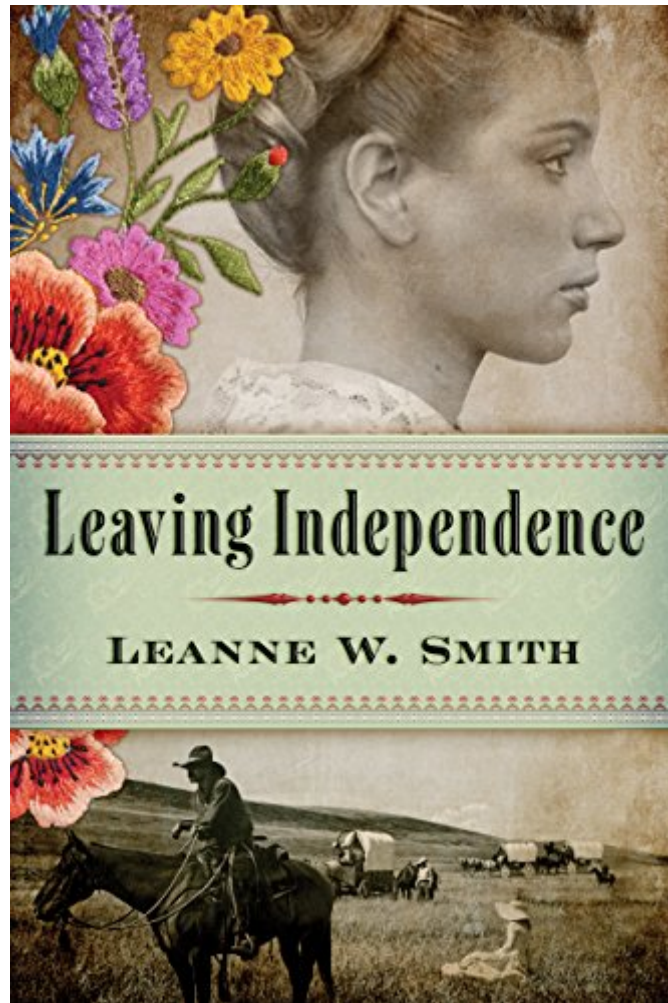




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Leaving Independence



Synopsis

Abigail Baldwin might not be a widow after all. Ever since she received word that her husband, Robert, was killed in the Civil War, Abigail has struggled to keep her Tennessee home and family together. Then a letter arrives claiming that Robert isn't dead, yet he has no plans to return. Desperate for answers, Abigail travels to Independence, Missouri, where she joins a westbound wagon train to find him. Leading a company along the Oregon Trail isn't part of Hoke Mathews's plans. But then the former cavalry scout gets a glimpse of Abigail—so elegant compared to the rest of their hardscrabble wagon community, yet spirited and resilient. Through every peril they encounter—snakebites, Indian raids, fevers, dangerous grudges—his bond with Abigail grows. Abigail knew this journey would test her courage. Now it's testing her marriage vows and her heart, daring her to claim a future on her own terms in a land rich with promise.

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Customer Reviews

This book was recommended by an author I follow on Facebook and am I ever glad I took her advice! I believe this is a new author and this is her debut work. I loved it! I cannot wait for her next book. This one was so rich in descriptions you actually felt like you were part of the wagon train west. What does one do when she discovers she is not the widow she thought she was? Well, she packs up her children, leaves her fancy lifestyle, and heads west to find her husband. But does she? Perhaps there is a man on the wagon train who might capture her heart before she gets to her destination. But what of the long dead husband? The road to the truth is paved with elements from the weather, sickness, and soul searching. I highly recommend this book. I did not want to put it down each night but my eyes wouldn't stay open. I could not wait to get back to the story. It captured my attention right from the beginning.

