



## The Mistress of Tall Acre

*Laura Frantz*

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The American Revolution is finally over, and Sophie Menzies is starved for good news. When her nearest neighbor, General Seamus Ogilvy, finally comes home to Tall Acre, she hopes it is a sign of better days to come. But the general is now a widower with a small daughter in desperate need of a mother. Nearly destitute, Sophie agrees to marry Seamus and become the mistress of Tall Acre in what seems a safe, sensible arrangement. But when a woman from the general's past returns without warning, the ties that bind this fledgling family together will be strained to the utmost. When all is said and done, who will be the rightful mistress of Tall Acre?

Triumph and tragedy, loyalty and betrayal--readers find it all in the rich pages of this newest historical novel from the talented pen of Laura Frantz. Her careful historical details immerse the reader in the story world, and her emotional writing and finely tuned characters never cease to enchant fans both old and new.

## **The Mistress of Tall Acre Details**

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Author : Laura Frantz

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## From Reader Review The Mistress of Tall Acre for online ebook

### Melanie says

Where to start?? The Mistress of Tall Acre was a fabulous historical romance and another stellar read from Laura Frantz. I absolutely loved the characters and really felt for them as the story progressed. So many things happened, including a super shocking element near the end that I did. not. expect.

I loved the relationship between Sophie and Lily Cate and how the child seemed to have felt an instant connection with Sophie -- so sweet! I also liked how there was a sliver of suspense in The Mistress of Tall Acre.

All in all, I loved this book and recommend it if you enjoy historical romance novels -- it is fantastic! I can't wait for Laura Frantz's next novel.

\*Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention/review it on my blog. I was not required to give a positive review, only my honest opinion - which I've done. All thoughts and opinions expressed are my own and I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising.\*

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### Nicki Olsen says

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#### \*My Thoughts\*

I wish I could be one of those people that can start out by saying, "I have long been in love with Laura Frantz's writing", but alas, I cannot. I can say however that I have been in love with her writing ever since the very first page I read of Love's Fortune. Laura truly did open the doors to my love of all things Historical Fiction and has helped show me the beauty of our past. I proceeded to BEG for every single book she had ever written...I'm only missing one which I plan to have by this Christmas!

This is one of the most well written stories I have EVER read and most definitely the best marriage of convenience story. There is nothing ordinary about this story! From the very first page, I was obsessed with Sophie Menzies and shockingly I found a new favorite man-at least for now! (Sorry Silas...and James!)

I found Sophie and Seamus' relationship to be the sweetest thing and completely realistic! Their struggles were completely understandable and their little girl was an absolute doll. I was in love before I ever opened the book! I loved her hair so much, I had my darling sister imitate it on me! You can see the pictures on my blog. :)

As usual, the history within the pages is priceless. Absolutely one of the best books I have ever read, hands down. Laura turned a sweet story into a work of art, and I can't wait for her next novel! As it is, I've already read this one four times in a month!

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**\*Audience\***

This book is a beautifully written historical like those written by Sarah Sundin, Julie Lessman, Lori Wick, Tamera Alexander, Rosanne M. White, Kristi Ann Hunter, Lorna Seilstad, Susan Ann Mason, Elizabeth Camden, and Jody Hedlund!

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**\*My overall thoughts\***

An intricate story on how two people struggled to find love in the midst of heartache, The Mistress at Tall Acre is a true gem!

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**\*My Rating\***

I give The Mistress of Tall Acre by Laura Frantz...

5 stars!!

<http://bookreviewsforchristians.blogs...>

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\*I received this book from the publisher and the author in exchange for an honest review, which I have given. All thoughts were my own and I was not compensated in any other way.

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**Staci says**

Delightful story of hardship set just following the Revolutionary War.

The main character Sophie Menzies was such an admirable heroine. She made multiple decisions to take the moral high ground rather than to put her own interest first. I cannot imagine how difficult it was to make the decisions she made.

