



# The Frontiersman's Daughter

*Laura Frantz*

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## **The Frontiersman's Daughter** Laura Frantz

Lovely but tough as nails, Lael Click is the daughter of a celebrated frontiersman. Haunted by her father's former captivity with the Shawnee Indians, as well as the secret sins of her family's past, Lael comes of age in the fragile Kentucky settlement her father founded. Though she faces the loss of a childhood love, a dangerous family feud, and the affection of a Shawnee warrior, Lael draws strength from the rugged land she calls home, and from Ma Horn, a distant relative who shows her the healing ways of herbs and roots found in the hills. But the arrival of an outlander doctor threatens her view of the world, God, and herself--and the power of grace and redemption.

This epic novel gives readers a glimpse into the simple yet daring lives of the pioneers who first crossed the Appalachians, all through the courageous eyes of a determined young woman. Laura Frantz's debut novel offers a feast for readers of historical fiction and romance lovers alike.

## **The Frontiersman's Daughter Details**

Date : Published August 1st 2009 by Fleming H. Revell Company

ISBN : 9780800733391

Author : Laura Frantz

Format : Paperback 413 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Christian Fiction, Romance, Christian, Fiction



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## From Reader Review The Frontiersman's Daughter for online ebook

### Kelvey says

This was my first book by Laura Frantz and I have to say that I thoroughly enjoyed it! I had seen this book at bookstores, and to be honest, the cover **really** put me off. But, trust me, this book was so well-written!

The book starts out with Lael being 14-16 years old and ends when she's around 24 years old. Obviously, there's *a lot* that goes on, and I loved that! It wasn't a perfect arch of a storyline, it was just her life.

The characters were realistic and sometimes even made me want to strangle them, especially Lael. But even though I found her to be frustrating, I loved her!

After I finished this book, I just sat there and thought about the character development and the descriptive writing—I was in awe, to be honest. The Frontiersman's Daughter was a book that impacted me and I will not soon forget it!

I think Frantz did a wonderful job, and this book is a 5/5 stars for me! I will definitely be picking up other books by her!

To read more of my reviews visit my blog: <http://www.kelvreadsbooks.blog.com>

**\*I was not sent this by the publisher or author. All opinions are my own. I was in no way compensated for this review.\***

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### Clara says

Timeless coming-of-age tale!

Laura Frantz has established herself as one of my favourite authors, and Lael Click is hands down a heroine that I won't forget quickly - alongside Ma Horn, Titus, Susanna & Will, and Ian Justus.

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### Emilee says

I loved it! I'm so glad Lori Mauldin shared this book with me. I have wanted to read this for some time. It totally met my expectations. It was very much about the history aspect but also very much about Lael, the main character. Her story starts out when she is 13. She loves her family and her home. She goes through a lot of trials in her life, although I didn't find this book too sad or stressful at all. There is Indian trouble and intrigue. But it is not the main focus. Who she is, as her father's daughter, is also a big part of the book. She comes to know the Lord at the end of the story, when she finally comes to an end of her self and turns to God. This book is somewhat reminiscent of The Little House on the Prairie books only with a deeper, grown up story. I wish I could find more books like this.

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### Jane says

Where I got the book: Kindle freebie.

I've got to say at the outset that I liked this book a whole lot more than Frantz's latest, *Love's Reckoning*. The somewhat loosely constructed plot of *The Frontiersman's Daughter* revolves around Lael Click, the daughter of a remarkable father who was instrumental in founding their small part of Kentucky (called Kentucke because this is the 1800s) and spent some time living with the local Indians to boot, during which time her mom ran off with her uncle. Yep, it's Kentucky all right.\*

I thought this was going to be a straightforward romance but no, Lael has THREE men competing for her affections: bully-boy Simon, romantic but Indian (but he's really white but still HE'S INDIAN AND THAT'S A PROBLEM) Captain Jack, and--not appearing until way, way into the novel--Scottish doctor Ian. Much of the novel, in fact, is about Lael being true to her frontier roots despite all her father's efforts to the contrary and all the dire warnings about what'll happen if she doesn't "fort up" at the first sign of Indian activity.

