



Fireblossom

Cynthia Wright

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THE WILD WEST OF 1876 WAS NO PLACE FOR A LADY

And Madeleine Avery was every inch a fine Philadelphia lady, from the top of her tidy head to the tips of her ivory kid shoes. Gold had lured her father to the Black Hills – but with neighbors like Wild Bill Hickock, Calamity Jane, and a Little Bighorn survivor, Maddie just didn't fit in. Then she met Fox Daniel, rugged strong, proud – and something began to stir within her.

A quest for the truth about her family led Maddie from bawdy Deadwood to the wide Dakota Plains roamed by Crazy Horse and the last free band of Sioux. Along the way, she found herself yearning for a man who wouldn't accept her love, and she discovered that Fox was not quite what he seemed. He hid too many secrets, too much guilt, and a past that was chasing him. Yet Fox's hungry, stolen caress told her heart what his words refused to say....

Fireblossom Details

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Author : Cynthia Wright

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From Reader Review Fireblossom for online ebook

Jane says

Enjoyed but was confused, turns out this book sells under two names and it turns out I have them both. I'm not a Deadwood fan, so I imagined it was a town other than Deadwood, of course all the famous people who lived in Deadwood made an appearance in this book, again not a fan of Deadwood. But I enjoy this author so I finished the book.

Mhollie says

This is my second read of this book. I read the paperback when it was originally published in 1993 and now I did the re-read of the Author's Cut Kindle version, given to me courtesy of the author, Cynthia Wright.

Straight-laced Madeline Avery is intent on making a home for her family in the rough Dakota Territory town of Deadwood and she's bringing her stiff-backed ladylike ideas with her. Let's just say she has some rude awakenings.

Daniel "Fox" Matthews' soul is torn between what his conscience and heart tell him and what his country and the people of Deadwood expect. He hides a secret that could break him and everything he holds dear.

Through a mission of mercy, Maddie and Fox find themselves while living amongst the Lakota people. Maddie slowly loosens her high ideals and comes to actually prefer the free life of Lakota. Something Fox already preferred from his years with them. Do they stay in the Lakota village and watch while the Native Americans' life is chipped away by the gold and land hungry whites? Or, do they take their chances in Deadwood, knowing Fox's secret could be found out?

A lovely look at the Lakota people and their doomed struggle to maintain their land and dignity amidst the heartwarming discovery and bloom of love between Maddie and Fox.

For me, having Native American roots, I appreciate that Ms. Wright showed the pride and determination the Lakota people. Thank you.

Cathy Geha says

Cynthia Wright's book Fireblossom is a sweeping historical novel that includes Custer, Crazy Horse, Wild Bill Hickock, Calamity Jane, Deadwood, gold prospecting, Chinese living in Deadwood, soiled doves, saloons, and a prim and proper lady that ends up in Deadwood. There is a wagon trip across open country and a stay with an Indian village with the man she loves. A half-sister to find, bad guys to thwart, gunfights and more are presented as sidebars in this story of Madeleine and Dan. In some ways more of a saga than a novel but a simple love story all in all.

Mermarie says

Freebie today.

Stepback. :)

Nola Arganbright says

Excellent

Another great historical romance by Cynthia Wright! Based on the Black Hills of North Dakota, in a time of native American and Settler unrest the story gives the reader a glimpse of many historical facts and characters.

Mallory says

I really enjoyed the banter between Fox and Maddie in this book. Their relationship, although very rocky and uncertain at first, (fire)blossomed into something admirable.

Similarly, I did not care for Fox's character for most of the book (i.e., after the preface and up until he was with the Sioux tribe). But he ended up being a great character.

I also learned a lot from this book, which I always appreciate. Though it was disheartening to read about the racism in the early settlement of the West, it was a good reminder that us white people did take their land and we made them suffer for it. The main characters were noble in their fight against racism, but they were ultimately outnumbered by the bigoted.

Katerina says

A complete waste of time and money.

If I really wanted to read about North America in 1874, General Custer, the Lakota nation, the Siouxs, Benjamin Franklin, Calamity Jane, Crazy Horse, the Battle of Little Bighorn and the history of the Black Hills, this book wouldn't have been my first choice....

But right now, I feel like I have become an historical expert for this time period and you can ask me anything there is to know about.

This author made sure to provide me with all the facts and details...

