped by this...I had never heard of the historical mystery of Roanoke and was quite fascinated with the premise and wondered how the author would resolve it (which she did satisfactorily).

There is brutality in this which was no doubt reflective of the times but I do not enjoy reading such descriptions so although I overall liked this I don't want to read the next one.

Anne Farrington says

The majority of this book was very slow and the characters not very appealing. While interesting from a historical perspective, I found the main character of the minister annoying and repetitive. The last third of the book the pace picked up but overall it was not a favorite.

Shantelle says

It left me intrigued and wondering... so I simply must continue on to read *Jamestown*, the second book in this series. However, I will say that *Roanoke: The Lost Colony* wasn't without multiple frustrations! First off, the main characters die in the end. That usually ruins a book for me... but seeing how the daughter miraculously escapes... I don't know, it was tolerable this time.

Ugh, Thomas was infuriating! His view of God, of his family, of the Indians... made me want to scream, "Stop, stop! You're ruining your life and everyone else's with yours." He was so wrong, and it frustrated me as he hurt not only himself, but multitudes of others.

Anyway, this was an interesting rendition of the mysterious tale, or lack of, of the colony on Roanoke... which disappeared. But as I said, my interest is piqued, and I think I need to read the continuing story; no matter how agonizing and brutal *Roanoke: The Lost Colony* was! I will say, despite the deaths of the main characters in the end, it did have happiness.
