



Beyond Molasses Creek

Nicole A. Seitz

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Three lives are bound by a single book . . . and the cleansing waters of Molasses Creek.

Having traveled to the ends of the earth as a flight attendant, Ally Green has finally returned to the Lowcountry to bury her father as well as the past. But Vesey Washington is still living across the creek, and theirs is a complicated relationship--he was once her best friend . . . and also part of the reason she's stayed away so long. When Ally discovers a message her father left behind asking her to quit running, it seems her past isn't through with her yet.

As Ally's wandering spirit wrestles with a deep longing to flee again, a young woman on the other side of the world escapes her life of slavery in the rock quarries of Nepal. A mysterious sketchbook leads Sunila Kunari to believe there's more to her story than she's ever been told, and she's determined to follow the truth wherever it leads her.

A deep current intertwines the lives of these three souls, and a destiny of freedom, faith, and friendship awaits them all on the banks of Molasses Creek.

Beyond Molasses Creek Details

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Author : Nicole A. Seitz

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From Reader Review Beyond Molasses Creek for online ebook

Heidi says

I rarely read a book chosen at random from a library shelf - I usually rely on reviews or friends' recommendations. So what a delightful surprise to select this one and find it so beautiful! Real characters, deep emotion, excellent writing, knitting together of two women's stories from two opposite sides of the globe. I've already checked out another book by this author, so that I can keep enjoying her richly poetic writing style and her compelling characters.

Debbie says

Wonderful characters in this book! You will experience a wide range of emotions while reading it! Highly recommend it!

wanderer says

Molasses Creek sounds like a nice place to grow up, though segregation burbles just below the surface and Ally must maintain appearances before friendships. I understood the main character's restlessness and maybe learned a lesson while following her across the creek, through the "friendly skies", and finally, back home.

The glimpses of Sunila's life in a rock quarry, cowering under an unfair caste system, showed me a different sort of existence. A tough one.

Ally to Sunila, Nepal to South Carolina. Yeah, big jump. Too big, at first, because the two parts seem completely unconnected, but eventually they merge and drift downstream. When I realized the last lines of the South Carolina sections correspond with the first lines of each Nepal section, it seemed the author had left a current of secrets, just for me.

The first chapters inch along like childhood summer days along Molasses Creek. A book where nothing much happens can still be a favorite, as long as the prose is beautiful and the characters intrigue me. No problem with the prose- it seemed the author chose each word like a small girl chooses sundae toppings- but only two secondary characters, Dad and Mr. Assai, won my heart. The main characters are so real-to-life they could live next door, but in a humdrum and rather irritating way.

I almost stopped reading at the halfway mark, but I read a bit further, saw where it was heading, and then it was too late to discard it. I couldn't. The fact that I strongly suspected the outcome only made me want to read further, to make sure nothing hindered it.

It's strange to read a book where the first half is so inscrutable and the last half so wide open, and it seemed like a fun book to write, adding touches at the beginning that would mean something later on, touches that wouldn't interrupt the book's flow or give anything away too soon.

This book is labeled Christian fiction and it's a clean read, but there's not a speck of preachiness and it lacks that perkily-packaged Christian fiction ending. I recommend this book to lovers of beautiful prose.

Nicole Seitz has more books and I'd like to sample another.

(First posted on my blog)

Dianne Miley says

LOVE THIS STORY! Characters in the Lowcountry of South Carolina vividly captured me and took me away.

Cynthia says

Beautifully crafted story and I loved the ending.

LIBBY ROLLER says

This book was such a pleasant surprise. It is a redeeming love story with depth and tolerance of a Southern family torn by loss, but vindicated by homecoming. It opened knowledge of the life of a Negro boy and a rich little white girl, who lived rivers apart.

TRUDY says

Love

I had a hard time getting started. It is a book of pieces in various voices and past and present. The story line was good.

Book Him Danno says

I enjoyed this book and found the characters to be interesting and multi-faceted. I cried and I laughed and I will give a full review in the next few weeks on my blog. Lots of emotion in this short book.

Boy oh boy this is a book full of emotions, good ones and bad ones. I found myself laughing and then crying. I loved the notes from heaven, which made me tear up just a tiny bit. In my opinion; relationships are what life is all about and this book is full of them. Why do we fall in love with some people and not with others? What happens when our lives fall apart and no one can fix it? This book will make you mad and make you think.

I enjoyed learning about Ally and her life, her back-story is needed to know where her life is going. Sunila is an amazing character whom I cannot even imagine how hard her life has been. You will fall in love with her and with the life she hopes to have in the future. Also Vesey is someone I would love to get to know. I found

the book bitter-sweet, so much wasted time makes most of our lives that way.

If you enjoy books that make you think about those you love and where your life has been and where it's going than this is the book for you. Beyond Molasses Creek is a journey worth taking.

Casey says

From the first hundred or so pages of the novel, I wasn't exactly sure where the plot was going. But the writing and characters were intriguing and I wanted to see what would bring them together in a unique telling. After those first a hundred or so pages, the story that came upon me, kept me turning the pages to the climax.

