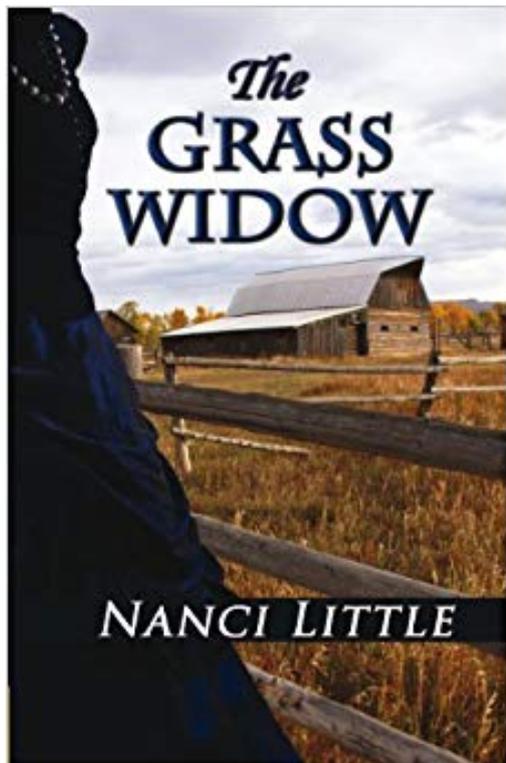


The Grass Widow *by* Nanci Little



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Aidan Blackstone has nothing. A thousand miles from home, sent to the frontier by a family that doesn't want her back, her only hope for survival is distant relatives who say they'll take her in. As a familiar civilization fades into the distance, she is nineteen, unmarried and pregnant, and has no reason to think that the year 1876 won't be her last.

But she's not met at the Washburn, Kansas, train station by the Bodett family. Only the daughter, Jocelyn, is there to greet her. Aidan finds herself bound for the Bodett farm, where influenza has wiped out the rest of the family, leaving young Joss in perilous financial straits and their only source of food and shelter at risk.

Joss, in her brother's clothes and severely lacking in social graces, has no time to mollycoddle a pampered, pregnant New England lady. It's work or starve, literally. There are no servants, no laborers - just a failing farm, impending winter and the two of them to face it together.

The Grass Widow showcases the ingenuity, determination and courage of women's frontier spirits in a passionate, sensuous love story. Originally published in 1996, Nanci Little's wonderfully detailed and researched novel picks up with the generation of women where Patience and Sarah left off.



Reviews of the [The Grass Widow](#) by Nanci Little

Hra

I hated to give this book 2 stars, so I gave it 3, but the truth is I didn't like it much. The only thing I liked about it was the fact it was a western/historical setting and the characters weren't cardboard cut-outs of each other.

Like so many lesbian novels I encounter, it was virtually plot-less. Two women meet, and fall in love, the only thing to break up the monotony of their days is that they have arguments now and then. I think it is way past time that lesbian authors think two women meeting and falling in love is the only thing they need in a book.

In addition, as I said in the title--way too much religion is interspersed throughout the text. Of course, just how they could read the nonsense in Leviticus and not consider themselves damned for their relationship is anybody's guess; although I was glad that they managed to somehow put some kind of spin on that.

Jediathain

Some years ago I read "The Grass Widow" for the first time. Somehow the book got lost (probably because someone borrowed it and never gave it back) and I forgot all about it. Now, thanks to e-books I have another copy of the book and enjoyed reading it for second time.

Set in the 1870s in rural Kansas two distant cousins meet. One of them is a grass widow, pregnant after having been raped and sent away from her family to Kansas. The other a young woman who tries to continue running the farm after her family died. They two women form an unlikely friendship and then fall in love. And what a great love story it is.

Nancy Little's writing is different from that of most modern writers of lesbian fiction. At times there is no driven plot but rather philosophical thoughts implemented by the author - something that fits the story and its characters.

I'm happy that this book has found another way into my life and this time it is going to stay. No matter what.

Snake Rocking

The Grass Widow is a story of survival and unexpected love, set against a back drop of post-Civil War Kansas. Unwed and pregnant Aidan is sent across the country from her comfortable home in Maine, to distant family in Kansas. Upon arrival in Kansas, she meets the rough and tumble Joss; a trouser wearing, gun toting woman. Life is hard out, but with determination they try to hold their own.

Nancy Little has written a very touching story of two women finding love and acceptance. While often clichéd, I did find myself invested in Aidan and Joss; I cared what happened to them, and the farm. However, I don't feel that the other characters received the same attention, they were flat and underdeveloped.

Overall, while the clichés and dialect tended to feel slightly campy, this story really was quite sweet and enjoyable.

Winail

Good story of 1800s independent women. A little tedious at times (repetitious), but, over all good details of characters, except Flo. Would loved to have learned more about her! Could most likely do an entire book on her!!! Well written. Very readable!! Would definitely recommend.. from a 73year old lesbian who only had 50s pulp paperbacks as role models!!!

Gaua

I enjoyed this novel and it's "right-on" description of the hardships of life in the western frontier. The characters were believable and my attention didn't wander. Perhaps there will be a part two for a continuation of these women as they develop over time. Considering that I'm close to reading 800+ of lesbian novels - it can be difficult for an author to provide newness for me. I've read the other "western" novels so was hesitant - but glad that I purchased this one.

Mightsinger

I enjoyed reading The Grass Widow. The story moves right along. The moral of most of these historic western novels seems to be: be strong or perish. I enjoyed the setting and the characters.

just one girl

This book had some minor grammatical mistakes in it, but overall, was very easy to read. The plot was fairly predictable, but what plot isn't?

Overall, I gave it 5 stars simply because it is one of the better pieces of lesbian fiction I've read, and we all know how sparse those are. On a more encompassing scale, I'd give it 3 stars, but considering the genre it's in, it's a worthy read.

I really enjoyed this book, but like so many novels there could be a more thought out ending. It just seems to end like the author was just done writing or maybe expects to write a sequel.

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