



The Bride of the Wilderness

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In early 18th-century America, London-born Fanny and the French soldier Philippe (ancestors of McCarrys famous recurring spy Paul Christopher) brave savage Indians and other adventures.

The Bride of the Wilderness Details

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Author : Charles McCarry

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From Reader Review The Bride of the Wilderness for online ebook

Bill Shuey says

This is a long but interesting book if one wants to examine the people, culture, and superstitions of the 17th century in America.

The work probably tells the story the way things were during that time period, very cruel and unforgiving.

Jodie says

Read this one a long time ago, enjoyed the storyline. I have not read any other book in the series, and honestly did not realise it was part of a series. I read it as a stand alone book when I was in high school.

False says

I'm reading the last few published works of Charles McCarry. I truly loved the espionage works involving the Christopher family, and this book is set 200 years earlier when the ancestors of Paul Christopher arrived in the New World. I feel like McCarry must have done a ton of research on tribes of New England and the North. Rich with Native-American culture, and you get sucked in to realize just what it took to stay alive in such an edenic wilderness. I only hope he is still writing, because I am out of things to read by him.

Ysabeau says

One of the best historical novels I've read in years. In scope and tone reminded me of the early westerns of Allan Eckart, but the characterizations are far more nuanced and expansive. There's a romantic element that never feels labored. The women in McCarry's novels can sometimes be a bit problematic--either over idealized as saints or sinners, but Fanny is a heroine for the ages and Rose is a marvelous sociopath. I can not believe I only discovered McCarry recently. His spy novels are aces, too and really transcend the genre.

Chuck says

This was a pretty good story about a small group of 17th century Londoners who are struggling with life on the east side of the pond and hurriedly take the opportunity to sail to American for a new start. The author appears to have written it without the aid of a complete story outline as the storyline wanders significantly. It is also excessively detailed and much too graphic, in my opinion. It was a struggle for me to finish.

Meg says

Sometimes I rate this book as my favorite book ever, and this is from a SF fan who normally despises historical novels! It has everything: adventure, characters with character, a compelling love story, historical setting with no trace of anachronism (especially of social attitudes), technical detail. I read one of his modern spy stories later, but it didn't do it for me.

Emmy says

I couldn't decide if this was a 3 or 4 as it definitely fell somewhere between there, but I was feeling generous, so I went with a 4.

First of all, I should say that the blurb for this book is very misleading.

In early 18th-century America, London-born Fanny and the French soldier Philippe (ancestors of McCarrys famous recurring spy Paul Christopher) brave savage Indians and other adventures.

This description suggests this book is more of a romance about Fanny and Philippe. In reality the two of them don't even become the major characters until the last 100 pages or so. Up until then the book is more in the nature of an epic, in that it follows a large cast of characters whose lives and paths alternately diverge and come together again and again.

The story starts with Fanny's father and best friend, Oliver, as kids, then Fanny's childhood and upbringing and finally leading to Oliver's wedding to Rose. Rose and Oliver are two of the major players throughout the book, and later Ash, his wife, Hawkes, Thoughtful, Two Suns, Used to be Bears and many others. It's a large scale family story, ultimately ending with Fanny and Philippe beginning their life together, and thereby starting the line of Christophers that ends with the hero of McCarry's contemporary thrillers. Unfortunately, this focus on Fanny and Philippe at the end, was to the exclusion of McCarry finishing off many of the other plot lines that he had started. The end result is a book that is historical fiction for the first 80% and historical "romance" for the last 20%.

The writing is very strong though as McCarry successfully conveyed his sense of time and place in both England and colonial America. I could see and feel the squalor of London that could breed the conditions of a plague-ravaged country and see the forests of beech trees that made up the beautiful, untamed and untouched wilderness of 18th century America.

The histories of many of the characters of this book were interesting, fully developed and engaging. I surprisingly liked learning about Henry and Oliver's childhood friendship, Thoughtful's adoption by the Algonquins, Marie-Dominique and Philippe's game of Spy and more. It was not the story that I was expecting, but it was well-written all the same.

Carla Guthrie O'Connell says

This book was so strange. At no point ever did I know where it was going and then it ended very weird. Yet I couldn't stop reading it. Odd, that's all I can say.

Meg says

I loved this book. It has everything: drama, action, romance, and a seemingly authentic historical representation of life in early America without ridiculous politically-correct anachronisms all too common in historical fiction (and non-fiction, actually).

Anya Rostov says

I had mixed feelings about this book. This book starts off really strong with engaging characters (excluding the supposed heroine, Fanny) and then it starts to taper off. Opposition dwindles midway when the characters voyage to America to begin a new life. As soon as they get on the boat, things start going downhill. The ending is anticlimactic and riddled with unresolved threads. The introduction of new characters in full detail at the end of the story is unnecessary and distracting, particularly because they are important for a spell and then no longer make a debut. Some parts of the story just felt weird and out of place. Nothing bothers me more than when a specific event is foreshadowed, and then nothing comes of it. So, it is only due to the first half of this book that I grant it three stars. The rest is hardly worthy of one.

Susie says

This is an engaging historical fiction novel set in England and the new world (both Canada and the US). There is lots of gruesome description of torture, so beware. The audiobook is read by Pam Ward. She did an excellent job with the voices for so many different characters with so many different accents.

Rosina Lippi says

McCarry is best known for his political novels and for a series of espionage novels focusing on the Christopher family.

One day he decided to sit down and write a historical novel about the founding of that family, set in the early eighteenth century in London, Canada, and the wilderness that would one day be Connecticut. The title is silly, but in fact there is an incredible love story ('incredible' just doesn't do it, and I would insert a lot more adjectives here but I'm holding back) at the heart of this novel, but its scope is broad. It is, simply put, one of my all time favorite historical novels.

The story (set in late 17th century English, Connecticut, and Canada) centers around a young woman, Fanny, half French, half English. After her father dies, she accompanies her godfather, Oliver Barebones, when he goes to colonies to claim an inheritance of property in Connecticut.

At this time there was a lot of hostility and violence between French and British forces, each allied with different tribes. Philippe de Saint-Christophe is a French officer closely allied with the Abenacki. Fanny and Philippe cross paths more than once in traumatic circumstances, and when she ends up in Canada the

connection deepens.

There are multiple secondary characters who are so well drawn that each of them deserves a stand-alone novel, most especially Oliver Barebones's wife: young, beautiful, self absorbed in an unusual way.

Noted: McCarry doesn't pull punches and there is some graphic violence.

Angeline Taylor says

Very good older book on 17th Century England, France and the Colonies with Quebec thrown in. In sight into the native Americans in the area and how the English and French used them to fight a war mainly focussing on religion after Henry VIII separated from the Catholic religion. How relationships were made and broken and endured many hardships.

Mitzi says

I had a problem with this book that could have been a deal breaker - the main character, who is too perfect for words. Not once did I find myself caring about her or what happened to her. And her love interest? The same thing - in fact I could see no reason why she should love him at all, and I never once found myself rooting for them to get together.

With that being said, I still enjoyed the book. The story itself was interesting, but what really saved it were the side characters. Rose especially, who is delightfully crazy - if there even is such a thing? All the side characters were interesting in their own way though, so much so that I found myself hurrying through the Fanny parts to get back to Rose and Oliver and Thoughtful and Ash and all the rest.

A good read if you like historical fiction, if you are looking for a good romance, eh, not so much.

Kathy says

Robust detail & character development are strengths of this novel. Hence, the plot evolves well past the first third of the story. Once the plot embraces the story of Fannie & Phillip, the tale is engaging but end too abruptly.

