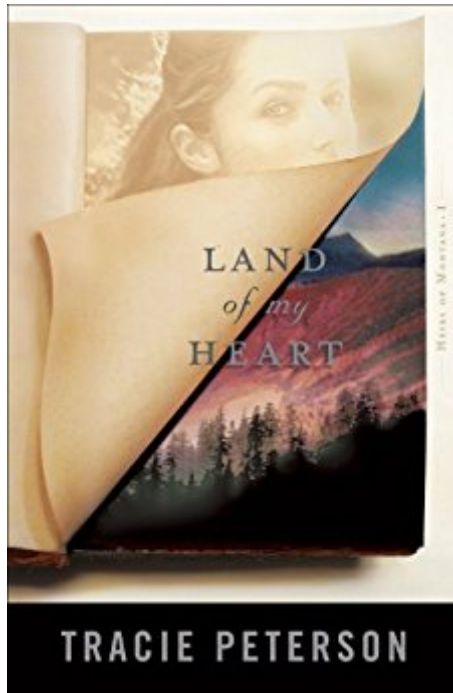




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Land Of My Heart (Heirs Of Montana Book #1)



Synopsis

Book 1 of Heirs of Montana from bestselling author Tracie Peterson. Adventurers, families, outlaws...all driven west in the 1860s by a longing for endless blue sky along with wild and wide-open spaces. Tracie Peterson, from her own Montana home, paints an unforgettable portrait of this rich, rugged landscape, populated by strong and spirited characters. When Dianne Chadwick urges her family to move west to her uncle's ranch in the Montana Territory, she has no idea that her new life in the rugged frontier--and even within her uncle's home--will not be the idyllic adventure she expects. But first she has to survive the arduous wagon journey with the help of guide Cole Selby, whose heart seems to be as hard as the mountains he loves.

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Customer Reviews

Land of My Heart by Traci Peterson was a very entertaining book. It opens during the era of the Civil War and features a family of eight. The sixteen year old daughter, Dianne, is quite headstrong and a definite leader. Her parents own and operate a general store where many of the union soldiers purchase supplies. The mother was a southern bred lady not in favor of the war or the union

soldiers. The father is shot and killed in crossfire after a ruckus where town rowdies accosted Dianne on her way back from the bank. Dianne talks her mother and older brothers into selling the store and joining a wagon train to move to Montana where their Uncle Buc lives. The story unfolds from this peek preview with all it took to accomplish getting ready to travel with a wagon train and their actual travels, the adventures and heartaches along the way. There were numerous interesting characters you will meet throughout and you will appreciate the way Traci Peterson portrays this period of history, the landscape, hardships, victories and how she weaves the characters, faith to entertain you with a most interesting tale.

Excellent Christian fiction that's not too preachy; full of adventure. I like that the stories do have tragedy; people do die, even children, and that's what it was like in the old west. Too many other writers romanticize the old west! Tracie Peterson does a good job of bringing out the injustices of prejudices against all kinds of people, such as in this book with the Indians and ex-slaves. Quite a good story line - I hope to read the next in this series soon. I also liked the printing of this book with the "turned page corner" at the beginning of each chapter. It's a clever little illustration. It makes the book a little more special, so nice if you are thinking of giving the book or Heirs of Montana series as a gift.

The book started with a promising, dramatic plot: a willful heroine has her father shot and decides to uproot her family from their home town to try and make it to her uncle's land. Then they get to the trail - and it gets worse.*spoilers below*Dianne, our female lead may be a 'strong' character in the sense that she kept going despite all the many, plentiful bad things that happen and how open minded she is, but other than that there's nothing about her that's interesting or stands out or anything that makes her, you know. BE the lead character. While one of her sister's death could have been chalked up to it being an accident, the second one was plain stupidity on Dianne's part. I understand she's busy, but when one of your sisters DIES just a few days before because you failed to watch over her, would you really just tell your remaining sister "yeah, sure, go on your own some"? Particularly when there's been a spread out of measles recently and you know she's likely gonna go run off with kids that may be sick and you admitted she never had it before...Also, she kept putting herself in dangerous situations when she should have known better because it's *the exact same thing that got her father killed*. Also, insane mom tells you to go to town to fetch the mail? "sure ma, let me just leave you alone in this house and hope you don't set it on fire or something." Her older brother was pathetic and selfish - I keep wondering how many things would

have gone better if he hadn't been such a self-centered coward. The younger brother's were plain selfish as well, with the only thing in the favor being that they never actually do abandon what little family they have left, but they certainly have no qualms in not caring properly for their sister and mother. The mother was such a promising character, and she was the one I actually thought the story would focus on, there being so many hints of her being a character who could actually have some depth, but that quickly gets flushed down a bottle of laudanum. Seriously, after the 20% mark of the book or so, the mom is pretty much sleeping the rest of the story, except for one or two moments where she's insane. Her death was stupid and I also blame Dianne for it. Her romance to the hero is....unexplained, she just wakes one day wanting him as a husband, or something remarkably similar. The hero (of course) can never love another woman because of reasons. Then he gets over it. The only characters I found honestly interesting (and would have preferred to read about much more than the ones we got stuck with) were her uncle, his wife, and his brother-in law, as well as the freed slaves making their way in the trail. I would have liked much better to hear about them.

I feel like I've wasted my time with this book. Is there a continuation or something? The story doesn't feel complete in and of itself. I gave this book 2 stars instead of one because I liked some parts of the story, like the parts about Trenton and the author's choice in how to deal with the romance in the novel and not make it particularly a soap opera, but then again, the novel was very exaggerated in some of its themes and plot twists. It was like...can her life get any worse? And then you quickly found out that it could. I couldn't relate to the story at all. The emotions didn't seem real except for Trenton be scared for his life. The rest of the book seemed so phony and made up. It's not a true work of art. It's an amateur story. A lot of the plot twists were pointless, the characters seemed kind of weak, and the deaths in the story were very predictable after the first one. I was expecting more. A well-developed plot, theme, characters, and message. The message was good and the theme was okay, but I could have just read the Bible for that.

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