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In 1865, the hope for gold has spurred many to seek their fortunes in California, the place the Chinese call Gum San or "Gold Mountain." Amidst this backdrop, Quiang, a new Chinese immigrant, works the dangerous rails hoping to save enough money to send home to his parents. In town, Leah and Clara, two enterprising women from New York, have plans of their own to grow a restaurant and laundry business. However, both plans go awry when Quiang and Leah meet one fateful day. What starts as a budding attraction soon grows into tumultuous desire despite the cultural and language barriers between them.

Initially resistant, Leah succumbs to passion following a tragic loss that leaves her vulnerable and alone. With hopes for a future that now includes Leah, Quiang embarks on a perilous path as he leaves the railroad behind for a more profitable position as a courier for The Tong, henchmen for the dangerous Triad. Quiang soon finds that navigating the secretive life of a courier brings more danger than he has ever faced on the railroad, dangers that not only threaten to tear him and Leah apart, but may cost them their lives as well.

Publisher's Note: This book contains explicit sexual content and graphic language.

Gold Mountain Details

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Author : Sharon Cullars

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From Reader Review Gold Mountain for online ebook

Risa says

I've been wanting to get this book for a little while now, but I didn't have an ereader until recently. So, I unconsciously had high expectations for this book. I was so excited to start it. I loved everything I read in the summary. I loved the time period. The Wild West/gold rush setting. There being a hot Chinese man as the main lead. The romance genre. So, how did this book live up to my expectations? I'll be placing this one on my favorites shelf.

The book was great in setting up the time period, the hardships and racism of that time, and the town "Gold Mountain". Overall it was a good blend of historical correctness and romance which I absolutely loved. There were some good action scenes in the book as well like when Quiang got involved with the Triad or when he went to get revenge against the people who attacked Leah and Clara's business. I felt that the story flowed very nicely together. The romance took some time to build up and was believable. When Leah and Quiang finally did get together it did not feel like their scenes were interrupting the flow of the story but instead fit right in and complimented it.

Now, I only have one complaint with this book.

When Clara died I was sad. I didn't expect that. At first I thought it was just a way to get her out of the picture so the two main characters could get together and leave town, but then her ghost came back. I seriously was not expecting someone's ghost to hang around and help the main characters. Ok, I was fine when Leah first saw Clara's ghost because she was still sad over her friend's death and it was kinda sweet. I was not fine when some random Chinese guy who was paid to kill Quiang and Leah saw Clara's ghost, became immobilized and was killed as a result. He had never seen Clara before so why could he see her ghost? This book was great in setting up a believable and realistic representation of the time period and the town only to throw all of that away by bringing in the unrealistic element of ghosts. And if you know me, you know I don't really like ghosts interfering like this. I honestly was not expecting a ghost coming in and saving the day when I started this book. Also, Clara's ghost continued to follow Quiang and Leah around.... watching them. I know it was supposed to be nice that Clara is guarding them but I think she needed to move on.

Violetta Vane says

A black American woman and a Chinese man strike up a dangerous romance in the 19th century? Fantastic concept. And not terribly far-fetched, either. I remember, from watching the African-American gene-tracing documentary from Henry Louis Gates, that many African-Americans who believed they had Native American ancestry actually turned out to have East Asian genetic markers after testing. Why? Because the US immigration policies of the time kept Chinese women from immigrating, so any of the 19th century Chinese railroad workers who stayed in the US had to marry out. And they would have been immediately lynched if seen with a white woman. So there must have been quite a few of these relationships that slipped through the cracks of American history.

For the most part, this book lived up to my expectations. The characters were vivid and sympathetic. Their

attraction was intense, visual, physical. The barriers they had to overcome were realistic and monumentally difficult. Both of the characters seemed very much a part of their time and culture, but they had nice hot modern-type sex. They both have to struggle against racism, yes, but their story is also way more than that: there's a ghost element, a triad plot, a rival suitor. It was fast-paced and didn't have any wasted moments.

