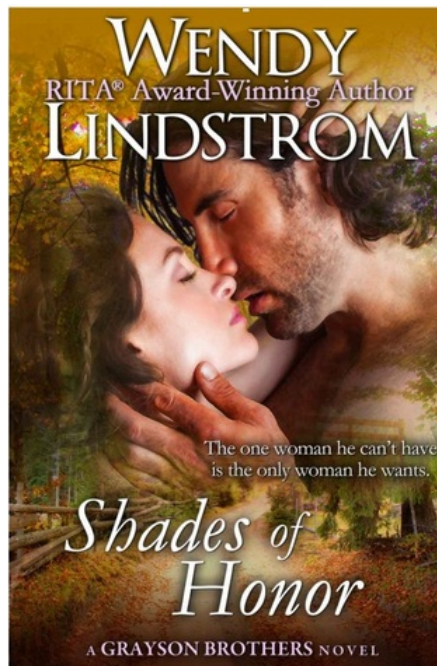




Shades of Honor

Wendy Lindstrom

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Shades of Honor

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Shades of Honor Wendy Lindstrom

TWICE LOVED is the SWEET edition of Shades of Honor:

She Planned To Marry Her Best Friend—Then His Brother Returned Home And Complicated Everything.

Marrying her lifelong friend and neighbor, Kyle Grayson, will allow Evelyn to care for her ailing father. But when Kyle's older brother, Radford, returns home with his young daughter, it turns Evelyn's life upside down. The wounded man and withdrawn little girl awaken Evelyn's heart and she can no longer deny her need for love. Will she be forced to choose between her desperate need for security and the love she has always dreamed of?

Shades of Honor Details

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Author : Wendy Lindstrom

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From Reader Review Shades of Honor for online ebook

Carmen says

#retorita

No me esperaba engancharme tanto a esta novela para leérmela prácticamente de un tirón. Me ha gustado la historia, sencilla en su planteamiento pero compleja por las connotaciones que conlleva. Las consecuencias de una guerra (en este caso la guerra confederada americana que enfrentó al norte y al sur), la lealtad a la familia y a lo que significa un legado, y el amor prohibido e inesperado, completan esta historia de amor y dolor.

Me ha gustado mucho cómo está llevada, cómo está escrita y cómo está terminada, así como el trabajo con los personajes y sus miedos. No he encontrado descripciones exageradas pero sí contenido suficiente para situarte en el oeste a finales del siglo XIX.

Es una pena que esta serie no esté traducida porque no me importaría saber más de estos hermanos Grayson.

<https://millibrosenmibiblioteca.blogs...>

Nuria Llop says

(17ª del Reto Rita)

Una muy buena novela de las que quedan en el recuerdo y con la que he soltado alguna lagrima (algo que me cuesta cada vez más cuando leo). No por la historia de amor ni por ciertas descripciones dramáticas (crudas y reales) en relación a momentos bélicos, sino porque toca de lleno el tema de la lealtad, uno de los que a mí siempre me conmueve. Objetivamente, creo que es una novela de 5 estrellas y merecedora de un RITA (Mejor 1ª novela en 2003), si le resto 1 es porque tiene algún que otro momento repetitivo, varios en los que me ha hecho sufrir innecesariamente y porque, a pesar de que tiene un final feliz (regla nº 1 del género) no me ha dejado con la sonrisa en los labios ni el suspiro de satisfacción que me gusta soltar cuando termino una novela romántica. Ya me pasó la primera vez que la leí: disfruté mucho (como ahora) y me enganchó de principio a fin, pero le falta algo, ese toque especial que hace de una buena historia, una magistral. Está muy bien construida, los protagonistas son creíbles y están bien desarrollados, cuenta con unos secundarios estupendos (desde niños hasta ancianos y posibles futuros protas de novelas), el conflicto es potente y de difícil solución (teniendo en cuenta la época en la que se ambienta y las personalidades de los protagonistas), hay tensión en la trama, tensión sexual y algo de sexo. Es decir, tiene todos los ingredientes necesarios y diría que es una novela perfecta. Extrañamente perfecta, ya que es la primera publicada de la autora (deduzco que hubo un buen trabajo de editing, que en los agradecimientos queda patente). Quizá esa impecable perfección le ha robado la "magia" que podría haber tenido. Aún así, leería más de esta autora si hubieran seguido traduciendo las entregas de la saga. Esta es muy recomendable para cualquier lectora de romántica. También, y debido a esa perfección, la recomendaría a las aspirantes a escritora, como "modelo básico" de novela romántica.