I liked a lot of things about this novel:

- Lael was no Mary Sue - she's more often scruffy than not and strikes me as a real person.
- Frantz's use of the Kentucke dialect did not grate on me like her 'twases did in *Love's Reckoning*. It felt spot on and I loved it.
- Tons of interesting detail about a time when settlers were always one step from death.
- The men in Lael's life were often secondary to the story and could disappear for months at a time without making the story less interesting. You go, girl.
- I'm a sucker for stories with Indians. YES I LIKED DANCES WITH WOLVES DEAL WITH IT.

Considered as a novel, maybe a bit more structure would have improved matters. There's something a bit rambling about the story. Nevertheless it kept me engaged and, at times, even fascinated. Frantz's writing has its quirks, and the overuse of "nearly" and "almost" in conjunction with a verb ("she nearly stumbled") is one that tended to irritate, but that doesn't mean I won't pick up another Frantz book. And that, dear Reader, is what writers want; if we can get you to come back to the table for more, we know our cooking's good.

\*Gosh I'm only kidding, Kentuckians. Chill.

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## Beth says

I just devoured the last half of this novel without even realizing that time had passed. I wish it had a better cover. Honestly, this one is pretty, but it doesn't do the contents of the novel justice. Full review to come later. I don't like to review immediately after I've finished a book :) Once again I'm surprised that this is the author's debut novel.

Review time! I was a bit thrown by this book. What I expected to be light and fluffy was actually full of depth! Frantz does not shy away from difficult subject matter. The main character Lael felt so genuine to me, so human and real. I've found that sometimes in Christian fiction, the main character is just too good to be true or just too good, in general, but that wasn't the case with this novel.

The plot of the novel was fast-paced at times, yet it seemed to flow along in keeping with the tone of the book. Life for settlers was often slow and weather-driven. I could really feel Lael's reluctance at a winter shut up in the fort. Frantz portrayed her feelings so well, that by the time Lael could leave the fort, I was

longing for escape too. The best thing about the plot is that it wasn't predictable. I wasn't sure what type of life Lael was going to choose for herself and Frantz kept me guessing until the end. It was certainly refreshing.

The historical setting was also unique and well done. In a genre that seems to be swimming with regency settings (not that I'm complaining, that's another favorite of mine, hehe), it was refreshing to read a novel in this setting. I felt fully enmeshed in the Kentucky wilderness, and Lael's love for the land was lovely.

One minor issue I had with the novel was how abrupt the ending was (although I find that I can be quite picky about ending). How Lael felt at the end was more told to the reader, rather than shown.

I already have *The Colonel's Lady* on my shelf to read, and I really look forward to reading it and Frantz's other novel!

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### **Joanne Bischof says**

It's hard to believe that this was Laura Frantz's debut novel! This book has been on my Kindle for some time, often calling my name but I found myself so caught up in Laura's more recent releases, that I hadn't carved out the time to go back to the very beginning and open the pages of this beauty. I am so glad that I finally did! Having read *The Frontiersman's Daughter*, it is absolutely no surprise why Laura holds such a special place in Christian historical romance. Her writing is superb and her ability to pen a gripping love story always seems so effortless. Truly elegant prose to linger on. This story really did a number on me. So many paths Lael could have taken in life. Not like a steady river, but little rivulets to run down the mountainside, leaving the reader to wonder which course she'll follow. The story line held me in it's grip until the final word and it was with a satisfied sigh that I closed the cover. I will add that there was a particular character who's presence remained more of a mystery than I would have liked...but that in no way detracts from Laura's skill...in fact, it only builds upon her ability to pen heartrending characters that are so real and captivating, the reader is simply left wanting more! A beautiful, beautiful tale.

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### **Keli Gwyn says**

Debut author Laura Franz writes like a seasoned professional. *The Frontiersman's Daughter* melds powerful characters, artistic description and a captivating storyline into a feast sure to satisfy readers who crave stories with heart. Told through the eyes of the strong, determined, courageous daughter of one of the first white men to settle in Kentucke, the story follows Lael Click's journey from a girl of thirteen to a woman of twenty as she deals with loss, love and the need of the Lord in her life.