One unfortunate problem I had with the book was its formatting and treatment of flashbacks. The use of italics for flashbacks was inconsistent and often confusing. The style could have been a bit more colorful at the most intense moments, also. But "Gold Mountain" got way more stuff right than wrong, and if you're looking for a damn good AM/BW historical, this is *definitely* your book.

CaliGirlRae says

4 1/2 - What an excellent novel! I love it when historical romance balances both aspects while keeping true to the setting the story takes place in and Gold Mountain doesn't disappoint. Sometime ago I was researching around the setting and time period depicted in this story. It mentioned the rise of the Chinese immigrant males taking African American wives and I loved that the author centered around this not only as a way of writing about that true aspect but to center on a type of couple that isn't given much spotlight.

Gold Mountain focuses on Quiang, a Chinese railroad worker, and Leah, an African American woman who runs a laundry/store with her best friend Clara. They meet one day when Quiang comes to the shop one day to have his shirt cleaned. Although they each speak a different language, both the hero and heroine take time to communicate with each other and of course the most basic communication, that of the heart, begins to bring them closer together. As they battle the social obstacles of their time and try to navigate just how to live each day, Quiang and Leah grow closer and find out just how much they need each other.

I loved this book! I was a little nervous about reading it because the publisher is known for kinkier fair but Gold Mountain was sensual and sexy without going over the edge to crudeness. Kudos to Ms. Cullars for writing such an engaging tale that had me on the edge of my seat, fascinated by the history and cheering for the hero and heroine all at once. I really love her voice and the way she takes time to build chemistry between the leads. There are some scenes of violence in the story but they definitely complement the story and give the reader an idea of what the leads had to go through and how harsh the conditions were for them. Overall, my only complaint is that I wish the story were longer!

I really hope Ms. Cullars writes more historical romances. We definitely need these types of stories to show more of how minorities lived and fell in love throughout the ages and with Cullars' masterful storytelling, it'll be all the more interesting. In the mean time, I'll happily grab some goodies from her backlist and start reading them as I wait for her next release. This is going on my best of 2010 release reading list.

If you love historical fiction and/or romances, definitely check out Gold Mountain!

Hasien says

This is a romance between a Chinese man and an African American woman in 1865. I appreciated the reluctance Leah had with her feeling for Quiang. The propriety of the situation in having relations with a

Chinese man during that time was felt throughout the first half of the story. I loved the persistance of Quiang to do what he needed to provide for his & her future.

Kimsandara says

[like when Quian kissed her for the first time (hide spoiler)]

Elise-Pinterest+Goodreads=The Perfect Book Boyfriend says

I have not read many Asian/Black romance novels, however, this was the best one that I have read so far. It was a short read but filled with excitement, romance, and heartbreak. All of the best elements for a good book. I would recommend this book to a friend, it was a sweet twist on the usual interracial romance. TTFN- Sandy

Katie(babs) says

Quiang has left his homeland of China to travel to America and the place known as “Gold Mountain” in Sacramento, California. Like many other Chinese emigrants, Quiang works for very little money on the railroad the white men have constructed. Part of Quiang’s wages is sent back to his family so they can have a better life. But Quiang is frustrated by the lack of respect given to him, as well as his fellow countrymen around him who live in the worst possible conditions. Quiang wants a better life for himself. But because of what he is and his lack of speaking English, he is stuck and may have to give up and return home.

Leah and Clara are two colored women who have traveled from New York to Sacramento for better opportunities. Things are less than ideal for them even though they are getting by with their restaurant and laundry business. But because of their race and gender, they must still deal with racism and bigotry. Clara is in love with the Pastor Caldwell, who in turn seems more interested in Leah. Leah isn’t interested in marriage and enjoys being independent. One day a Chinaman comes into her establishment and wants his shirt laundered. Even with the lack of communication between them, Clara is more than happy to clean his shirt and even gives him some spare clothes. Clara is uncomfortable by the way this strange man stares at her, but she ignores it. Quiang finds Clara to be very pretty and can’t wait to see her again.