Secondary character Lily Cate shined a light of innocence and faith that helped tie the story together.

Laura Frantz delivers a fine novel once again.

A huge thank you to Relz Reviews and Revell for a complimentary copy of this novel.

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**Renee says**

Books like this are why I can't get things done. Each and every time I think I have received and read Ms. Frantz's books in less than a day. It's been a long while since I've been so excited to read a book and this

story did not disappoint. If you've followed my reviews of this book's predecessors, you know I've enjoyed them all, but that I'm pretty much obsessed with Red Shirt the hero from Courting Morrow Little. Nobody could top him in my book - until today. Yes. It is on record, in writing, Red Shirt has been dethroned as fictional King of My Heart. Other than the fact that her latest hero bears the regal name of Seamus (I've pretty much decided years ago, if I ever have kids, one of them will have that name) he's a totally brooding dreamboat. I can't write this review without making note of the heroine Sophie's thoughts on the aforementioned dreamboat. Warning: you will swoon.

"There was an alarming lilt to his voice she'd not heard before. And that smile...It eased all the rugged, weathered lines of him, giving her a nearly forgotten glimpse of the young man he'd been. Confident, even cocky. Self-assured yet unchallenged." - Laura Frantz, *The Mistress of Tall Acre*, pg. 78

HAVE YOU SWOONED YET?! No? All right then. Here's more.

"The war had mellowed and matured him like fine wine..." - Laura Frantz, *The Mistress of Tall Acre*, pg. 78

\*Ovaries officially gone\* \*insert goofy explosion GIF here\*

Argh! I am in love with this book. Mostly because of General Seamus Ogilvy (more like Seamus Ogle Me) but also because of Sophie. She's kind of that awkward, plain girl seriously crushing on the stunningly handsome war hero with whom she believes she has no chance with. She's totally relatable. Also, with this book you don't feel preached at. You never do with Frantz's books, but the message is there, woven seamlessly throughout the story. This will definitely make the keeper shelf for years to come along with all of her previous, and I'm sure, forthcoming novels. Christian romance writers, take note of this author's books. She's a star!

I received this book free for review from the publisher as part of their book blogger review program. All opinions are my own. I received no compensation for this post.

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### **Beth says**

The Revolutionary War has finally ended, and Sophie Menzies, though nearly destitute at her once-prosperous home of Three Chimneys, is hopeful that life will rebuild and her brother will return home from war. When her neighbor General Seamus Ogilvy returns to Tall Acre, she believes that it is a sign of happier times to come. The general is now a widower with a small daughter to raise on his own. When Sophie's home at Three Chimneys is threatened, she is left with very few options and agrees to marry Seamus to become the mistress of Tall Acre and mother to his five year old Lily Cate as well. However, war is not easily forgotten, and the events that took place while Seamus was away have lingering effects that strain their already fragile, newly-formed family, as well as Sophie's tenuous hold as mistress of Tall Acre.

It's often said that some things only get better with time, and I can't think of a better saying to epitomize Laura's novels. Laura is one of my all-time favorite authors, so naturally I was excited to read *The Mistress of Tall Acre*, but I did wonder how it would compare to her most recent books, particularly those in the Ballantyne Legacy. I held those characters and their stories to such a high standard, but that standard was completely surpassed with this novel. Don't get me wrong, I still love Laura's previous books, but *The Mistress of Tall Acre* has all of the charm, detail and prose of those first novels, with the exceptional skill and artistic ability of the seasoned author she has since become. Laura has such richness in her writing, such

a deft way of stringing her words and sentences together, that I found myself enthralled from the very beginning. I read quickly and slowly in turns – quickly because I couldn’t bear not knowing the next thing, yet slowly because I knew I would be sad when I reached the end. Full of fascinating detail of a nation in its infancy, the story focuses on one woman, man and child desperate to hold onto happiness and become a family during this precarious time.

