



## An Uncommon Woman

*Nicole Alexander*

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## An Uncommon Woman Nicole Alexander

Inspired by a real newspaper story from 1933, *An Uncommon Woman* is an epic tale of duty, ambition, prejudice and love, from the pen of bestselling author Nicole Alexander.

A new world is waiting for her . . .

It's 1929, and the world is changing. Cars are no longer the privilege of the rich. Hemlines are rising. Movies are talking. And more and more women are entering the workforce.

For Edwina Baker, however, life on her family's farm in Western Queensland offers little opportunity to be anything other than daughter, sister and, perhaps soon, wife.

But Edwina wants more. She wants to see the world, meet new people, achieve things. For while she has more business sense than her younger brother, it will be Aiden who one day inherits the farm.

Then the circus comes to town. Banned from attending by her father, Hamilton, Edwina defiantly rides to the showground dressed as a boy. There she encounters two men who will both inadvertently alter the course of her life: pastoralist Mason with his modern city friends; and Will, a labourer who also dreams of escape.

And when the night ends in near-disaster, this one act of rebellion strikes at the heart of the Baker family. Yet it also offers Edwina the rare chance to prove herself in a man's world. The question is, how far is she prepared to go, and how much is she prepared to risk?

## An Uncommon Woman Details

Date : Published July 3rd 2017 by PenguinRandom House AU

ISBN :

Author : Nicole Alexander

Format : Paperback 392 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction

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## From Reader Review An Uncommon Woman for online ebook

### Maggie says

Another brilliant tale set in the Australian bush by Nicole Alexander. I loved this book and couldn't stop reading!

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### Robyn Gibson says

I've just bought Nicole Alexander's latest novel. Whoo hoo!

Historical fiction based on a 1933 newspaper article in the Tasmanian press.

Edwina and her brother Aiden live with their domineering father on a property in Western Queensland. At this time husbands had the right to confine their wives in mental asylums, which is what Hamilton did to Edwina and Aiden's mother and is where she died. It was then left to Edwina and Aiden to work relentlessly on the property. Hamilton, their father refuses to let Edwina go to town, telling her she was not yet ready to go into society but really it was because he had rooms where he meets his lover. Edwina was sick of the day-in day-out life she was living, did the unthinkable; dressed as a boy she rode into town to see the circus. It was here that she met other young, modern people, drank alcohol and realising she'd made a big mistake, leaves quickly with Will, who she had just met and who stupidly stole a lion cub. I realise that Nicole Alexander's late father really wanted a lion cub but I felt a bit uncomfortable about it being in this story and was anxious in case it escaped into the Australian bush.

Hamilton has a dreadful 'accident' and while he is in bed, unable to speak or move Edwina took control of the property herself because Aiden was so under his father's thumb was content to go on the way things were going.

This book was worth the wait. Loved it!

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### Brenda says

Edwina Baker and her younger brother Aiden were working the farm together, although it was a rare occurrence. Edwina was sick of hanging around the farmhouse; she needed to be busy and applying her thoughts to their land, as well as acting on them was what she wanted to do. But her father Hamilton was a strict and ruthless man, moreso since his wife and children's mother had passed away. He refused to let Edwina leave the farm unless accompanied – he also refused to listen to her ideas at improving their land. She was intensely frustrated as well as horrified that Aiden appeared to agree with their father.

Therefore when the circus was in town, Edwina defied her father and, dressed as a boy, rode her horse to see the event. But it was while she was in attendance that she met the two men who would feature in her future in a big way. While she needed to hide her visit to town from her father, she feared what would happen should he find out...

As Edwina continued to put her ideas to her father, Hamilton was having troubles of his own. His anger and displeasure at his daughter continued to irritate – but it was what was happening in his background which was building the resentment in his heart. What would happen in the family's future? Would Edwina be able to prove her ability and worth? She could only try...

*An Uncommon Woman* by Aussie author Nicole Alexander is another epic historical fiction novel which I thoroughly enjoyed. Set in 1929 and into the 1930s in the dusty, drought stricken land of Western Queensland, the vivid descriptions of the land, the prickly pear and the rivalries between property owners is all too real. With Aboriginal stockmen, men searching for work that just wasn't available, the harsh living on the land – all combined to make this another winner for this author. I have no hesitation in recommending *An Uncommon Woman* highly.

With thanks to Penguin Random House AU for my ARC to read and review.

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### **Tracey Mcwhinnie says**

Great story of our outback heritage. Takes the reader on an adventure through the eyes of this uncommon woman.

LOVED IT!!!

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### **Grace Mwaura says**

Beautiful story. Loved the presentation of Edwina Baker!

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### **Sue Gerhardt Griffiths says**

4.5 stars

My first read by this author and by no means my last. I have all of Nicole Alexander's backlist titles sitting on my bookshelf but due to winning this book I had no choice but to read *An Uncommon Woman* first, I take great pleasure reading in published order even if they don't run in a series. Even so, I'm very happy to have now read one of Nicole Alexander's books as she is a wonderful storyteller and this was such a fabulous story. I'll be whipping out her first book very very soon.