But please don't ask me something about the romance part of the story. It was rather irrelevant here; I already

forgot the names of the "main" characters. They stumbled through the setting, talked a little, and in the end got married. See, nothing worth writing about....completely forgettable!

Regina Mastrogiacomo says

Going West was sure an adventures.

Story starts well and lets us see the both sides of the Native American wars, and how they effect those who are associated with them. The relationships that surround the couple are more engaging then their own, except when they visit the Native American village and find out the truth of how they lived.

Angie Peoples says

Fireblossom was an incredible suspenseful historical romance about The Little Big Horn and Deadwood. The characters were so lively and entertaining. I so enjoyed all the historical aspects of this book because with the authors vivid description of these events and places, you feel as though you can see, smell, hear, and taste them. The author has created a well written historic romance book.

Misfit says

SPOILERS AHOY

"The Madeleine Avery of yore would have been appalled by the mess Maddie had made of her life. Here she was, in a rickety wagon, dusty and sweaty, without even a chamber pot, making a journey to an Indian village with a man to whom she had given her virginity and who claimed to want absolutely nothing to do with her... and yet she felt as if she were awash with happiness. She felt free, liberated from all the stringent standards of behavior her mother had instilled in her since childhood."

That pretty much says it all right there, but I'll give you a brief recap of the plot anyway. Madeleine (Maddie) Avery is the pampered daughter of a very old upper crust Philadelphia family. She has traveled with her younger brother and grandmother to live with her father in Deadwood, Dakota Territory. The hero of this piece is Daniel "Fox" Matthews. The President sent Daniel to keep an eye on Custer, but the two butt heads and Daniel's sent packing just before the massacre at Little Big Horn, and that's Daniel's **Big Secret** - no one saw Custer banish him so everyone will think he was a big coward, so he's come to Deadwood sort of incognito. I am sure you are scratching your head at this **Big Secret** same as I was - makes no sense to me either.

Anyhoo, Daniel is attracted to the beauteous Maddie, but he shuns her for fear of how she'll react to his **Big Secret** and he hangs with some of the local *soiled doves* instead (yes, that term was used a couple of times, but then so was "pard" and "injin"). Maddie's father has some health issues, and he reveals a big secret from his past (lived with the Indians, illegitimate daughter), and asks Daniel to make sure his daughter is safe. Daniel sympathizes with the plight of the Indians and loads up a wagon of supplies and guns (!!), plus he plans to bring one of the local *soiled doves* who resembles Maddie along for some comfort. Maddie gets wind of this and manages to substitute herself for the look-alike, all with the help of her eighty-year old

Philadelphia born and bred grandmother. You would think someone would worry about her virtue and appearances and all, but nooooo.

"Because I want to meet my half-sister!" Maddie cried. "I have wanted to go ever since Father told us about Yellow Bird and Sun Smile. I knew you wouldn't take me if I asked you, and I knew Father would forbid it, so Gramma Susan and I took matters into our own hands."

Now Daniel's no prize of a hero either:

"Why don't you return to the wagon and sort your ribbons, or whatever it is that you do before breakfast, and I'll join you shortly. After I am dry and fed, I'll decide what to do with you."

Lovely, yet according to the book description Daniel *"received the 1992 K.I.S.S. Hero Award (Knight in Shining Silver) from ROMANTIC TIMES."* Why, I can't fathom...

Back to Maddie and sisterly love, once they get home Maddie does an about face and starts making comments like this:

"Poor Father." She stole another look into the depths of the wagon, where her half-sister had hunched in silence for more than three days. If not for her smell they might have forgotten she was even present.

"How can I come to love—truly love someone who—who behaves like a rabid dog?"

How are you supposed to sympathize with a character like that? And Daniel's no prize either, but even worse than trying to like such an unlikeable pair is that there is no chemistry between them whatsoever, and the love scenes are just cheesy sex. According to the author's notes she did do a lot of research on the history of Deadwood, but for this reader it was so heavy-handed that I felt like I'd been closeted with a person who had just dumped a bottle of perfume on herself. While I really, really appreciate that the author wanted to write a story that focused on the plight of the Indians during the westward expansion, and why I'm awarding a second star to my rating, but there's just too much wall-paper in it for my tastes. YMMV.