The tale takes place during the time of the American Revolution when tensions between the settlers and Indians were high. Lael's past is stained by the sins of her pioneer parents, and she must overcome bitterness and vengeful longings as she seeks to find her own place in the world. Her biggest choice concerns matters of the heart. Three men have laid claim to her affections: her childhood sweetheart, a mysterious white man captured and raised by the Shawnee, and a Scottish doctor whose firm faith forces her to face her past and choose the course for her future. Through her friendships with Simon, Captain Jack and Doctor Ian Justus, Lael learns of life, love and the saving grace of the Lord. But which man will ultimately capture her heart?

As I began *The Frontiersman's Daughter*, it became clear this story wasn't exactly what I expected. It's so much more. While there is a satisfying romance with a hero I fell hard for, the epic tale is deeper and richer than many stories I've read. The reader is taken on a journey as Lael lives life in a period rarely featured in a romance. Because of Frantz's meticulous research, I learned a great deal about what life was like for those brave souls who ventured into the frontier. With words as her medium, she paints pictures so vivid I felt I was right there with Lael. If you like emotional depth to your stories, you'll be rewarded as you laugh, cry and sigh with the rich cast of characters. And the romance is as sweet as the bee gum honey Lael loves. I highly recommend this book and look forward to Frantz's next release, *Courting Morrow Little*.

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## **Elaina says**

~4.5 Stars~

I really liked the way this book was written and how it went through different stages of Lael's life. It started out with Lael as a thirteen-year-old and went all through her life until she was around twenty-three or twenty-four. I loved how we got to see her grow as a character...especially near the end of the book. Lael did have many love interests throughout the story (around 3-4), but with a time span of about ten years, I think that was reasonable...Although I did get really annoyed by some of them. Particularly, Simon...ughh I just could not stand him at all :/ I didn't really trust him from the beginning, but I did also feel a little sorry for him at times... only a 'little' though lol other times he made me want to punch him! I don't want to spoil anything though so I cannot say too much :P But I am surprised by how it ended and I didn't think it would go in the direction it went, but I am happy with it and am really glad I decided to give this book a try! ^\_^

There were so many characters that I grew to love! Ma Horn, Ransom, Susanna, and Ian are a few :) I also enjoyed the Indian/Shawnee side of the story. But I think my favorite parts were toward the end of the book. That is all I can think of to say without spoiling anything so you'll have to go and read it to find out more!  
^\_^

*Thank you Revell and Baker Publishing Group for providing me a copy in exchange for a honest review*

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## **Rachel Thompson says**

I received a free copy of this book. This isn't the type of book I normally go for, though I do enjoy Christian romances from time to time.

Set in the 1700's in the wild territory of Kentucke, Lael Click is the daughter of a rather famous frontiersman who was captured and spent time with the Shawnee, learning their language and some of their customs. One day, a Shawnee warrior known as Captain Jack appears, making it pretty clear that he wants Lael. At first Lael is afraid, sure that she is in love with a childhood friend. Her father sends her away for five long years to finish growing up and to learn how to be a lady. When she returns, the childhood friend is nothing like she remembers and Captain Jack is all she wants, though he appears like a dream and rarely shows himself to her though she often thinks he's watching her. Then a new doctor moves to the settlement, upsetting the delicate

balance Lael has achieved between her civilized side and her wild side.

I was more than a little disappointed with this book. While it's well told, it's billed as a Christian romance, even though there is really very little romance in the book. The story is more about the hardships of frontier life. The different elements of the book didn't mesh well for me. The book starts with a scene between Lael's family and the Shawnee Indians, which I interpreted as a foreshadowing of events to come...events that never occurred. I kept reading on and on, through pages of descriptions and feelings, hoping to finally get to the meat of the book, yet the events I expected never happened. As a reader, it's sometimes comforting to know what to expect, and the way this book was set up, I felt like I knew what was going to happen.

