



The Homeplace

Gilbert Morris

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Lanie took out her journal and dated it April 12, 1928. She started the habit of writing down everything that happened to her when she was no more than eight years old, and now she had six journals completely full. She thought about the prize at school, almost prayed to win, but somehow she could not. "God," she finally said, "I'll do my best, and if you'll help me, that's all I ask." Fourteen-year-old Lanie Belle Freeman of Fairhope, Arkansas, has high hopes for her future. Happy on the five-acre family homeplace, she dreams of going to college and becoming a writer. And with her father launching a new business and her mother expecting the fifth baby, the bright days of an early Southern spring seem to herald expansive new beginnings for the Freeman family. But her mother isn't as strong as she should be, and it's going to take time for the business to pay back the mortgage. When unexpected tragedy strikes, it is left to Lanie to keep the family together and hold on to their home. In a world shaken by the Great Depression, it is faith in God and love in a tightly knit family that will help Lanie and her siblings overcome the odds and create a future that promises the fulfillment of love. The Homeplace offers a warmhearted and inspiring saga of a courageous young woman who holds her family together through the Depression era.

The Homeplace Details

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Author : Gilbert Morris

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From Reader Review The Homeplace for online ebook

Cheryl Bennett says

Looking forward to reading more of the series.

Melinda says

This is a wholesome book. It was really slow for me at first but picked up. If you don't like the talk of God this is not the book for you. It doesn't scream any particular religion, which I like. It just has a general talk of prayer and shows how people are the answer to a lot of our prayers. It is cheesy at times but cheesy usually means someone is trying to be good. Over all it is a decent book.

Stacy M. Patton says

This was my first Gilbert Morris book. I really enjoyed this historical story about a girl who is sweet, strong, caring and godly. I listened to the audiobook version and the reader was wonderful! I highly recommend the audiobook! She makes the story come to life! It's almost like listening to an audio drama! I'm so glad I stumbled upon this book! I can't wait to listen to book 2 in this series!

Adele says

This was slow to start, but got better. I felt like I was watching the Waltons. The story was set in a small southern town during the depression. And, just like the show, it was about a faith filled family and their problems.

Jeri says

"had promise but was way too ""religious"" for meAs the year 1928 begins, fourteen-year-old Lanie Belle Freeman of Fairhope, Arkansas, has bright hopes for the future. Her father has launched a new business, and her mother is expecting her fifth baby. Lanie has dreams of going to college and being a writer. Then tragedy strikes....." Would not read this author again.

Michelle says

A great story about a family of five children, where the mother dies, the father has a tragedy shaken him and

Lanie the oldest daughter must take care of her family anyway she can~ but to honor her parents and glorify God! The Almighty allows this family to go through some difficulties, but not without Him and His promises!

An excellent story written, a help for the christian to go by faith and trust in Him alone in life!

Lorraine says

Gilbert Morris has once again given us a great work of historical fiction. Fourteen year old Lanie Belle Freeman of Fairhope Arkansas has high hopes for the future. A bright student, a great helper at home, a faithful follower of Christ, and a budding writer of poetry until tragedy strikes her family and the depression hits the entire US. Will Lanie be able to keep her family together through all the troubles that face them?

I loved the small town feel of this book. The characters were wonderful from skitterish Broken Knife Annie to cantankerous Aunt Kezia to sweet but sometimes misguided Dr. Merritt. But the sense of small town support and love pervades The Homeplace in this first of the Singing River Series. Can't wait to read the sequel.

Heather says

Overall, I liked this book. The characters were fantastic; quirky and engaging. However, I thought the story was a little...uneven. I liked the book best when its tone was light, but many of the events in it were very serious. I really enjoyed Lanie teaching her brothers and sister and how characters talk about praying. Do be aware that this book is the first in a series, so some major plot points will not be resolved by the end of the book.

Louise says

Phenomenal novel!!!! This is the first book by Gilbert Morris that I've read and I was so impressed. There are three other books in this series of four: "The Dream", "The Miracle", and "The Courtship" which I've just ordered. I couldn't put this book down and was shocked when I went to turn the page and found there was no more story, the book had ended! Thankfully, I realized there are more novels, as I cannot continue on until I find out what happens in this saga about the Freeman family!

"Lanie took out her journal and dated it April 12, 1928. She started the habit of writing down everything that happened to her when she was no more than eight years old, and now she had six journals completely full. She thought about the prize at school, almost prayed to win, but somehow she could not, "God, she finally said, I'll do my best, and if you'll help me, that's all I ask."

