



# Carolina Gold

*Dorothy Love*

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**Carolina Gold** Dorothy Love

*The war is over, but her struggle is just beginning.*

Charlotte Fraser returns to her late father's once-flourishing rice plantation on the Waccamaw River, determined to continue growing the special kind of rice known as Carolina Gold. But Fairhaven Plantation is in ruins, the bondsmen are free, and money is scarce.

To make ends meet, Charlotte reluctantly accepts a position as tutor to the young daughters of Nicholas Betancourt, heir to the neighboring Willowood Plantation. Then Nick's quest to prove his ownership of Willowood sends Charlotte on a dangerous journey that reveals an old family mystery—and threatens all that she holds dear.

Inspired by the life of a 19th century woman rice planter, *Carolina Gold* continues Dorothy Love's winning tradition of weaving together mystery, romance, and rich historical detail, bringing to life the story of one young woman's struggle to restore her ruined world.

## Carolina Gold Details

Date : Published December 17th 2013 by Thomas Nelson (first published December 10th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Dorothy Love

Format : Kindle Edition 336 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Christian Fiction, Romance, Historical Romance, Military History, Civil War, Christian, Fiction, American, Southern, Inspirational

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## From Reader Review Carolina Gold for online ebook

**Leea says**

2 stars...

I wish that I could write that I loved Carolina Gold and in some ways the story moved me. But in the end nothing seemed to happen. I was looking for the mystery that was promised in the synopsis but again; there really wasn't much to it at all.

I found the descriptions of the South Carolina rice plantation to be fascinating, taking me into a time and place that is so foreign to me. Carolina Gold takes place after the Civil War when our country is broken and trying to go on with a new kind of life. So much has changed for Charlotte; she's written in such a way that you believe that this one woman is going to somehow single handedly save her families plantation. Although, this idea is beyond far fetched, I enjoyed reading the process. Simple details of farm life, social norms and even the way that the rolls of woman were changing were very interesting. Carolina Gold simply lacked that passion to pull a reader into a story and get lost in it. Not sexual passion, but a feeling of the character having to accomplish this feat.

Having been my first book by, Dorthy Love I didn't have any expectations. I wasn't completely let down but in the end I felt that the storyline really didn't give me the range of emotions I'm normally looking for in a Historical read.

*ARC courtesy of Thomas Nelson – Fiction via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.*

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**Sandi \*~The Pirate Wench~\* says**

Setting: 19th Century South Carolina

Charlotte Fraser has returned to Fairhaven once again, to rebuild what was destroyed by the War. Her family had always produced rice on their Plantation, and she knows she's in for the long haul to get it going again. To do this means trying to find workers, equipment and money for it to happen. So Charlotte agrees to tutor Nicholas Betancourt's two daughters to make this dream come true. When Nicholas strives to prove his ownership of his family's Willowood Plantation, deep rooted secrets about Charlotte's own family are brought to the surface. If everything they learn from the past comes true, she could lose all that she has worked for. I enjoyed how this story unfolded, it is loosely based on the life of a 19th Century female rice farmer in the South Carolina Low country( I thought it was a story to do with gold mining or some such thing by the title.) The historical details were not heavy-handed which kept the novel from being bogged down. I also found the characters fresh, charming, gutsy and not stereotypical but characters who were determined to make something beautiful out of the horrors of the American Civil War. This story has romance, family secrets and an element of mystery that leaves it for the reader to uncover. There were a few times it dragged for me, but then got back on track and kept me into it. Otherwise a very enjoyable read.

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## **Maggie says**

Growing up and attending school in the North, we learned that Reconstruction was a wonderful time period. Slavery was abolished, the country was whole again, and the South was just fine. I know as an adult that the history Northerners and Southerners learn about anything regarding slavery and the Civil War are completely different, and Carolina Gold drives that point home. After giving many of their men to fight for what they believed in, the inhabitants of the South lost that fight. Then the victors came in and did what they could to make sure that the people of the South would never prosper again. We see that struggle as Charlotte tries her hardest to make a profit on a rice harvest, to no avail. Instead, she grows and flourishes in other ways.

I found this book fascinating. I loved learning about the Carolina low country, a place of the country I had really only known about in name. Reading about getting almost anywhere involved an elaborate system of ferries to navigate the waterways boggled my mind. It seems that the ferries were well before their time and probably operated better than our mass transit does today.