The title *An Uncommon Woman* matches the protagonist Edwina perfectly for she surely was an uncommon woman back in the 1920s. Sassy and strong who knows her mind and goes for it. Edwina wants more out of life than living on her family's farm with her controlling father, a father who wants her married to man with a firm hand.

I'm crazy about historical fiction, it brings history to life that I would not normally read about anywhere else. This gorgeous tale set in Western Queensland, a part of QLD I'm yet to investigate, had me totally hooked from beginning to end.

A fascinating read. Highly recommended

Thanks to the author and Goodreads giveaways for this review copy.

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### **Sharon says**

Edwina Baker felt restless and wanted more input when it came to working on the farm with her younger brother, Aiden. But since their mother passed away Edwina found any suggestions or thoughts she shared with her father, Hamilton were ignored and her brother always sided with their father.

Knowing all too well how tough her father was when it came to letting Edwina go places on her own she knew there was no chance he would allow her to see the circus that had arrived in town. So as long as he didn't find out she couldn't get into trouble or so she believed. Whilst attending the circus, Edwina crosses paths with two men who could alter her life. How would this impact on her and her family?

Aussie author Nicole Alexander has written a truly enjoyable and remarkable historical fiction novel that is set in 1929. Highly recommended.

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### **Natalie S says**

Nicole Alexander's eighth novel, *An Uncommon Woman* is about a determined and ambitious girl who defies the conventions of her time. Alexander is in good company because the idea of an independent woman living and making her own way in a man's world is not a new one. Authors like Pamela Hart and Natasha Lester have explored this theme with characters living in the city. Tricia Stringer also had an entire trilogy about Australian pastoralists with a couple of female characters that fit this role.

To read the rest of this review please visit: <http://magazine.100percentrock.com/re...>

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### **Greg Barron says**

As always with Nicole's books, *An Uncommon Woman* is a blend of family history, Australian pastoral history and romance. It was deeply absorbing, with enough plot twists to keep the reader guessing all the way to the end.

Edwina is a great central character; smart and anxious to be treated seriously. It's easy to both respect and like her. Out of the supporting cast, Davidson was by far the most interesting, but all were well drawn. I really enjoyed the read, and look forward to the next one.

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### **Chris Jefferson says**

Just loved it. Liked the way the characters developed and their relationship to each other. And as a Queenslander loved that it was set in Queensland. Thank you for the book. I will pass it on at my book club for others to read.

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### **Jo says**

I have read all of Nicole Alexanders books and this one didn't let me down. I always seem to be taken into character with her story telling. Can't wait for the next one Nicole

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### **Megz says**

It's 1929 rural Australia, where Hamilton Baker and the struggle of containing his daughter, Edwina, a circus, and a lion cub, and the struggles that women faced during that time.

This was a lovely story, at times, *too slow* - especially the first part when it focussed on a weed (and I have now been educated on the prickly pear). After that hurdle, the story is driven more by the father's POV as the man you love to hate. How he copes in the changing world while clashing with his daughter while dealing with damaging public pressure and small town gossip.

Edwina, comes across as naive and a bit arrogant, playing the poor-little-rich girl who doesn't know she's rich. She seems a lot younger than a 20-year-old to be put in charge of a huge venture, but you can't help but cheer for her in the end.

It's a slow read. The descriptions of the era are dotted deliciously throughout the story and are well balanced to provide a rich a sense of place and era.

I've never read this author's work before, so about time I get out from under my rock and find more. I enjoyed Nicole Alexander's writing style and the realism created with her clever words, once over the slow start it was an entertaining read in the end.

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### **Joan says**

Probably a true picture of the times. Women weren't expected to have minds of their own. Hamilton was a mean spirited, miserly, controlling parent except in matters relating to himself. Edwina was expected to OBEY her father, eventually make a good marriage and OBEY her husband. Her unusual upbringing and her intellect wasn't at all content to do so. She worked like a man on a failing property , she had ideas for improvement but no one would listen. She was only a woman. She began to kick over the traces and take risks with unlikely consequences. She had a few adventures that angered her father but when he had what appeared to be a stroke she took control. She discovered that they were actually wealthy and shouldn't have had to live in the squalor she was used to. Angered she plotted to change her life and control her own destiny.

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### **Kathy says**

Nicole Alexander is an automatic buy for me and I count down the days when her books are being released

she is such a treasure – and I am happy to say An Uncommon Woman is another great read. For me, not as good as some of her other books, but still 5 stars for sure. Maybe because I cannot say if I actually liked the main characters or not, but the setting in rural Australia 1929 is beautiful and in usual Nicole fashion her descriptive writing can take you to another time and place. A very captivating read set in the era of Australian Pastoralists at a time when a woman is trying to be heard.

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### **Odette says**

This is my fifth Nicole Alexander novel and what a great read!

An Uncommon Woman is set in south western Queensland in 1929. The story revolves around one family, Hamilton Baker and his two young adult children, Edwina and Aiden. Hamilton is a formidable character and refuses to let Edwina leave their property by herself.

I like the style of writing and there seems to be so much packed into this book. I need to take time to savour it and think about what I read. The characters all seem to be bigger than life and I do not necessarily like them all the time. The sense of place and description of the landscape is exquisite.

Thanks to Nicole Alexander for the gift of this book, which I won in a giveaway.

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