Endearing characters go a long way to making a book special to me. I loved the gentle strength and determination that Sophie Menzies possesses, and the same can be said of General Seamus Ogilvy. Seamus is battle-hardened, yet has a quiet strength. A wound sustained during battle serves as a permanent reminder of all he lost in the war; the insecurities that he feels about this make him relatable and add such a depth to his character and the story itself. It’s hard to remember that others don’t always view you in the harsh light in which you view yourself. Sophie’s character reminds me of the quote, “comparison is the thief of joy.” She struggles to flourish under the shadow of the former mistress of Tall Acre, yet doesn’t see her own value. Both Sophie and Seamus learn this lesson throughout the story – though war has wrought havoc in their lives, there is healing and new hope to come. Seamus’s daughter, Lily Cate, is as sweet as her name, and though her early year’s spent with her mother’s family have formed her into a serious little somebody, under Sophie’s nourishment, she blooms. I loved their interactions together, as well as the tender moments between her and Seamus.

Laura weaves so many threads together in a way that all seems completely organic and natural to the story. I hesitate to even classify this as a marriage of convenience because the story is so much more than that, but readers that love this storytelling motif will find it presented here is top quality. Not once did the romance outweigh the core plot of the story, yet accompanies it beautifully. The progression of the romance has such a slow build. That is not to say that the portrayal of their relationship lacked in any way – the journey was in turns heartbreak, poignant and always exhilarating. Despite their stops and starts, their interactions together are laced with an exquisite tension, and it made the moment when everything comes to fruition that much sweeter and poignant. I appreciate when authors are not afraid to put their characters through difficult, realistic situations, and although my heart hurt for them at times, I knew that hope and redemption would ultimately win the day.

The Mistress of Tall Acre is truly a balm to this reader’s soul. Laura creates such an atmosphere in her stories, whether it is the wild Kentucky frontier, or the more genteel Tall Acre of Virginia. Her sense of place is impeccable, and she provides the details that I often find lacking in other books. Few historical romance writers compel me to read their novels the way that she does. Fans of historical, inspirational romance look no further than Laura Frantz. Whether you’ve read her previous books, or have the immense pleasure of discovering her stories for the first time, you are in capable hands. The Mistress of Tall Acre ranks high on my list of favorite books for 2015, and I highly recommend it!

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### **Brittany says**

I have a new book to add to my all-time favorites list! The Mistress of Tall Acre pulled me back in time, and into the hearts and lives of Sophie Menzies and Seamus Ogilvy. This is one of those stories that, even after I finished reading it, stayed with me. I can’t stop thinking about these deep and complex characters.

Seamus Ogilvy is wounded not only physically, but emotionally, as well. He struggles to understand how to be a father to a young daughter who fears him. He must reconcile the loss of a wife and the reality that his

marriage was not all that he had hoped it would be. And he must brave new and uncertain feelings regarding Sophie Menzies.

I really liked both Seamus and Sophie. The author is very adept at making the reader truly feel the emotions of the characters and not simply just read about them. My heart hurt for Sophie and the love she carried for both Seamus and his daughter. The amazing emotional journey that all of these characters take from start to finish in this novel made for a story that I did not want to end. It is packed with romance, drama, and uncertainty. I highly recommend it for fans of historical fiction.

I received a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

You can read this review on my blog at:

[https://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.c...](https://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.com)

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### **Jamie says**

Laura Frantz is a go to historical author for many and there's very good reasons why this is the case. She has a writing style that captivates, she brings to life eras long past, and she creates characters you become completely invested in. So was I shocked when her newest release followed this exact same pattern and maybe even be her best yet?

Not at all friends. Not at all.

I really enjoyed getting a glimpse into the life of Americans right after the Revolutionary War. What a time that must have been – years of war and suddenly they were their own country. That was no easy task bringing about a new nation. Along with the intriguing era, I really enjoyed the whole story line – from learning what happened with those who were Tories and those who remained loyal to the new nation to the relationship of Sophie and Seamus.