Once again, though, the different version of history than I had been taught most of my life was what really captivated me. I don't doubt for a second that as school children, the nasty fact of the destruction left behind by the Yankee army was left out.

I can only imagine at the research that Love undertook to write this book. The manners, the houses, the means of transportation, and even the illnesses seemed true-to-life. I think one could read this novel and know that they're coming away with an accurate representation of that area of the United States at that time in history. I recommend Carolina Gold to anybody who finds American history fascinating.

I received a copy of this book in order to provide a review. All thoughts are my own.

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## **JoJo Sutis says**

### **THE LOOK OF THE BOOK-**

First I have to say the cover is absolutely gorgeous! Rich with deep brown and gold hues and is there something hidden in the clouds just above Fairhaven? See for yourself!

I can totally picture the cover model as Charlotte Fraser and I love when I can do that...(I know, I'm weird).

Also, inside the book there are journal entries/ letters written by Charlotte and they are printed in a very pretty twirly font, contrasting well with the plain font. (I like it!)

Also included is a map of All Saints Parish, an Author's Note (with details into the background of the story), and Discussion Questions.

### **CHARACTERS-**

Main character Charlotte Fraser is one of the strongest female characters in fiction I've met in a long while. To be so young and to have lost so much in the war and to still be able to cling to hope and faith and another chance at making a normal life is inspiring. She desperately wants to restore all that the war has taken from her, but must readjust to the way of life and how different things are now that war is over. It seems like the weight of the world is on her shoulders, but she presses on. She is the epitome of resilience and her bravery is inspiring.

### **STORYLINE-**

This story flows so beautifully. The author does a marvelous job of drawing readers into Charlotte's world. Even though the war is over, the struggles of life in the aftermath are heart wrenching. We get to see

firsthand the daily struggles to pick up the pieces and begin again. Historically rich, with a bit of mystery and romance. Even if historical fiction isn't typically your thing, Carolina Gold is a worthy read!

#### **FAITH FACTOR-**

One thing that really stands out in the story is the power of neighborly love. We are never more like Jesus than when we are reaching out to help those around us, even when our own circumstances are not ideal.

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#### **Kay says**

This story is set after the civil war and located in the south. Charlotte has returned home in hopes of reviving her deceased father's rice plantation. She stumbles upon many hardships with faring weather, unreliable workers and lack of funds. Needing another source of income, she agrees to tutor Nicholas' (her neighbor) daughters.

I appreciated how the author displayed all the adversities of post-civil war. I liked how Charlotte was determined to make her rice patties succeed and I liked that Nicholas was a very caring father to his two young children. I did however feel like the book moved a bit too slow for me. We follow the characters through a lot of everyday details which got rather repetitive. When we journeyed with Charlotte in search of Nicholas, it dragged a bit through many monotonous parts before we get any outcome. When the big secret was revealed, I wasn't very interested by that time. I also regret that I didn't feel any strong sense of connection between Charlotte and Nicholas due to lack luster scenes together. If you enjoy simply written words as well as storytelling, I think you will enjoy this book. Unfortunately, this just didn't work for me.

\* ARC provided by Thomas Nelson Publishing via Netgalley

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#### **Katie says**

Dorothy Love takes us to the reconstruction Era in South Carolina. By no means fast paced, it is a facinating look at the struggle of the South to find a new economy and new way of life after being decimated during the Civil War.

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#### **Patty says**

I received an ARC of Carolina Gold from the author and I really enjoyed this intro to her writing.

I guess I hadn't really read or thought much about the South after the civil war and the devastation that many of the plantation owners suffered. Not only had they lost their way of life but their properties/homes were often destroyed. Not only had Charlotte lost her Father, but she came back to this destruction of her home and with very few resources to plant a rice crop.

She meets a new neighbor Nicholas who has been widowed and has two little girls. To make a little extra money she agrees to tutor the girls for a period of time. I enjoyed Charlotte's interaction with the little girls and seeing her relationship with Nicholas develop over time.

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## **Dawn says**

About the book:

Publisher - Thomas Nelson, published December 2013.

Pages - 336

Formats - ebook, paper.

Author - Dorothy Love

Buy on Amazon.

Summary (from Amazon):

The war is over, but at Fairhaven Plantation, Charlotte's struggle has just begun.