Lisa Kay says

saw mill

★★★½? (This is a review of the audiobook.) First, let me tell you that I'm really NOT a fan of the "loving

two brothers” theme. Keep that in mind as you read this review.

While I liked Julia Motyka’s lovely voice narrating this story, her cadence was just too slow for my ear. Speeding it up helped a lot. (Thank goodness for technology.) I also felt some of her delivery was a little too “cheesy” or melodramatic, as Dhes points out in her review. Of course, the book itself is a bit melodramatic, so that would make perfect sense. Some could consider that it goes with the setting, which is post Civil War, a poignant time in our history, where brother fought against brother. Literally.

I could understand Evelyn Tucker, our heroine, being drawn to Radford Grayson over his brother Kyle Grayson; he’s a hunk and Kyle is a bit of a presumptuous jerk over more than just the brothers’ saw mill, but with regards to what Evelyn should do (view spoiler). Nevertheless, two or three times of, “We can’t, we shouldn’t!” - and then going at “it” the next opportunity anyway - was more than enough time for her to just be upfront and honest with Kyle. And Radford, for that matter.

This is the first time I’ve read (or listened) to anything by this talented author, and I will most likely go on with the series. There are some very nice scenes, especially with Radford’s traumatized little girl, Rebecca; however, the conflict between this trio was just not my cuppa tea.

I received this audiobook from the author in exchange for an honest review. My sincerest thanks to Wendy Lindstrom for her generosity.

FYI, this novel is currently free on Amazon/Kindle.

Carolyn F. says

Previous notation regarding Kindle book I'm taking a break. I'm only about 28% in and I'm so bored reading this book that I'm going to start something else and come back to it.

Starting the book via audiobook. Maybe that will make the difference.

It did make a difference. I enjoyed this audiobook a whole lot more than when I attempted to read the Kindle book. The narration by Julia Motyka was excellent. The romance was good, I only wish the hero would have gotten his poop together sooner. Too much to put a 4 year old through.

Julz says

Average story. Book was free with the audiobook only \$2, so a cheap date that wasn't altogether boring.

Dude comes back from the war all emo and falls for his brother's fiancé. Lots of "Oh, we just can't!" and then do.

This was classified as a Christian book on Amazon which sent a bunch of ladies into conniptions. The characters are blessed a lot and it doesn't treat faith like a scourge but, no, I wouldn't consider it a religious book, especially as he has a illegitimate daughter from some ho' and the H&h get it on long before they're married. Not that there's anything wrong with that. Just saying as far as the expectations of a religious based story...

Nancy Stopper says

Twice Loved is a wonderfully-written, emotionally-gripping story of a woman torn between the man she is committed to marrying, and the man she loves. Wendy Lindstrom creates a compelling picture of historical Fredonia, NY and the Grayson family, and draws the reader into the lives of her characters. A fantastic first "sweet novel" in the Grayson series, it invites us into the lives of Evelyn, Radford, and Kyle but also teases us with glimpses of Duke and Boyd Grayson and entices the reader to want to read their stories as well.

Radford is a troubled soul, haunted by his experiences in the Civil War and suffering from the nightmares and flashbacks resulting from those experiences. The author's realistic depiction of his nightmares and the scenes from the war draws the reader into the pain that Radford experiences. He finally returns home 5 years after the war, with his 4-year-old daughter in tow. The author draws us into the strife between Kyle and Radford created by Radford's return and creates an environment where the reader can actually feel empathy for both of these men who are fighting for what they believe most important to them. Kyle is also engaged to Evelyn, Kyle and Radford's childhood friend and the daughter of Radford's confident and leader during the Civil War. The love triangle that ensues between Kyle, Radford, and Evelyn is heart-wrenching and beautiful at the same time. They each experience their own anguish and hurt as the story unfolds and the reader is drawn into the emotions that each of them feels.