In the end, Lael just seemed so fickle and unsure of herself, despite the strong character the author tried to depict. She jumps in and out of love so often, that when she finally settles on one man, it was hard to care much. And once she's made her decision, that's that. The book is over, leaving multiple questions that the author never bothered to answer. There is very little closure in the ending to tie it all together. The author also had a bad habit of jumping between scenes within the same chapter, often causing confusion, and I found the first half of the book to be incredibly boring before things started to pick up. The author introduced two possible love interests that I found myself caring for, so it was difficult to really root for just one. I liked them both equally.

Finally, I didn't care for the message this book seemed to have. I know this is a Christian romance, so of course Lael would probably end up with the man who believed in God, but up until the very end of the book, I really thought she would run away with Captain Jack (therefore becoming a heathen, I guess). Even the doctor makes notes of this -- that Lael would have to worship the Shawnee gods. I couldn't really see how this would be a bad thing since at one point she really did love Captain Jack. Isn't love the most important thing? I guess not when you want your character to conform to the Christian religion and become a believer.

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## **Michelle says**

To say that Laura Frantz has created a novel that is well written doesn't even begin to scratch the surface of the excellent quality of writing that is found between the pages of this novel. God has given Laura an amazing gift, and I cannot emphasize enough how much I appreciate what she's done here in Lael's story. It's a substantial 412 pages of deep, meaty substance; each word a scrumptious morsel to be savored.

It isn't very often that I read a book where the words seem to come off of the page as a beautiful, lyrical song. As I read page after page, I was truly amazed at the beautiful craftsmanship of this story. The setting so rich, that I felt I was standing right there amidst the action. I felt completely immersed in the story from beginning to end, and cared for Lael as if I knew her in real life. The characters are so vividly drawn, and so unique, I can't help but think that they'll remain with me indefinitely.

I was also greatly impressed by the tremendous amount of detail that went into illustrating the setting, characters, and Lael's private thoughts. As I read, I couldn't help but think of a magnificent piece of artwork, drawn with such intricate precision, that you can't help but be captivated and drawn in by its beauty.

I don't hesitate to say that Mrs. Frantz is a master of her craft, and has composed a novel that I would certainly read again; highly recommending to anyone who enjoys reading outstanding literature.

From the very first chapter, I knew that I had happened upon a treasure. Lael's coming-of-age journey, in late

1700's Kentucke, is one that will captivate you and touch your heart for a long time to come. Add this one to the top of your list . . . with adventure, romance, faith, and a sweet story of redemption, you can't go wrong!

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## **Tweety says**

This book was Chock-a-block full of beautiful descriptions, I couldn't get enough. In style it reminded me of *Lady in the Mist*, because of those charming word pictures. I would love to see what Kentucky looks like now, I never cared to before. Congratulations to the author for making me want to camp out there. And this won't be my last of Laura Frantz's books, she has made her mark.

I especially liked the attention to details, the herbs used for healing, the doctoring of the time and a little bit about dress, it was never in your face. It was put in such a way that you felt like you were there too. Two things I'll never forget are the blue beads, and the rose pink sack dress.

Every feeling came alive. The snapping cold, the immobilizing fear of Indian attacks and the worry that one day Lael's long, long blond hair would be stolen, scalped, or "trimmed". I loved ever minute of the adventure. Lael was strong, she didn't let finishing school steal away the wildness in her, she only became more like her Pa. Her Pa, by the way, was one of my favorite characters. I think it was the mystery that shrouded him and his quiet, undemanding ways. And it was his friend, Captain Jack, a Shawnee Warrior, that I liked next best.

Several characters were jerks, Chiefly among them was Simon. I took a dislike to him from the first words out of his mouth. I wish Lael had seen what he was sooner.

I admit that I do not like love triangles, I do not like them, Sam-i-am. Because, I am always the poor slob that falls for the wrong one. As I did in this one. Not that I ever knew much about him, but I wanted to a whole lot more than any of the others. That brings me to my spoiler, I've tried not to spoil the plot too much.