Following her father's death, Charlotte Fraser returns to Fairhaven, her family's rice plantation in the South Carolina Lowcountry. With no one else to rely upon, smart, independent Charlotte is determined to resume cultivating the superior strain of rice called Carolina Gold. But the war has left the plantation in ruins, her father's former bondsmen are free, and workers and equipment are in short supply.

To make ends meet, Charlotte reluctantly agrees to tutor the two young daughters of her widowed neighbor and heir to Willowood Plantation, Nicholas Betancourt. Just as her friendship with Nick deepens, he embarks upon a quest to prove his claim to Willowood and sends Charlotte on a dangerous journey that uncovers a long-held family secret, and threatens everything she holds dear.

Inspired by the life of a 19th-century woman rice farmer, Carolina Gold pays tribute to the hauntingly beautiful Lowcountry and weaves together mystery, romance, and historical detail, bringing to life the story of one young woman's struggle to restore her ruined world.

My Thoughts:

I was really excited to read this book. The Civil War and Reconstruction are some of my favorite time periods to read about. I'd never read anything by Dorothy Love before, so I didn't know what to expect. I found this book to not hold my interest at all. I had a really hard time getting into the book and relating to the main character. While I did admire Charlotte's determination to save her plantation and make a go of planting rice, she came across the pages as really rather stiff.

The education that I received of rice planting was very interesting. I honestly never knew that parts of the South were ideal for rice growing. I knew of the cotton and tobacco, but never the rice. That was very interesting to discover. I also didn't know that this book was inspired by a true story.

The interaction Charlotte had with Nick and his daughters, I did find endearing. I loved how she figured out each of the girls' personalities and tailored her teaching to those personalities.

Overall, while the book itself was pretty boring, parts of it were good enough to capture my attention. For someone who loves history and historical detail, this would be a great book for them.

I received this book for free from Thomas Nelson's Booksneeze program for the purpose of reviewing. I was not required to like the book, only give my honest opinion.

Recommended to fans of historical fiction.

Rating - 3 stars.

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## Reet Champion says

Charlotte Fraser is all alone in the world. Her mother died when Charlotte was just 12 years old and her father has only recently passed, leaving her to shoulder a load. Against the better judgment of others Charlotte is determined to get the family rice plantation up and running in Reconstruction Era South Carolina. The obstacles are many, the solutions few. To bring in the very much needed cash Charlotte takes up writing while agreeing to educate her widower neighbor's two daughters, all the while attempting to run a plantation. It doesn't exactly bring her tears of joy, however, when she learns her neighbor, Nicholas Betancourt, might be the true owner of her property. Charlotte has her job cut out for her and it isn't going to be easy to come to terms with what lays ahead.

First off *Carolina Gold* was a downright decent book. What a novelty! High five, Dorothy Love! The story itself wasn't action-packed, but then if you're not like me that may be all right with you. But speaking for myself, I like a healthy dose of adventure in stories. It was refreshing to see former Confederates in Reconstruction Era South having difficulties coping with the Union soldiers and carpetbaggers. Off the top of my head, the last few novels I read set in this period usually showed Southerners very chummy with Northerners (that's not to say they weren't; I recall some children's stories from the 70s and 80s usually followed characters with an anti-North stances, but more recently characters have been given rather progressive/modern viewpoints). As for the writing it was first-rate. I look forward to seeing other books by this author.

*DISCLAIMER: In accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising" we would like to note that we received an electronic copy of "Carolina Gold" from NetGalley.com provided by the publishers, Thomas Nelson, in exchange for our honest review.*

reetchampionbookreviews.wordpress.com

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## Leah says

Having read Dorothy Love's Hickory Ridge series, I was eager to dive in to another of her books. I am a big fan of the civil war time period, so I was pretty sure I would enjoy this book. I am happy to say that I was right about that.

Carolina Gold tells the story of Charlotte Fraser. The Civil War has ended and having lost her father, Charlotte is determined to return to her father's rice plantation and bring it back to life. Despite Charlotte's wish to bring Fairhaven back to working order, she finds it in ruins and has a hard time finding ways to make ends meet.

In order to generate more income, Charlotte takes a teaching position for her neighbor, Nicholas Betancourt's two young daughters. When Nicholas leaves town, Charlotte finds herself as caretaker for the girls. She has no idea where Nicholas has gone and when he does not answer her correspondence, she sets

off to New Orleans to find him. What she discovers along the way will bring up secrets from the past and threaten her future at Fairhaven.