When Quiang goes back for his shirt, Clara makes him a meal and although they can barely understand one another, they both feel something special between them. Both know they can’t act on it because of their stations in life, and this is proved even more when two rough looking white men destroy Clara’s business. Quiang wants revenge against these men who stole everything from Clara and begins working for a very dangerous and powerful man. Quiang thinks this is his way of escaping his less than appealing life. Once he has enough money, he wants to marry Clara and make a family with her. Clara has fallen for Quiang and would love nothing more to be with him, but first they must overcome so much in order to have a future together.

Sharon Cullars’ Gold Mountain is a well written and deep historical romance where many issues are raised, especially in regards to race. Ms. Cullars doesn’t back away from the social issues that were so very strong during the mid 19th century. She gives a very realistic view of what both Clara and Quiang had to give up, as

well as trying to make their way through life in a very cruel world.

Even with the cultural and language barriers between Clara and Quiang, their attraction for one another is a beautiful thing. The respect and love they have is strong and these two will do whatever they can to be together. Their loves scenes simmer, are very emotional and what the reader is expecting. One love scene does border a bit on purple prose and I couldn't help but laugh when Clara is in awe of Quiang's "tumescence" but did enjoy reading the final outcome. There is also a great deal of tension with an exciting and suspense-filled ending.

I didn't want Gold Mountain to end and wished it was longer. I applaud Ms. Cullars for writing a wonderful and rich cultural romance about crossing barriers and embracing someone who is different.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

This is a sweet, yet sensual historical that features the love story between a Chinese man and a Negro woman in the days of the Gold Rush in California. I was gleeful when my friend told me about it, since I love historical westerns, and I would love to read more with people of color. I was not disappointed.

I love the time and the detail that Ms. Cullars put into writing Chiang's viewpoint, and describing what it was like for Chinese immigrants in this time in history. Like blacks, they were horribly persecuted, treated as less than whites, given dangerous jobs for less pay, and subjected to violations of their basic rights. Despite that fact, Chiang is a man of great honor and dignity. I loved him immensely.

I thought that the courtship between Chiang and Leah was so sweet and captivating. It is nearly a love at first sight type scenario, although both take the time to examine their feelings and determine if they want to pursue a life together. Their chemistry is wonderful and it made me smile and have a warm heart as I read.

If I had any problems with this story, I would like it to be longer, and for there to be more of a physical description of Leah. Otherwise, this was just lovely. Man, I hope to read more stories about blacks and Asians in the west. That is surely my favorite historical setting, and I would like it be clear to all that the West was not just settled by whites. But don't me started on that.

I recommend this book to readers who enjoy a sweet but sexy story historical western with lovable characters, and a multicultural viewpoint that is typically left out of the history and fiction books.

I want to give this five stars, but since the last book I read was so much more profound, I will have to go with **4.5/5.0 stars**, which is nothing to shake a stick at.

Davina Bell says

What a wonderful romance novel!!! I couldn't put it down until it was finished!!! I loved the historical aspects. I want to read more by this author!!! :D

Dancechica says

If you enjoy multicultural romances, you need to pick this up. I really enjoyed this book. Set in California during the late 1800s, it features a black heroine and an Asian hero. How often do you see that pairing in romances?

I think Cullars did a wonderful job of painting the historical landscape--and staying true to it--while at the same time building a believable romance. She didn't flinch away from the hardships the characters of this time had to face, but still created two well-developed characters that I came to care about.

I really liked Quiang and Leah. They were good people who were so good together, but naturally they had many external obstacles to face before they could be together. I was on pins and needles while reading this story, terrified the characters wouldn't get their happy ending. The setting, and the time period, presented a lot of dangers for the characters and I didn't want anything bad to happen to them--I wanted them to overcome all obstacles thrown their way and find happiness. This one was of the few times I was tempted to flip to the end of a book just to make sure everything turned out okay. I needn't have worried. I was very satisfied with the story's conclusion.