The novel is a masterful writing creation. It's a bit slow in the beginning, but once you've read through to the end, everything in the start completely falls into place and I could be nothing but in awe of all the little details set in place.

There is poetry to the writing and a style that lends to be more graceful and not as hard-edged or fast paced and more of a literary style. I'm not sure I am completely in love with it, but at the same time, I appreciate it and it fit the story very well.

I hate to say too much in this review for fear of giving away too many details, but I can say that I loved Ally characterization. She started out hard-edged in the beginning, but seemed to be embracing God's love in the end. I didn't like a certain action she did in the end, at the same time I can understand it – I just don't agree with it.

All in all, it's a good novel. Crafted exceptionally well, written in a style that keeps the reader moving forward and never stale in the motion of the characters or story.

This review is my honest opinion. Thanks to the publishers through Litfuse for my copy to review.

Renee says

Beyond Molasses Creek by Nicole Seitz tells the story of two women, who live on opposite sides of the world, and the events which bring them together.

The story is shared through dual viewpoints from the women, Ally and Sunila. For brave, optimistic Sunila, life means taking the risks necessary to leave Nepal and find a new life in the United States. While Ally's journey involves an end to years of running when she returns home to Molasses Creek. In Sunila's chapters, we follow a trail that leads to revelations about her future. In Ally's, we delve into the secrets of her past and all her life could have been.

For me, Ally's story is a cautionary tale of how choices which begin as temporary fixes for pain or confusion can transform our lives into very sad journeys. I was glad when the threads of hope the author sprinkled throughout this novel eventually blossomed into a joyful ending.

Beyond the Pages says

I highly recommend this book.

Jennifer Wedemeyer says

This book really spoke to me, it deals with racism, child labor, kidnapping and finding peace, love and happiness. It really was a roller coaster ride of emotions while reading Beyond Molasses Creek. I have to give this book 5 stars for opening up the eyes of the readers to many different circumstances and views around the world, very eye opening. I have two children that we adopted from South Korea and I had all of these thoughts floating around like what if my child was kidnapped how would I feel? What if my child was kidnapped and had been sold to us unknowingly on the black market (they weren't we used a reputable adoption agency)? What would my children's lives be like if they still lived in Korea? I felt for Ally as she struggled with the pain of losing her one and only true love as well as her baby.

I've never been to Nepal but I am aware of the caste system but never realized the impact it had on a person's entire thoughts, beliefs and way they view themselves as well as others. I can't imagine going through life thinking you are an "untouchable" all due to the caste system. I'm going to find some more books on this subject and do a little more research. My Aunt and Uncle are missionaries to India so I'm going to talk to them at great length about this system, see what I can find out and if there is anything I can do to help.

Melanie says

After reading this book straight through, the first word I said was 'Outstanding'! Beyond Molasses Creek was the first of Nicole Seitz books I have read and I am definately going to be investing in her other works.

Flight Attendant Ally Green returns home for her Father's funeral. Years of avoidance, of travel and of fake gods to forget the past. Part of her past, Vesey Washington, still lives across the creek. Ally and her white family on her side, Vesey and his dark skin on the other. When they meet as youngsters, after the Civil War, it is not acceptable for them to be friends with each other. Ally is drawn to Vesey though and they continue to spend time together without their parents knowledge. Till one day Vesey's mother sends him away to live with his Uncle, Ally knowing it is her fault her best friend has been sent away.

On the other side of the world a 30 year old girl is escaping from a life of slavery in Nepal, determined to find out her true identity.

Living as an untouchable in a caste heavy system, Sunila knows that the key to her future lies in the book of drawings she retrieves from the master.

The struggle with racial barriers is an international epidemic that affects the love and lives of so many. This novel reflects on those issues while at the same time looking deeply into the heart of the characters. Very moving story. Not preachy in any way. I read it in a single sitting with tears rolling down my face at the ending. A solid 5 star book!

Thanks to Litfuse for a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

ILoveBooks says

This book weaves an intricate tale of love, loss, and hope. Ally is what some people call a runner, she runs from her past. She refuses to turn around and face the things she is afraid of. When her father dies, she returns to her home after a long career of flying around the world as an air flight attendant. When she returns home, she uncovers some long-held secrets and bits of hope. Sunila is across the world. She is the next main character the reader is introduced to and will have a massive affect on Ally and the reader.

This book covers some hard issues. Child labor is discussed. How would you feel if it were your child toiling away at such a young age in dangerous conditions? It is easy enough to ignore when it is across the world, but what if it was your own blood? It is interesting that Ally and her father appear to forge an even deeper bond once he is gone, perhaps death does not end all relationships. The ending of the book will shock the reader, the author does a great job of dropping hints without even remotely giving away the big finish.

Ally's character is likable as is Sunila's. The other characters who affect the two main characters are fun to get to know, the smallest words have the ability to change one's life. The reader will be absorbed into the book, it is very difficult to put the book down. This book is recommended to adult readers.

Lesla Crews says

One of the best books I've ever read! Sweet story!