Another fantastic aspect? The characters. Sophie has an amazing strength to her, not only for surviving the war, but all that was against her during and after the British surrender. Then there's Seamus, with such heavy burdens of war and dealing with the aftermath and trying to do what's best for his sweet little girl, Lily Cate (who you'll love!).

When I read the back cover, I thought this was going to be a "marriage of convenience" type plot line, but I'd say it's much different and I really liked that. Finally, I loved the additional mystery weaved within the plot. This made for some fast turning of the pages! If you're wondering if Laura Frantz's books are for you, I most definitely suggest starting with this one.

If you've read Laura's book, what's one of your favorites?

(Thank you to Revell for a copy of the book in exchange for my honest review)

originally posted at [http://booksandbeverages.org/2015/09/...](http://booksandbeverages.org/2015/09/)

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### **Rachel says**

This story grabbed my attention right away but it wasn't until about half way through that I became gripped by the drama. Then ... oh my!... I felt the thrill and struggle to love and be loved, the angst and sorrow of tragedy and loss, the joy and peace of a new beginning, and then again the heart rending sorrow of betrayals from the past. There is no doubt you will be drawn into this story!

I loved the three main characters! Sophie Menzies is a gentle yet strong character who works hard, loves well, and is still hopeful for a bright future in spite of the abandonment of her father and the unknown whereabouts of her brother. General Seamus Ogilvy is a man wounded by the past and the war but with the strength and determination to reunite with his daughter and bring about the restoration of Tall Acre. And then there was Lily Cate (I love her name!). This little 5 year old, whose father is a stranger to her and whom circumstances have made on the serious side, is smart and loving and immediately takes to Sophie. My heart hurt for their struggles to become a family - whole and joyful once again.

The reasons for a 4 star rating rather than a 5 star is that for the first half of the book, although it flowed smoothly, for some reason it was just another book. It wasn't until about half way through that it became more than just another story. And although the last half of the book was riveting for me, it was also full of angst and sadness and trouble with just little bits of joy intertwined. I understand that the drama was part of the story and was needed for the whole story line but I could have handled the last half better if there had been a whole lot more lightness in the first half. Just my feelings on it.

All in all, this is a very well written story that will hold you captive with romance, drama, mystery, redemption and healing!

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\*Thanks to Revell Reads for the complimentary copy of this book for review purposes. All opinions stated are my own.\*

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### **Deanne Patterson says**

I was disappointed in this book. I had been looking forward to reading it for some time now. This is an author that I enjoy her books a lot but I did not find this to be a strong story. I enjoyed the Ballantyne series much more with its rich historical detail . I do hope her next book picks up and is a stronger story.

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### **Fictionophile says**

Sometimes you come across a novel on your TBR at JUST the perfect time. Don't get me wrong, my favorite genre is mystery/thriller, but sometimes you just want a change. "The mistress of Tall Acre" filled a need for me. I loved it!

A delightful cross between "Jane Eyre" and "Gone with the wind", this historical love story was well researched, and kept me turning the pages despite other things I had to do.

Set in the years directly following the American Revolution, the novel is set on a five-thousand acre Virginian plantation – Tall Acre.

The male protagonist, Seamus Ogilvy, served as a patriot under the direction of General George Washington. By the end of the eight years of fighting and unimaginable hardship he too has garnered the rank of General. He returns to Tall Acre to find his plantation has suffered much over the years. His fragile wife, Anne, is dead, and his little daughter, Lily Cate is living with Anne's sister in Williamsburg. When he goes there to bring her back home he is turned away, so he takes the tiny girl by force in dead of night.