I admired Charlotte's strength and determination to bring a dying plantation back to life. It must not have been very discouraging after the Civil War and I'm sure I would have run out of motivation shortly after the first obstacle. But Charlotte was determined to override all obstacles and make the plantation thrive. I enjoyed reading about these characters and having them come to life in my mind. I think the author did a great job at capturing the attitudes of some of the southerners after the war. Obviously they were very bitter and you can see some of that in this novel. One complaint I have is that there are a few articles/letters written in cursive font. While I can read cursive, I know a lot of people struggle with it and I do hope that this won't hinder readers. But other than that, this was a beautiful story and one I am glad I was able to read and enjoy.

I received a free copy of this book from the publisher, Thomas Nelson, through BookSneeze, in exchange for my honest review. I received no compensation for this review, nor was I required to write a positive review. All opinions stated are my own.

Leah B.

Must Love Books

<http://mustlovereading.wordpress.com/>

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### **Tammy says**

I really enjoyed reading this book. Love the Carolina's & learning a bit about the history. Dorothy Love introduced everyone & made it easy to follow their roles. I didn't want to put it down. This is the second book I have read by Dorothy Love. I will be sure to read more.

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### **Leona says**

From booksneeze.com:

Book Description

The war is over, but at Fairhaven Plantation, Charlotte's struggle has just begun.

Following her father's death, Charlotte Fraser returns to Fairhaven, her family's rice plantation in the South Carolina Lowcountry. With no one else to rely upon, smart, independent Charlotte is determined to resume cultivating the superior strain of rice called Carolina Gold. But the war has left the plantation in ruins, her father's former bondsmen are free, and workers and equipment are in short supply.

To make ends meet, Charlotte reluctantly agrees to tutor the two young daughters of her widowed neighbor and heir to Willowood Plantation, Nicholas Betancourt. Just as her friendship with Nick deepens, he embarks upon a quest to prove his claim to Willowood and sends Charlotte on a dangerous journey that uncovers a long-held family secret, and threatens everything she holds dear.



Inspired by the life of a 19th-century woman rice farmer, Carolina Gold pays tribute to the hauntingly beautiful Lowcountry and weaves together mystery, romance, and historical detail, bringing to life the story of one young woman's struggle to restore her ruined world.

Leona's Review:

Carolina Gold by Dorothy Love takes us back to the time era after the Civil War of the United States. The book begins in Charleston, South Carolina, 3 March 1868.

Charlotte Fraser has lost her father and is about to meet with his lawyer. She is 23 years of age and alone as both of her parents are gone, her mother when Charlotte was 12 years old. Their plantation grew rice before the war and Charlotte is trying to grow the crop again.

Carolina Gold concentrates on a young woman trying to survive without help, a home that has been partially destroyed and money that is very tight for Charlotte as well as her neighbors who also lost so much during this trying time. It does not spend a lot of time on the war period but after the war and the problems they have. There are also some good times that are refreshing, the beach for example.

Charlotte tutors the children of Nicholas Betancourt, who has lost his wife; the children and Charlotte become very close. I really liked the character of Daniel and was so glad he was added to the book. In fact, all the characters played an important role. Every woman needs a good friend such as Augusta.

Charlotte's father told her "you must have patience and faith." (page 150)

"Circumstances has given me little choice" says Charlotte. (page 266)

Real life situations such as "swatting flies", "humidity and wiping the face with a handkerchief" and "bleeding patients". Some politics and just enough to add to the time period. Books and education were some of the main topics and played an important role.

Many occasions in the book which add to the story and always seem to advance the projects such as reading, drawing, sickness, crops ruined and searching for what and why her father was telling her before he died.

I liked this book and give it a 5 star. There was a lot of history and I personally thought feelings for the characters. The clothes of the period, carriages, needlework, church, sickness, New Orleans, the South, books, the beach and when and how to do the crops. No bad language and a love story that is of the time era such as courtships.

I would have liked to see a recipe for Augusta's tea cakes, they sounded good.

The front of the book has a map (always appreciated) and the back has a Reading Group Guide. (page 323)

Question # 3: How did the war change the roles of Southern women? How were these changes shown in the book?