Abigail Baldwin has just received a letter from Major Frank Talbot telling her that her husband Robert is not dead as previously thought & is residing at Fort Hall. She has four children & the bank is about to claim the house & she writes Robert of the situation. He replies telling her to sell the house, drop the kids off with her father and come to Idaho. He likes it there & has no intention of coming back. This story is about Abigail & her children's trip west on a wagon train & her falling in love with Hoke Matthews. It's a beautiful story with a surprise ending. It is one of the very best books I believe I have ever read & I sincerely hope that we will soon hear more from this excellent writer. I found it very hard to believe that this is her first book. She has all the qualities you would expect in a seasoned writer that has many years of writing under their belt. Everything I look for in a book is here...one of my favorite subjects, wagon train travel, cleanly written, enough mystery to keep the reader involved & the characters are well thought out a bonding with the reader that is sure to leave a footprint on your heart. I have a special section in my Kindle that I put books that I know I will read again...this book will definitely be at the top of that list. I highly recommend it to any reader wishing for a good story. You will not be disappointed.

I received an advance review copy of this book for an honest review. I like books that inspire me to think and live fully. Leaving Independence did all that and kept me dusty while riding along the wagon train as we all moved westward. You can feel the wind and hear the travelers call out to each other as their journey unfolds. I laughed and cried. I cheered and held my breath. Beyond the grand adventure of the story, Leanne has woven in wisdom and inspiration to go after your dreams. Bravo. A good story and well told. I am awaiting a sequel.

I was not expecting much from this book, but I was pleasantly surprised. Yes, it is a romance, not a genre I read regularly, but it reminded me strongly of the Westerns of Zane Grey, one of my favorite authors. I read this book in one day. Mrs. Smith's characters, especially the two main ones, are fully fleshed out and engaging. You really get a sense of their personalities, enhanced with historical hints of their pasts. The minor characters are also well-rounded. In comparison with Zane Grey's works, however, I found the scenery to be lacking. Mr. Grey traveled to the places he wrote about, and described them in such wonderful detail you could almost imagine yourself in the same places and time. This book seems to assume the reader knows all they need to know about the country and time the characters are in. This is an engaging book, and well worth the time spent reading it.

I agree with those reviewers who described this as a well-written, excellent read. It is a first-rate debut. *Leaving Independence* gives the reader insight into the reality of life along the wagon trail. We share in the trials, dangers, and hardships, the strong bonds of friendships that develop, the sorrow of losing loved ones and the joy of birth, and so much more. Very moving story that will be long remembered.

I enjoyed this story about Abigaile Baldwyn with her four children going on a wagon train out west to find her husband. She did not know if he was dead or alive, but she braved it to find out. This was a good story about the ups and downs of being in a small wagon for months with her four children. The author wrote a believable novel about the wagon train and their families. The storyline was easy to follow, the novel told about the families that were on the train, I really enjoy reading about families. The characters had different personalities and there were so many children to take care of. I especially liked the list of characters at the end of the book. The author pulled everything together with a very surprising end. I enjoyed reading this novel it is for everyone of all ages, a good clean book.

I'm not generally a fan of historical fiction but read this one because several friends knew the author. I have got to say I was totally enthralled. By the end of the first chapter I was hooked. Leanne Smith makes you feel as if you are a member of the wagon train building relationships with each of the characters. The heat of the romance is enough to feed your imagination without being raunchy, and the plot has just enough balance between predictability and surprise to keep you guessing and happy. This was a great book and I will be recommending it to all my friends! I sure hope there is a sequel!

I loved the characters, the plot, and the setting! Highly recommended! Loved the main characters- honest, hard working, respectful, and brave. What a breath of fresh air to care about the family and their journey. The plot is really clever, and the author gives little hints or foreshadowing of the trouble that will soon emerge. The book includes a map and list of characters to help the reader's journey too. The novel includes an Indian attack, a love story, gossip, dances, music, mules, a water fight, a fist fight, regrets, fears, a deadly snake, guns, troops, forts, an orphan, and more. Excellent writing. The book deserves an A++++

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