Lily Cate is afraid of her father. She has no memory of him, and she is squeamish about his war injuries. A lonely little girl, she wanders the grounds of Tall Acre. This is how she meets Sophie Menzies, a young woman who lives in the neighboring estate. Sophie too is desperately lonely. She has suffered much during the war. Her dear mother has died, her brother never returned from the fighting, and her father was a 'turncoat' who sided with the Loyalists and absconded back to Scotland. Now it is just her and two loyal servants living on her 1000 acre estate. Food is scarce and money even more so.

Sophie and Lily Cate strike up a friendship. Seamus meets the neighbor his little daughter talks about non-stop. He finds her stalwart and kindly, and he is grateful for the attention she pays to his little girl. She has brought play and joy back into Lily Cate's life.

Sophie is shunned by the townsfolk and neighbors due to her father's political leanings. She cannot find work, and her estate is to be sold for back taxes. Seamus comes to her aid in exchange for some secretarial duties and time spent with Lily Cate.

Though Sophie comes to love General Ogilvy, she is very intimidated by the war hero that he is, and she feels repulsed by the fact that he is a slaveholder. It is only Lily Cate who brings any joy to her life.

Sophie, and several other characters in the novel were Scottish immigrants. I was fascinated to come across many Scots terms while reading such as: glaikit, braw, meirleach, peely-wally, camshauchle, loosome, pinchbeck, and the like.

The relationship of Sophie and Seamus has many trials and tribulations, but the author focuses on the story of the magnificent "Tall Acre" so much that the book doesn't seem overly 'mushy' or 'romantic'. Under Sophie's influence, Seamus arranges 'manumission' for all fifty-two of Tall Acre's slaves. The story also focuses on the many servants (who were once slaves) and briefly touches on their social conditions.

I was also very interested to read of the social customs and clothing worn during this time period. Also touched upon was the lack of medical care and the reliance on home potions and remedies.

Was it well researched? Meticulously. Was the story predictable? Yes it was. But then, readers who like historical romance expect predictability. (though there was one 'twist' that I didn't see coming) The characters fairly leapt off the page, and the plot was didactic and well as entertaining. Details of the restoration needed after the Revolution, and the political climate of the time, were fascinating to read about. It was Christian fiction, but not 'preachy'. Religion was a bigger part of people's lives in the 18th century, so the Christian aspect just seemed a necessary part of the story.

Every once in a while we must take a step back to a time when the world was vast. When a trip of thirty miles was undertaken with hesitation. Before telephones, cars, and modern comforts. A time when folk had to be more self-sufficient, and self reliant. Reading books set in this time period provides us with needed reminders of how life once was...

It was with sadness, that I read the last page and left 18th century Virginia to return to the present. I guess

that is testament enough as to how much I enjoyed it.

I received a digital copy of this novel from Revell via NetGalley for review consideration.

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### **Hannah says**

Another new favorite! This book is scrumptiously, delightfully dramatic. Sophie has spent her life quietly and recently lost her mother, her only friend. The Revolutionary War has just ended, but her father deserted his family long before to run back to Scotland, where his loyalties are, and her brother is missing in the war. To make matters worse, she gets a letter informing her that her home, Three Chimneys, has been confiscated for her father's Tory views and for unpaid back taxes.

Enter Lily Cate Ogilvy, a charming little miss of five and a half, whose father has just returned as a war hero and brought her home to his estate of Tall Acre. Lily Cate is instantly drawn to Sophie despite the differences in their age, and her father is deeply grateful for the friendship.

Often child main characters are overdone or are simply effigies of true childhood. This youngster is a living, breathing one, natural as they come, and an excellent example of how children ought to be portrayed in books. She is smart but childish at the same time, loving and capricious.

And slowly these three are drawn into becoming a family. But, just as Sophie dares to dream of a future as a true wife to General Ogilvy, past secrets out of their control threaten to break apart their home. (A variation on the secrets-plot that I loved: it was the secrets of others that they're mired in. Genius.) And the actions of others bid fair to wreck their future...