The book is "Dedicated to the memory of Elizabeth Waties Allston Pringle (1845-1921), whose remarkable life and work inspired this novel" There is also a picture of her on the dedication page.

Author's Note on page 320.

Acknowledgements on page 325.

About the Author on page 328.

I received a complimentary copy of Carolina Gold from booksneeze.com to read and review. The opinions are my own.

Dorothy Love may be reached at: [www.dorothylovebooks.com](http://www.dorothylovebooks.com)

Leona Olson

[www.mnleona.blogspot.com](http://www.mnleona.blogspot.com)

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## **Paula-O says**

Dorothy Love writes "Carolina Gold"

This is the story of a young woman who returns to the old plantation after the war to refurbish and try to make a living raising Rice.

she has many problems from the house needing lot of work to the fields that she needs help with to grow crops.

Many of the black people that used to be slaves that she thought would be loyal and help didn't want to work for wages. with a small crew she worked alongside them to make a rice crop. Many times failing and starting again.

The beautiful lowcountry is just that, with the river nearby where she could use a boat to go upriver to her summer home at Pawley's Island, which was also in bad shape but livable and she so enjoyed the summers there when she was a kid playing on nearby beach. Many memories came back as she sat on the little beach... Not long after coming back to the plantation she meets Nicholas Baetencourt who has two little girls that needs someone to tutor them since their mama had died, he ask Charlotte to take on the work. she is reluctant at first but when she has such hard times with the rice crops and needs money she takes the job part-time. A young boy named Daniel showed up one day hoping he could sit in on the girls lessons and learn too. He was refused at first but when she found out he was homeless , he too ended up learning with the girls and helping out around the plantation for Charlotte in exchange of food and place to sleep.

I enjoyed reading the story of how all these people came together and became "almost family". You will learn many things about the south as you read this story and I was thrilled to learn that a young woman by the name of Elizabeth Waites Allston Pringle actually did work in the rice fields of her family home after the war and was the inspiration for this story Dorothy has told. I love to read about strong women who try to make a difference in the world.

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## **Katherine says**

So I literally just received this book in the mail from Harper Collins, with no warning or indication as to why. So that's weird...but I'm not complaining! Adding it to the stack - thanks, mysterious book-giver!!

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## **Bethany says**

Carolina Gold is an exciting new novel from author Dorothy Love which excellently portrays the true story of a woman battling to save her family's rice plantation right after the war in the 1800s. Full of historical accuracy, courage, bravery and hard work, this novel is sure to delight and inspire any historical fiction reader.

Before reading Carolina Gold, I'd never read any other book by this author, and though I'd heard good reviews of her novels, I didn't know from experience if I'd love this author. However after reading Carolina Gold I've proclaimed Dorothy Love to be a favorite author, and have put her newest release on my favorite reads of 2013 list! I thoroughly enjoyed every page of this novel and would love to see similar works or

historical fiction from this author in the future!

One of the things that really made me love this book was how it was based on the true story of Elizabeth Waties Allston Pringle who lived from 1845-1921. I always love learning about remarkable women of the past who went above and beyond what was expected of them and made history-and this lady certainly fits this bill as she definitely was a woman who was a hard worker who wasn't afraid to get dirty and do what needed to be done. I love a good fictional story, as well as an interesting true story on a woman from the past, so to have the two combined with the addition of a beautiful writing style; it made for a very enjoyable read. I loved all the historical details that were in this story. I felt like while I was reading a fictionalized story, I was learning, and it inspired me to want to learn more about this woman. The historical details found in the book made it obvious that Dorothy Love took her research for this book seriously, and I really think it added so much to the story. Anyone who loves reading books that are very informative about history should read this book!

Another big plus for me in this story was how low the level of romance was. However even though there wasn't a bunch of romance, there was enough to keep it interesting and was very clean, but it wasn't the main focus of the novel. I always admire an author who is able to - and sees the value in writing an interesting story that is always keeping you engaged in the story, without needing a lot of romance to bring you to that point. I think the romance involved was the perfect amount and made it a sweet story.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and would highly recommend it to anyone who loves history and a good read. I eagerly look forward to reading more books by this author in the future!

N O T E :: I received a free copy of this book through Litfuse Publicity and the publisher to read and honestly review. I was not paid in any way to review this book, and all thoughts expressed in my review are completely honest and unbiased.

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