



A River Divides

Michael J. Roueche

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The sequel to the 2012 Cooke Fiction Award-winning novel, where the action and romance of the Beyond the Wood continue:

It's winter 1864. While Eastern Theater soldiers languish in camp boredom; conspiracy, treachery and mystery envelop Confederate widow Betsy Henderson. Is there something sinister in a visit from the town sheriff? Did she tell him too much? Can she be true to all she's sworn?

In the meantime, William, a runaway slave, still craving his chance to fight for the Union, flees Virginia. Stumbling into the murky waters of Kentucky servitude and near death, he has nothing to offer but a worn body, exhausted spirit and troubled mind. Dare he imagine freedom, soldiering and even love? Or is he broken and fully spent?

In 1864, white and black, soldier and civilian, guilty and innocent are trapped in the tumultuous conflict, and nothing is as it seems.

Welcome to the river that divides them.

Praise for "A River Divides":

Midwest Book Review

A complex narrative about conflicted individuals struggling to be true to themselves and their beliefs, despite the harsh realities surrounding their lives, A River Divides is a sober, thoughtful, and expertly researched Civil War novel. Highly recommended

Chanticleer Book Reviews

"Roueche's beautifully written imagery and ability to immerse readers in place and time will delight and hook readers from the very beginning to the very end."

A River Divides Details

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Author : Michael J. Roueche

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Genre :

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From Reader Review A River Divides for online ebook

Megan McCauley says

I received this book from good reads first reads

Although I didn't read the first book I really enjoyed this one! The author makes you feel what the characters are going through just like you are living the story with them. This was my first read about the civil war, and it was interesting to read about the impact for everybody including the slaves. I will be reading the first one and looking forward to the next!!!

Alyssa says

Actual rating: 3.5 stars.

I received this book from a Goodreads giveaway.

I definitely enjoyed the book. I will say though, that I don't feel the book really had me yearning to know what would happen next until some page in the 300s (which is almost the end).

I like how the story concerned more than just Betsy, Dante/Walthrope, and Hank's situation. I really liked seeing the slaves' points of view. As an African American living in Richmond, VA it was interesting to read. I live really close to Cary street, which was referenced a lot, so that's cool. This was my first Civil war read, and I liked it more than I initially thought I would. My favorite scene in the book is the one between Betsy and Nero when she believed he was ferocious and ended up being really sweet.

Although I enjoyed this novel, I will say that the first half of the book (a little more than half actually) was just so-so for me. (This may be due to me not having read the first book in this series.)

Overall I would recommend this book to others (and probably suggest to them to read book 1, Beyond the Wood, first).

Sarah says

While I really enjoyed this I loved the first book so much it would have been hard to top. I was a bit more on edge (I think, it HAS been a year since my first read of Book 1) with the story line this time and there were some really good twists. I'm trying really hard not to give anything away here... If you haven't read "Beyond the Wood" I highly recommend reading it. I was not disappointed with this second installment and I will be anxiously awaiting the conclusion.

I kind of wish there had been a little more of Hank and/or his family. But I get it- it was a slow period for him and there were some pretty exciting things going on for pretty much every other character. I really loved some of the new characters (Victoria was a favorite) and I really liked the extra story line following William. It was a little heartbreaking how trouble seemed to dog his steps but it made his happy moments all the sweeter.

History Bonus: I loved reading about Nero who, thanks to the author's blog, I happen to know was a real dog. It was also fun to hear reference to the octagon house which I remember reading up on after looking at a children's architectural book with my girls.