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### **Dawn says**

My Thoughts: I have loved every single one of Laura's books I've read and this one was no exception. It was very easy to be drawn into Sophie's world. She may be the daughter of the midwife, but because of her father's Tory leanings, she has been ostracized. Yet the moment that she meets Lily-Cate, my heart melted. Both for Sophie and for the little girl. And Seamus wasn't sure how to manage the females in his life. But he does. It takes him some time though.

There is so much that happens to help both Sophie and Seamus grow. My heart broke for them at times. But their faith remains strong though it is sorely tested. And when the book ends, I had a silly grin across my face because I was thrilled.

I really hope that this one is the first in a series because I didn't want to say goodbye to these characters!

I received this book for free from Revell for the purpose of reviewing. My thoughts and opinions are my own.

Recommended to fans of drama, Laura Frantz, Jody Hedlund, Francine Rivers

Rating - 5 stars

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## **Virginia says**

\*Sigh\*

Where can I begin? This book was just AWESOME!! From the very first page, I was enraptured by this wonderfully and beautifully written tale. I was enchanted from the beginning to the end. This novel was definitely one of those books that I didn't want to end! I know sadly all good things must come to an end. :(

Oh my GOODNESS, the book cover is just gorgeous!! I'm glad to have finally read a novel where the book cover and the story itself goes hand in hand. I must say I was very intrigued by that alone.

The Mistress of Tall Acre had some very genius twists and turns intertwined into the novel. I think it's always good for an author to step out their normal comfort zone and continually remind us why we take the time to stalk and beg for their next novel....

Book Rating: 4.5 stars

This post was posted on my blog,

<https://ablogfromtheheart.wordpress.c...>

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## **Shantelle says**

Sweet and heartfelt, with a dash of suspense, *The Mistress of Tall Acre* is another lovely novel from Laura Frantz. I quite adore this author's books, beautiful historicals that they are, with such a lyrical writing style. And this one was another I really enjoyed!

Set mostly during the aftermath of the American Revolutionary War, it follows the lives of Sophie Menzies and General Seamus Ogilvy. One a Patriot war hero, the other the daughter of a staunch Loyalist. With the war ended, things struggle to revert back to the way they were. But so much has changed ... Seamus is now a widower, slightly at loss of how to care for his small, estranged daughter. Sophie is home alone, the scorn of the village because of her father's political beliefs, waiting for her soldier brother to return. But he is nowhere to be found. A new mistress of Tall Acre may be in order ...

I really liked this story! It was gentle and sweet - a not quite ordinary romance story. A heartwarming tale in which a dear little family is born. There was also a little bit of suspense/mystery, and shocking happenings. But nothing too much. The romance is adult and there is an arranged marriage theme, but it was all very sweet. Overall, *The Mistress of Tall Acre* felt gentle ... even something like *Love Comes Softly* by Janette Oke.

*Courting Morrow Little* is still by far my favorite book by Laura Frantz, but I did very much like this one as well! So looking forward to reading more, of course! ^\_^

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### **Anne Osterlund says**

Seamus Ogilvy left his home, Tall Acre, in Virginia to fight in the Revolution. He returns a war hero, a widower, and the father of a five-year-old girl he has never known. A little girl who has nightmares every night, is terrified of her father's wounded hand, and appears to trust the young woman next door.

Sophie Menzies is still waiting for the war to end. The daughter of a Tory, she remained behind—and a loyal patriot—while her father fled to England. But her brother has not returned from his enlistment with the patriots. Her home at Four Chimneys is a target for hostility and in danger of repossession.

Then one day a little girl, not yet six, arrives from next door. And everything—for both Seamus & Sophie—changes.

I loved both the characters and the historical aspects of *The Mistress of Tall Acre*. Both Seamus & Sophie feel very real. Their problems are intertwined within the time period, historical events, societal norms, and regional culture around them. The world in which they live is strongly painted, and yet each character is unique and defies traditional stereotypes in one way or another. This is a beautiful story.

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