



Under a Texas Sky

Dorothy Garlock

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Growing up poor and largely abandoned on the streets of 1920s Chicago, Anna Finnegan has struggled her entire life. Until a talent manager discovers her and brings her into the world of theater. Now years later she's about to start shooting her first movie. Arriving on location in Redstone, Texas, in 1932, Anna steps off the train and collides into Dalton Barnes. He's lived in Redstone all his life and hates how the big city out-of-towners are gawking at the small-town locals like him. It doesn't take long, though, for Anna and Dalton to discover fireworks of a different sort between them. But the movie is plagued by one trouble after another, including a fire that destroys an elaborate set and costumes ruined by huge splashes of paint. Who is sabotaging the film and why? To what lengths will they go? When Anna finds herself threatened, how will she and the love blossoming between her and Dalton survive?

Under a Texas Sky Details

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Leea says

3.5 Stars...

Anna turned as a man stepped out of the shadows near the door and approached her, two drinks in hand. Unable to hold back her smile, she beamed as brightly as the city below, still struggling to believe that all of her dreams had somehow become real.

Under a Texas Sky is an original mix of old hollywood glamor and the harshness of West Texas. Sometimes you pick up a book, having little knowledge about the author or really what the book is about. I mean the synopsis is just a snippet of what is found within these pages. I was beyond surprised to find myself turning page after page falling more in love with each character.

In *Under a Texas Sky* we meet Ann Finnegan a young girl trying to survive in Chicago, her parents are gone and she's torn between stealing food and starving. Fate steps in and Ann finds herself on the stage, acting has stolen her soul and she loves it more than anything. It's 1932 and Ann finds herself thrown into her first movie and into the small town of Redstone Texas. Fate has a way of handing you what you never knew was missing, in walks Dalton Barnes.

The Characters

In the dark and silence of her dingy bedroom, Anna pulled one of the other apples she'd stolen from her coat, one of the two she'd managed to keep hidden from her brother, and took a ravenous bite. I'm going to be somebody.

What I loved about how *Under a Texas Sky* was written was the feeling for coming full circle. We meet Ann at a low point in her life, she's hit rock bottom and she makes a choice to do what's needed to survive. It's a powerful heart wrenching moment which leads us to understand her character on such a deep level. She's strong, has a great heart but above everything else understands the everyday person. I was fascinated by how Ms. Garlock was able to create such a likable heroine. Dalton, he's a blacksmith who grew up fixing the messes his father left in the wake of a devastating gambling problem. He's torn between the love for his father and the hurt and anger he's caused with his addiction. Then there's Walter, Dalton's best friend who happens to be mute and their friendship is something I loved reading about. It added this depth to Dalton's hard honed exterior, plus Walter was never afraid to tell Dalton how he felt or give him some advice about what Dalton was doing wrong with regards to Ann.

The movie set is filled with interesting characters as well: The aging actress who is jealous of the new and upcoming star. The male costar who's never been denied his advances before. The old time actor who's seasoned and honed his craft but his acting career may be coming to an end. The Villain, who at every turn has his heart set on making money and never thinks about the cost to those involved. *Under a Texas Sky* is

layered with character you can relate to. Some more than others.

The Story

I found the mix of Old Hollywood with the back drop of this struggling West Texas town very fascinating. I've never read a book that mixed these town before, I was captivated right away. What I didn't expect was a little mystery intertwined with this story. You see someone is sabotaging the movie set, but we don't know who it is and till the end, I still was wrong about who the person was. That was just fun!

Ms. Garlock gives us details about everything involved in making a movie in 1933, Hollywood movie reporters are lurking around the saloon. Down to how the costume designs are put together and altered. Such details we're not too much but added to the feeling of being in the town of Redstone.

The ending was not what I expected in a very good way. To be honest, I expected Ann to give up her career for Dalton, to stay in Redstone and have a family. In the end, Dalton followed Ann's dreams and her to Hollywood. It was simply beautiful the way he faced every uncomfortable moment to be by her side.

In conclusion... I was pleasantly surprised with *Under a Texas Sky*. Rich characters, moving story and a romance that tugged at your heart. All with the back ground of this harsh Texas land. As the reader you were taking into Old Hollywood a place filled with mystery and intrigue. In the end it was the relationships that made this book so good. This being my first book by Ms. Garlock, I look forward to reading more of her works.

Every moment that Anna spent with Dalton felt better than the last. Listening to the sound of his voice, looking up at his smile as she wrapped herself in his arms, even lying in bed and feeling the rise and fall of his chest as he slept, everything about him enchanted her. Sometimes she felt as if he was a matinee idol and she was the swooning fan.

ARC by Grand Central publishing via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Lyn says

Romance with some Mystery!

A well written romance. Just as soon as I thought I knew "who dun nit" the plot twisted and turned again! Garlock novels always are worth the time invested. Enjoy! NetGalley and Grand Central Publishing provided an advanced review copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Meaghan Hofmeister says

A romance between two unlikely people with some mystery and action to keep you on your toes!