The author should issue a pack of tissues with each book purchased! The sign of a book that completely draws you in is one in which you find yourself crying and laughing along with the characters in the book - and Twice Loved did that in spades! The love and the heartache both create an emotionally-charged situation leading to the climax of the love-triangle. As Radford continues to struggle with his inner-demons, Evelyn struggles with her feelings for Radford, her desire to continue running her family livery, and the failing health of her father. It's a shame that Evelyn and Radford's happily ever after had to come at Kyle's expense. While I found myself rooting for Radford and Evelyn's happily ever after, my empathy for Kyle wants him to find his as well.

I thought it was masterful how the author created Evelyn's father's love story with her mother to parallel Evelyn's struggles with her feelings for Kyle and Radford. It enables Evelyn to draw on the strength of her parents love as a means of following her own heart. Her father is a delightfully engaging character and a wonderful means to help draw Radford and Rebecca back into life in Fredonia. The author's use of secondary characters to create a picture of Fredonia really makes the reader want to step back into post-war Fredonia with the Grayson's.

Twice Loved is the "sweet" version of Shades of Honor. I had read Shades of Honor a couple of years ago. Prior to reading this book, I was curious to see how the author would be able to ensure a smooth story line while removing the sensual aspects of the story. I was pleasantly surprised; the story flowed so seamlessly that I couldn't tell where the sensual scenes had been removed. And I didn't miss them! I enjoyed the story with the sensual scenes in Shades of Honor but this story was equally enjoyable, compelling, and emotionally-charged even without those scenes. I would recommend this book to anyone who wants an "intimacy-free" historical romance. For those looking for a more sensual story, Shades of Honor will deliver!

Donna says

Somehow this book was recommended as a clean romance... Wrong! The writer is talented and crafted a

great tale of haunted pasts, friends, and family. You can't help but be drawn into this man and his frightened daughter. And what woman wouldn't connect with a tomboy finally being made to feel attractive. So why only 2 stars? Because it is not clean. If this is what is now referred to as "young adult", then I want no part of it. Just because she doesn't describe in detail the actual final union, but everything else, does not make it clean. Body parts, emotions, actions, it's all there. I find it almost hypocritical to write porn and preach the law of forgiveness in the same breath. You had a winner, and then you got graphic and it was unnecessary. Learn the art of "fade to black". I will not be reading this author again. I dislike having to skip paragraphs just to find the story and protect myself. Reading is to be relaxing, not put me on guard.

Ali says

Primera historia de Historica en la que me adentro siguiendo el consejo de Pikolina y A.S y la verdad es que no ha estado mal!! Aunque solo al principio he sido consciente de la epoca en la que se desarrollaba, es una historia que podría corresponder a cualquier tiempo. Tierna y bonita con personajes de los que no puedes evitar enamorarte, como me ha ocurrido con Rebeca o con Redgfor.

Julie Ramsey says

Shades of Honor

Going back to where you came from is sometimes the hardest thing to do. Radford Grayson does just that in this story of returning to your roots and facing your past. He brings with him his four year old motherless, fearful daughter Rebecca. Radford comes home to Fredonia, New York in 1870 after years of staying away- 1st during the war and then trying to fight his post war memories. He comes back home to his three brothers Kyle, Boyd and Duke to help run the family sawmill. Kyle harbours strong feelings against Radford walking back in to the family business and instead convinces Radford to help run the town livery owned by Evelyn Tucker(Kyles fiancée) and her ailing father. From there it's an emotional story about Radford fighting for inner peace, embracing love, forgiveness and accepting his past while moving forth with his life. Throughout the story Radford attempts to remain loyal to his family and protect and shelter his emotionally scarred daughter. The story showcases the emotional battle that all the main characters must overcome while bringing a divided family back together.

Review- I enjoyed the well written story. I appreciate that the author focused on many characters in the book and their many states of emotion and turmoil. It was an easy read for an adult based audience with very mild intimate personal scenes. The book ended well and although the ending was predictable, enjoyable none the less.

see this review and more on juliesbookreview.blogspot.com

Floripiquita says

12 libro del #RetoRita. Preciosa novela sobre los estragos psicológicos que causa la guerra, la lealtad y el poder redentor del amor, no sólo pasional sino también paternal y fraternal.