Stacey says

IN A RENEGADE'S EMBRACE, formerly known as FIREBLOSSOM, is the second of Cynthia Wright's Western Rebels/Rogues Go West series. Unlike BRIGHTER THAN GOLD, it does have ties to Wright's past books. Madeleine Avery's grandmother, Susan Hampshire O'Hara, is Lion and Meagan's daughter from TOUCH THE SUN. It is 1876, their mother has died, so Maddie Avery and her brother Benjamin travel west with their grandmother to live with their father in Deadwood, South Dakota. Deadwood is a far cry from what they are used to in Philadelphia and it takes Maddie some time to adjust. Daniel "Fox" Matthews has been sent by President Grant to keep an eye on General Custer to make sure he does not get overly ambitious. This seems to be a fool's errand and Fox is sent away by Custer, unable to prevent the General and his calvary from attacking the Sioux in the Battle of Little Bighorn. Fox's frustration with the army, his sympathies for the Sioux, and his guilt over being not able to prevent the massacre leads him to hide out in Deadwood. While they initially do not get along, Fox is soon able to draw out Maddie and their passions ignite. They set off on an information-gathering mission with the Sioux and Maddie's experience is transforming.

Once again, Cynthia Wright brings the past alive. Readers get a solid feel for time and place as they experience both sides of what went on during the Indian Wars. Colorful, real-life figures, such as General George Custer, Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane and Crazy Horse, serve as minor characters and add depth to the story. I thoroughly enjoyed my re-read of *IN A RENEGADE'S EMBRACE*, especially Fox, Maddie and bits of western history that I was not as familiar with. For those of us who fell in love with Fox and Maddie, happily, you can see more of them in their daughter Shelby's story, the last book in the Western Rebels/Rogues Go West series, *THE DUKE AND THE COWGIRL* aka *WILDBLOSSOM*.

Modern times brings us very cool things and something that I've recently been able to enjoy with all of Cynthia Wright's books is her many Pinterest boards. Happily, she has one for each of her books and the reader can see photos of settings and people that inspired her books. Here is the one for *IN A RENEGADE'S EMBRACE* <https://www.pinterest.com/cynthiawrig...>

Andrea says

I liked the historical aspect of it, but I didn't enjoy the rest of the story that much.

Morgan says

The massive amount of backstory in the prologue killed it for me.

Dennis Hinton says

A Wonderful Surprise

This book is the exception to my preconceived notions. I usually stay far, far away from any books with a Western theme. It's simply that my personal preference are Historical Romance.

However, when choosing what to read I always note a book's star rating and more importantly how many people have taken their time to contribute their opinion.

If it has a significantly high rating, then I read the full description and am hooked. Always remain open and you may stumble upon a great plot, incredible twists & turns and unforgettable characters. That's what happened with "A Renegade's Embrace".

So much so that I'll find any other "Western Rebels Books" out there!

Renee says

This book holds a very special place in my heart. I spent many, many summer vacations in the Black Hills of South Dakota, where this story takes place, and it is my favorite place on this earth.

The story of Fox and Maddie drew me in immediately, probably because of the location, but I soon found myself totally engrossed in their individual stories.

Maddie depicted the true strength of the women of her time in traveling across the country to begin a new life. While surprised by the living conditions she remained determined to make a decent home for herself, her father, her grandmother, and her little brother and she never faltered in her efforts to do so. She has resigned herself to never being able to find a suitable husband in this untamed area of the country and carries on in spite of it.

I have to admit that Fox irritated me a bit with his determination to spend his life in self-punishment for his interactions with General Custer just prior to Little Bighorn, but, without this there would not have been a story. As I watched his story unfold I came to understand and admire him. I even fell in love with him, just as Maddie did.

The depiction of life in Deadwood at the time was amazing and having visited there, I could see in my head what the characters saw as they walked through the town and visited the different shops and saloons, even the cemetery, where Wild Bill is buried. Ms. Wright did an amazing job of portraying life during the gold rush period in South Dakota, and blending her characters with the real legends that inhabited the area at that time.

As Maddie takes a huge risk to make Fox realize how much he loves her and deserves to have a life with her, the story takes another unexpected turn and adds a new dimension to her family's life and story. She takes a journey into history that will forever change how she thinks and lives the rest of her life, and she and Fox become even closer to each other.

There are many stories going on throughout this book and all of the characters are strong and interesting to know. I loved the little bits of humor woven throughout the book and I shed a few tears at the trials these characters had to endure. This book is truly special and I will definitely be reading more by this author.