Candace Smith says

Well, I liked it until near the end. First of all, the sex out of nowhere. I just wish I'd been able to tell at the beginning something like that might happen, then I wouldn't have read it! Then, she is molested and keeps on going like literally NOTHING HAPPENED?! Are you kidding? Sorry, but I don't think this author has any real experience with sexual abuse, otherwise she would know that just doesn't make sense. You can't just walk away like that. It doesn't happen. Don't get me started on the dynamite and how it hurts noone. Sorry, but I never want to see this book again. It was just so good until the last section!

Edith Ray says

Anna Finnegan was alone and hungry on the streets of Chicago. She got into vaudeville and decided she would become an actress. That would give her money to eat, dress well, and have a warm place to live. She is chosen to be the star in a movie that is to be produced in Texas. There is also a famous star in the cast. This star is jealous of Anna and does spiteful things to her. There are other events that are happening to delay the production of the show.

The small town's residents have mixed feelings about having this show produced in their town. It has given many jobs, but they aren't sure if that is worth having so many strangers in their town.

One of the town's people is the son of the blacksmith. He protects Anna and they become friends.

At long last the culprits of the many mishaps are part of the organization.

Linda Bridges says

Anna Finnegan gets a shot at a starring role in a movie being filmed on location in the backwaters of west Texas. There she meets handsome blacksmith Dalton. The film is beset with many problems and sabotage, there is a town villain worthy of Mr. Potter in *It's a Wonderful Life*, and

I don't want to rate this book because it is a very formulaic romance novel, and I'm not really into those. I picked up the book because of a brief synopsis I read and it sounded more like historical fiction. As far as romance novels go, this one was fine; they're just not my thing.

Lisa says

[
The story begins with the heroine, Anna, getting discovered in a playhouse. A very nice, fatherly Hollywood producer tells her she's perfect to play the lead in his latest film and she instantly signs up. The movie is being filmed on location in Texas so she soon finds her

Rebecca says

This was a fun story which most of the story occurs in Texas. Most of the main characters are movie people as they are shooting a movie. The hero is the native Texan in a little town along the border. He doesn't want to like the movie people. The heroine is the actress selected to be the star in the movie but she isn't known yet.

The movie is being sabotaged by someone when accidents start to happen and the heroine enlists the hero to help her figure out who is responsible.

Very quick read.

Kathryn says

I read a couple books by in or around the late 90s, which I really very good. This one was good, but nothing very special. There was also a mystery involved and I never guessed who done it, until it was revealed. All in all, there was something lacking with this book. This is not one of my least favorite eras, though.

Kem says

I liked this book for the most part. There's mystery, danger, humor, and romance. I like the two main characters. The closure is satisfactory if not as complete as I like.

Linda says

The book was enjoyable but did not have much of a plot.

A young girl acting in a small-town playhouse is seen by a director and given a starring role in a western to be filmed in Texas. During the filming, too many accidents began to occur for it to be coincidental. Anna and her friends Dalton and Walker try to find out who is behind the accidents and stop them before someone is killed.

namericanwordcat says

Under A Texas Sky Growing up poor and largely abandoned on the streets of 1920s Chicago, Anna Finnegan has struggled her entire life. Until a talent manager discovers her and brings her into the world of theater. Now years later she's about to start shooting her first movie. Arriving on location in Redstone, Texas, in 1932, Anna steps off the train and collides into Dalton Barnes. He's lived in Redstone all his life and hates how the big city out-of-towners are gawking at the small-town locals like him. It doesn't take long, though, for Anna and Dalton to discover fireworks of a different sort between them. But the movie is plagued by one trouble after another, including a fire that destroys an elaborate set and costumes ruined by huge splashes of paint. Who is sabotaging the film and why? To what lengths will they go? When Anna finds

herself threatened, how will she and the love blossoming between her and Dalton survive?

Review

Dorothy Garlock paints an amazing textured world of the film industry in the 1930s. We are on location in a little Texas town where there is as much drama off set as one. Anne, our pull her self out of the gutter heroine, meets our blacksmith hero who has troubles of his own.

Garlock's books are always poignant and richly detailed and this one is no different. If you want to be submerged into a unique historical moment, this is a great book for you. The romance here is compelling as well.

However, all the drama on the sides with villains and family takes away from the relationship a bit for me. The historical fiction is top notch. As a romance book, I am giving this book 3 stars. Its good but not great as historical fiction it deserves more.

I was given this book for my honest review. So, there you have it.

Sarah says

A young Anna had a hard life. Fending for herself and stealing food. She began to sing for her supper and was spotted for her talent. Off to star in a movie, she arrives in Texas. Someone is trying to shut down the production and bad things happen. Can the only good be Dalton Barnes? An ok book, nothing out of the ordinary.

Rose Bedwell says

My aunt, Katherine, gave me a large trash bag full of books she had read one of the last few times I saw her alive. I am slowly reading through them along with selections by 2 book clubs I am in and books I want to read and am committed to--like the Outlander and Daniel Silva's Gabriel Allon series. She was a voracious reader--I didn't know that until too late. I would have liked the opportunity to discuss some of the books with her.

The book was entertaining and an easy read.

Bertina says

Another Great Read by Dorothy Garlock - This was a Really Good Book