Para ser una primera novela está muy bien escrita y cuenta con maravillosos personajes, desde la pareja protagonista Radford y Evelyn hasta el padre de ella, William, personaje al que desde ya adoro con todo mi corazón. Le doy un 4,5.

Una pena que el resto de libros sobre los hermanos Grayson no estén traducidos, el de Boyd seguro que no tiene desperdicio. L

Jonetta says

The set up

When Radford Grayson returned home to New York at the end of the Civil War, he was a troubled man. As the oldest of the four brothers, it was expected that he would help his father with the family sawmill business but he left soon after. Now he's returned home after five years with his four-year old daughter, Rebecca, but his younger brother, Kyle, doesn't receive him with open arms. He's had to manage the business following their father's death and resents Radford showing up now that the business is healthy again.

The issues

Kyle is now engaged to Evelyn Tucker, his childhood best friend who is running her infirmed father's livery business. Radford is sent to help Evelyn and they soon find themselves trying to resist their growing attraction to each other. It doesn't help that Kyle isn't very attentive to her and doesn't hide his resentment of Radford.

The heart of the story

This was a really touching story as Radford epitomizes the tortured hero, having experienced unspeakable war action that he relives through nightmares. Evelyn is a special woman who helps him overcome his misery and provides tender care to his daughter. She's desperate to make her relationship with Kyle work but cannot ignore her strong feelings for Radford. Neither wants to hurt Kyle (who was a bit of a jerk) but it was inevitable. They are both honorable people trapped in an impossible situation that Kyle had a hand in creating and perpetuating. I liked how the story developed and was emotionally connected to both Radford and Evelyn. I actually missed them when the story ended.

The narrator did a good job in distinguishing characters and she managed the male characters skillfully. Her voice had a pleasant tone that worked for the story, even though the pacing was sometimes off.

The bottom line

I was really drawn into the story and couldn't stop listening. It was also a wonderful change to be in an historical era set in America instead of Regency or Victorian England. Those societal restrictions can get tiresome after awhile. This was my first historical romance that I listened to and I was pleased with the experience. I'm also looking forward to continuing this series and hearing the stories of all the Grayson men, especially as Kyle's is next. I not only recommend the story but this format. 4.5 stars

(I received an ARC from the author)

Peg says

Shades of Honor is a touching and magnificently crafted historical romance.

Radford, the eldest Grayson son, volunteered to take his father's place and fight in the Civil War. Radford realized, though, after the first battle, that he was not cut out to be a soldier, and by the time he returned home, he was plagued with nightmares. Although he was declared a hero for his bravery, he only felt shame and regret for his actions.

Kyle Grayson, the second eldest son, begrudgingly took over the family's sawmill business when their father died. Kyle never wanted to work the mill, like Radford did; he wanted to be a lawyer. But Kyle put aside his dream, managed the family's business and started building a home for his fiancée Evelyn, the Grayson's neighbor and his best friend.

Evelyn fell passionately in love, but not with her fiancée Kyle Grayson but with another man. She blames herself for her father's death. She had disappointed him terribly and set a wedge between the men whom her father loved like sons, the Grayson brothers.

Wendy Lindstrom pens a poignant and heartfelt story, which pulls at the reader's heartstrings and puts them on a roller coaster ride of raw emotions-devastating betrayal, heartache, illicit love, and self-loathing. The author does give her readers the happy ending they're anticipating, but not before she has them witness and live through their beloved character's gruesome fights and devastating betrayals.

This story grabbed my attention, stole my heart and kept it in captivity until the very last page. This writer is a keeper and one of my favorites for sure. I highly recommend reading Shades of Honor.

Liloshadow (ReNee) says

A Beautiful Tear Jerker...and a GREAT start to an Exciting Series.

I hope you have a box of kleenex's ready, because you will need it with this story.

I don't want to say too much about the story because I could easily give away spoilers with out meaning too. I will just say I loved all the characters especially the H/h. You feel their emotions and pain deeply. This is the first story I have read by this author and she does a really good job with character development. The story was well paced, and I couldn't put it down...I read it, in one sitting.