I recommend this book to all who loves a good romance, especially if you're tired of the same old, same old, and are willing to take a chance on something different.

This book can be purchased at Loose Id: <http://www.loose-id.com/>

Theodora Taylor says

Description: In 1865 both Leah and Qiang come to California during the Gold Rush, hoping to find their fortunes. Instead they find each other.

The Good: Oh, I just loved this book. Both the hero and the heroine were worth cheering for all the way to the end. The sex was super-sensual and what a lovely, lovely romance. Cullars has an amazing sense of time and place, and really plunges you into her historical setting. The love interests were very well-developed and well-matched. This is by far the best BW/AM romance I have ever read.

The Bad: Considering the quality of the writing, this book hasn't found nearly as many readers as it should have. If you do read it and love it as much as I did, please consider telling a friend or at the very least, leaving a review on Amazon and GoodReads.

The Naughty: Sensual sex.

Editing issues: None

Publisher: Loose ID

Length: Novel

Final Grade: A

Happy Reading,
Theodora from IRBookReviews.com

rameau says

This review can also be found on Book Girl of Mur-y-Castell-blog.

It's been six months but I remember buying this book because I'd seen a semi-positive review on a blog—Dear Author probably—and because a romance of a mixed-race couple in the 1860's Wild West sounded intriguing. Especially since neither character is white.

Unfortunately the story didn't live up to its promise.

I did like the start of the book, although I did think it somewhat boring. The author spends a lot of time setting the scene and describing the life of a Chinese worker building the railroads for a pittance and the life of a black single woman trying to build a new life and a business for herself and her friend. Bias, racism, sexism, it's all there and prevalent in the vernacular.

As if that's not enough to create obstacles to the couple's happiness, there's also their inability to fully understand each other. Quiang speaks but a little English and he and Leah have to communicate through gestures, looks, and touches.

There's all *this*, and what does the author do with it? Nothing. Cullars glosses over all the difficult—and rewarding—steps of a meaningful relationship building and focuses on the paper thin physical attraction instead. There's a brief mention of how Leah and Quiang learn to communicate with the help of a dictionary, but they don't really talk to each other. When they're together they're either taking their clothes off and having sex or putting their clothes on and thinking about having sex. And those sex scenes are bad. There's creaming and there's tumescence, there's orbs and there's the infamous "her sex" euphemism.

After all that, the story and my rating for it could have been saved had I bought Quiang's interactions with the triad members. I can't really pinpoint my problem with them, but something in the language used left me unconvinced. It wasn't just Wao's refusal to call an erection an erection, it was also how the revelation of the misappropriation was handled. Until then, I had liked Quiang's willingness to engage in shady businesses for quick profit and that both characters had such defined lives outside each other, after it just felt anticlimactic.

I didn't want a happily ever after epilogue, I wanted to read how they get there.

So what does the book have? Good historical description with nascent characterisations, but without any real character or relationship development, and a whiff of Wild West adventures. It simply wasn't enough for me.

Fashionista says

This book was surprisingly good. It is my first read by this author. I wish it was longer. I wanted to know more about the H/h's children.

Robin L says

Really nice book. My only complaint is the cover. The heroine was described as being deeply brown. The picture is confusing and at first I was confused as to whether this was an interracial book or not. The other good reads reviews were what cleared it up for me when I was considering this book.

Laverne Brewster says

5.00 stars. This book rated five stars because it was well written with storyline flowed well and that had just the right amount of intrigue and conflict to keep you reading and interested. The author did an excellent job of creating a believable romance between two people who had no common denominator other than their humanity, being the objects of discrimination and a chance meeting. Zu Guiang and Leah didn't share a language, ethnicity, culture nor religion proving the old saying, "love will find a way".