Fourteen-year-old Lanie Belle Freeman of Fairhope, Arkansas, has high hopes for her future. Happy on the five-acre family homeplace, she dreams of going to college and becoming a writer. And with her father launching a new business and her mother expecting the fifth baby, the bright days of an early Southern spring seem to herald expansive new beginnings for the Freeman family.

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mortgage. When unexpected tragedy strikes, it is left to Lanie to keep the family together and hold on to their home. In a world shaken by the Great Depression, it is faith in God and love in a tightly knit family that will help Lanie and her siblings overcome the odds and create a future that promises the fulfillment of love. The HOMEPLACE is the first offering in a warmhearted and inspiring saga of a courageous young woman who holds her family together through the Depression era."

Natalie Vellacott says

Morris was the first Christian fiction writer I read and this the first book. I picked this up in a Christian bookshop and enjoyed it so much that I bought the rest of the series of 4. The story is set around a Christian family living in a simple rural area. It is about the various trials they experience due to death and absence of key members of the family for various reasons. I especially liked the sense of community encapsulated in the series and that everything is linked back to the strong Christian faith of the lead characters. There is also a romantic storyline running throughout which doesn't take centre stage but is another reason to keep reading. I read the series twice over the last 5 years and it has become a favourite. Recommended for anyone who wants to read something wholesome that keeps the attention.

Katie says

This book got 5 stars almost from the get-go!! The Homeplace grabbed me from the first few pages, Lanie's character is instantly likable and her selfless attitude is evident from the very beginning. The whole atmosphere of the family was refreshingly enjoyable; they were a very close-knit family.

Since my family is much like that – close-knit – I enjoyed reading about how much they came together when the trials began to come upon them. The writing was filled with so much emotion that I often found myself crying with the characters! (You know it's a good book when you can emotionally feel with the characters in the book!)

Lanie was my favorite character, mainly because of all the trials she readily shouldered for her family when the times got hard. She relied heavily on the Lord to get her through all her troubles, which was such an amazing testimony, even if this is just a fictitious story. Her innocent nature was also extremely appealing, as well as her loving nature of giving and helping others. There was some romance in the book, though it wasn't the prominent part of the book and Lanie – clear and level-headed – dealt with the guys well. ;-) Her other siblings were also very endearing, though Maeva sometimes made me want to shake her – with her stubborn and rebellious attitude, though she cared deeply about her family, just like everyone else.

So, all in all, this is definitely a book that I will pick up again and read! I laughed with the family during the funny moments, cried with them during the sad times, and hurt with them when matters turned from bad to worse. Lanie will definitely be a character I'll remember for a long time to come!!

Thanks goes to Zondervan for sending my a review copy!

Stacy says

I'm already in love with this series. This is about a young teenager and her struggles in trying to take care of her family during the great depression. The main character has an innocence about her that is refreshing, so unlike the young ladies of today. Sometimes it's nice to be taken back to another world to escape the realities that we live in, even though life was very hard back then. This book talks about God and faith throughout the book and if that offends you, this is probably not for you. I highly recommend this book for my Christian friends.

Cheryal says

Okay this is a dang frustrating book. I just found out it was a series which explains why you are reading along and the book just stops. Stupid book. AND all that after I tolerated the lengthy preaching that was in it. I enjoy Christian romance books as a rule, but this one was a long sermon and reminded me of my days in Texas as a protestant. Holy cow. In all fairness, I was touched by the faith of the kids envolved and thier antics. And no, I won't read the second one, too much drama.

LadyCalico says

I really loved this book about the troubles of a young teen having to raise her siblings and deal with a variety of adult pressures during the Depression, having nothing to rely on except her own integrity, the kindness of neighbors, and ultimately the mercy and provision of God, who is the only one who can bring it all together and work it to the good. I have a particular interest in this period of history and have read much fiction and non-fiction about it, so I couldn't help but enjoy this book and couldn't put it down until it ran out. I didn't say "until it ended" since this book is really just the first quarter of a looong novel spread out over four volumes.

Mary says

So the main character really isn't much to talk about. She's just an annoying perfect girl who never develops any personality. A total dud. No matter how much you read, she never does one thing to make her seem likeable or real. Also, the dialogue in this book is repetitive and basic. There isn't any great writing skill shown, and the dialogue just doesn't read well. The redeeming point, and the reason I bought all for books, is the secondary characters. Brother Ryan, Maeva, Davis, Annie, Aunt Kezia, Myrtle, Pardue and many others are what makes this series worth it.