I want to note that I saw one reviewer say it was too graphic. Nothing against the reviewer but Im REALLY drawing a blank on how they could think that. There are only two love scenes and they are NOT descriptive at all. They are no uses of expletives in references to making love or ones body parts or in any way for that matter. A** may have been used once but never in connection with a female. {it was war talk between men} Nor do I remember any other crude remarks. You want to be able to feel some chemistry and passion that the H/h have for each other. This author does that beautifully. With that said I know its just the reviewers opinion; but I wanted to put this out there to anyone that might be on the fence about reading it. If you prefer NO love scenes this book isn't for you.

Don't miss out out in this beautifully woven story that will bring tears to your eyes. I can't wait to read the next one in the series!

Happy Reading!!

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

Fredonia, New York, August 1870

He always knew he'd come back. Everything he'd ever wanted was here.

Shades of Honor is the first book in the *Grayson Brothers* series. It's a post Civil War romance, this first book being the eldest brother's story. Radford is tired of running from the nightmares of death, pain, and destruction, and returns home to work with his brothers at the family's lumber mill. But he arrives to find that running kept him away too long and he may no longer be welcomed home.

Cover:

Former Union soldier Radford Grayson returns to his small hometown, looking for a stable and comforting place to raise his young, motherless daughter. Despite his troubled past, his hopes are to reconcile with his family and put his dark secrets behind him. But he doesn't count on falling in love with Evelyn--his brother's fiancée...

When Evelyn Tucker accepted her childhood friend Kyle Grayson's marriage proposal, she thought it was the best way to make her ailing father happy. But after Radford arrives home, the fiery and independent Evelyn realizes that the comfort and friendship Kyle gives her will never hold a candle to the instant, undeniable passion she feels for Radford. Now their forbidden desire threatens to shatter family ties and destroy newfound dreams--unless their love has the power to overcome all obstacles...

My Review:

I've seen these books popping up here and there in friends reviews and had been planning to read them one day. When the author contacted me and asked if I'd review her audio book, I was more than a little excited! I'm going to break my review down by the actual story, and then the audio book.

The Story:

The Grayson world in *Freedonia* is lovely. Such a peaceful post war time when things and families are returning to normal again. The characters Ms. Lindstrom has given us are honorable, hard working, passionate people. They've known great loss but they have hopes and dreams and refuse to give up. They keep going, heads held high, always striving to do the right thing.

Pre-, Post-, and current Civil War is one of my favorite time periods to read about in my historical romance novels. There's something about the era – the plantations, the gentility of the South... it's such a romantic setting. However, *Shades of Honor* is not set in the South, there's nothing to speak of money, no balls or Scarlet O'Hara dramas - overmuch, but I did enjoy it. It's a very sweet, slow paced, day-in-the-life kind of story about finding that yes, you can go home again, but it might not be on your own terms.

The Audio:

The *Grayson Brothers* series is being narrated by Julia Motyka, and I'll say this right up front: She has a

beautiful voice! It's clear, passionate, and captures perfectly the deeply emotional side to the story. The only problem I have with Ms. Motyka's narration is that sometimes I felt there was too much of a dramatic voice given to certain scenes. There were poignant moments brilliantly read where Ms. Motyka had me fighting back the tears, but for the most part I think she could have taken it down a notch without taking away from the overall emotional depth of the story.

The Bottom Line:

Though not without some flaws, *Shades of Honor* is an uplifting, entertaining read. If you enjoy charming, romantic, passionate stories with emotionally scarred heroes looking to find 'home' again, this might be right up your alley.

I'm rating the written work 3.75 stars and the audio book 3.5 stars.

My sincerest thanks to Wendy Lindstrom for providing me with a copy of this audio book in exchange for an honest review.

For another opinion on this audio book, check out Lisa Kay's Review

Shades of Honor is currently free for Kindle: www.amazon.com/Shades-Honor-Grayson-B...

Yolanda says

#16 RetoRita

Preciosa historia. Una novela romántica de las de toda la vida. Una historia de amor, lealtad, drama, familia. Complicada historia de amor entre los protagonistas. Está muy bien escrita y la trama muy bien desarrollada, no le pongo ningún pero. Es de esas historias que te enganchan desde el primer momento y que no se hace pesada ni repetitiva.