**If you want to know about the ending and loose ends, go ahead and read this spoiler:**

(view spoiler)

**PG** for the doctoring and Indian wars. Oh, and we hear that two characters ran away together

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## **TJ says**

This is a hard one to review. It is both wonderful and exasperating all at once. The writing is lovely, the story a good one. It captured my attention immediately and kept me coming back. There were really only two flaws but they were significant enough to cause problems.

1. (May or may not be considered a flaw, depending on personal preference) The author takes an inordinate



amount of time describing surroundings and writing about the daily chores of living. Life on the 18th century frontier is eloquently portrayed and very interesting - to a point. When the descriptions drag on and on and over and over, one finds themselves skimming to get back to the original story. I did this a lot as the book progressed. By the second half of the book, it became frustrating. I wanted the story to continue, I KNEW about the life already!

2. The heroine drove me insane! I loved her but wanted to smack her upside the head! She NEVER says what she thinks, wants or feels!! Every single time a problem arises, rather than say anything to clarify or improve a situation, she stays silent and misjudges or waffles forever because she is uncertain. This is understandable at the beginning from the fourteen-year-old's perspective but come on! Seven years later and she hasn't learned a single thing? If we are to sympathize there needs to be some growth!!! In this area, I found myself pulling my hair out and rushing ahead because I couldn't stand her any longer.

So why the 4 stars? Because even though it drove me crazy, I still loved the overall story and message. The Christian aspect was subtle and perfectly done, the voice of the story was charming and, even though I thought it dragged on, the descriptions were incredibly enlightening. I would highly recommend the book as long as a caveat is attached.

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### **C says**

When I wasn't bored, I hated it. Lael was very flighty, and falls in love with three different characters and jumps around between them throughout the novel. Loyalty and good judgment are qualities that she is severely lacking. A lot of questions were left unanswered, which is surprising considering the length of the book. I would have loved for the book to address what happened to Captain Jack, it was hinted he died, but never confirmed. I thought it indicative of Lael's character that she had Captain Jack promise he would come back for her, but then she ran off to Scotland with the doctor before he could come back to claim her.

Overall, I'm glad the book was free from Barnes and Nobles, otherwise I would have been severely disappointed.

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### **Casey says**

I had heard wonderful things about this book, but really wasn't prepared for how blown away I was going to be!

THE FRONTIERSMAN'S DAUGHTER has it all. Adventure, romance, grudges, war, a gutsy heroine and not one, but two awesome heroes!

From the first page where Lael let down her hair in the presence of a war party of Shawnee I was hooked. Usually in a romance I can ultimately tell who will be the heroine's choice- I had no idea in this novel! It kept me completely entranced in the story. The waterfall scene was gripping and had me gulping air like a fish out of water. At another point in the novel, I was so shocked I couldn't believe what I was reading and was turning pages until they were warm beneath my fingers.

Lael is an amazing heroine. Her strength and determination in life make her seem invincible in the world of Kentucky of the 18th century. But it's the grudges she has buried deep that make her human. And her gentle discovery of Christ's love makes this story touching and real.

This isn't a novel to blaze through. It is meant to be savored, each page read thoroughly and enjoyed to its

fullest potential. Because each page holds a treasure, a key to unlocking the tapestry of Lael's life. I would whole heartedly read this book again and again and highly recommend it!

This debut novel by Laura Frantz is incredible and she can only get better from here. I am eagerly awaiting the arrival of her second novel, *Courting Morrow Little*. Laura Frantz has found herself a new fan!

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### **Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says**

This is a book that really touched my heart. It's an epic story spanning the years, a time of harsh struggles, where joy is found in simple and lovely things- a close friend, the beauty of nature, the excitement of dancing. Throughout the story as she grows into a young woman, Lael yearns to know and understand her own heart, and find peace. It's gentle, sobering, gritty, and realistic. I appreciated the historical details and I loved learning more about this time period and setting in our country's early history. Such a sweet romance as Lael grows and matures and gains faith to match her strength.

(I received a copy of the book in a giveaway; all opinions in this review are my own)

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