



The Memory Weaver

Jane Kirkpatrick

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Eliza Spalding Warren was just a child when she was taken hostage by the Cayuse Indians during a massacre in 1847. Now the young mother of two children, Eliza faces a different kind of dislocation; her impulsive husband wants them to make a new start in another territory, which will mean leaving her beloved home and her departed mother's grave--and returning to the land of her captivity. Eliza longs to know how her mother, an early missionary to the Nez Perce Indians, dealt with the challenges of life with a sometimes difficult husband and with her daughter's captivity.

When Eliza is finally given her mother's diary, she is stunned to find that her own memories are not necessarily the whole story of what happened. Can she lay the dark past to rest and move on? Or will her childhood memories always hold her hostage?

Based on true events, *The Memory Weaver* is *New York Times* bestselling author Jane Kirkpatrick's latest literary journey into the past, where threads of western landscapes, family, and faith weave a tapestry of hope inside every pioneering woman's heart. Readers will find themselves swept up in this emotional story of the memories that entangle us and the healing that awaits us when we bravely unravel the threads of the past.

The Memory Weaver Details

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From Reader Review The Memory Weaver for online ebook

Cheryl says

Based on a true story, The Memory Weaver focuses on the life of Eliza Spalding Warren whose parents were missionaries in the Oregon Territory in the mid 1800's. At the age of 10, Eliza was held hostage by the Cayuse Indians who had attacked and massacred many of the white people living at one of the missions. The horrific experience burned itself into Eliza's memory causing post traumatic stress disorder, and as she grew older, the consequences and memories affected her life.

This novel evokes a real sense of time and place as Eliza struggles to deal with her feelings of being a survivor.

Thank you to Goodreads first reads and Revell Publishing Group for the opportunity to read the advanced copy of this book.

Katie says

I've really struggled with what to rate this book. I requested it due to the theme and setting. I haven't read much about Native Americans and the missionary efforts to reach them and 1850s America.

Kirkpatrick did a wonderful job detailing life and conflicts during that time. She did her research and portrayed a wide view of the missionary efforts. However, it was a hard book to get into. I struggled to stay interested and to finish it. I didn't feel there was life to the story. I was looking for a realism and I did not get that.

Thanks to Netgalley and publishers for a copy of the book in exchange for my honest review.

Beth says

Despite the fact that Jane Kirkpatrick is a prolific inspirational historical fiction author, The Memory Weaver is my first read by her. After finishing this novel, I can easily see why she is a favorite in the genre, and I'm glad to have finally read one of her books. The first person narration, realistic historical detail and thought-provoking plot kept me engaged throughout the story. There are a lot of interesting details about daily pioneer life – I do not envy those homesteading in the 1850's. I don't often read many stories set during pioneer days, but the historical detail here was fascinating.

Eliza Warren is an intriguing character. Although at times I didn't agree with her choices, I could always empathize and understand why she made certain choices. Many of them also fit with the time period of the story. Women had few options at times, and though I am no historian, I have read stories both fiction and non-fiction where women are bound by the whims and wishes of their father and then later their husband. Eliza did have a certain amount of autonomy that many women of the time most likely didn't have, and that certainly adds an intriguing aspect to her character. There isn't a lot of fast-paced action, but rather it focuses on Eliza's life as a wife and mother, trying to come to terms with her past and let go of her worries of the

future.

Throughout Eliza's narrative, there are also sections of the journal of her mother, also named Eliza. The journal fills in some of the gaps of events that took place when Eliza the daughter was young and even before she was born, that help the reader understand the life she lived as a young child with her missionary parents. She still suffers from the traumatic flashbacks of a massacre that occurred at the settlement where her family lived and ministered to the Nez Perce. As Eliza begins reading her mother's own account and feelings after the tragedy, she realizes the faulty nature of her own memory.

This story brings up thought-provoking questions about how well a person can trust their memory, especially memories from childhood, and how each person has a different memory of the same event. My favorite part of this story is without a doubt the strides that Eliza makes as she comes to terms with new memories that have surfaced, along with confronting people from her past, who fill in gaps and bring revelation to the things that she had misinterpreted as a child. As shaped as she was by these traumatic events, she comes to realize that she can undo the harm that the false memories have done and create a new story, a true story.

Reader should not expect a romance here, but rather a realistic look at a marriage that might not have been the best match to begin with. At the time they meet, Eliza sees Henry as more of an escape – and though he might be charming, it's a hard lesson that charm doesn't mean much when things are tough. Though there were many times these characters frustrated me, I do feel that their interactions are genuine and realistic of how such a marriage might have been.

The Memory Weaver is a more layered tale about an often-times hard life, as well as the complex inner-life of Eliza. In the Author's Notes, Jane touches on how she hopes this story allows those shaped by tragic events to understand they are not alone, and no words can better sum up what she did in the telling of Eliza's story: "I'd like to add the power of story and grace are also avenues to peace." A traumatic event shaped the story of Eliza's life, but she finds peace when she allows herself to accept the grace that the true, weaved-together memories provide. With a character-driven plot, thorough historical details, and a strong faith message, I can easily recommend The Memory Weaver to readers who enjoy historical, inspirational fiction.

Erin says

Find this and other reviews at: <http://flashlightcommentary.blogspot....>

I owe my interest in Jane Kirkpatrick's The Memory Weaver to the artist who created the jacket. The contrasting colors caught my eye and while I wasn't overly enthusiastic over the premise, the imagery that graced the cover sparked something nostalgic in my imagination and prompted me to disregard any and all hesitation I felt regarding the material. Unfortunately for me, the narrative it concealed proved an uphill battle. I struggled with Kirkpatrick's style and tone from the first page to the last, I threw the book aside several times out of frustration, and more than once considered abandoning it altogether.

I understand the novel is inspired fiction, but I found Kirkpatrick's approach unabashedly preachy. I've said the same thing about a lot of Christian writers and I have been judged and openly harassed by many of their fans. I'm well aware that my opinions ruffle feathers, but I personally appreciate subtly and I'm not ashamed to admit it. I appreciate characters who live by their faith above those who shove it down everyone else's throats or play the ever-suffering martyr. It works for some, it just isn't a good fit for me.

I felt Kirkpatrick's interpretation of Eliza Spalding Warren almost identical to that of her mother, Eliza Hart Spalding and the lack of definition was incredibly annoying. The two share significantly similar names which caused confusion in and of itself, but the fact that the author failed to gift them individual voices amplified the issue tenfold.

I think the story would have been stronger if the author had abandoned the journal approach and told it from dual perspective of the Eliza and her mother before, during and after the massacre at Waiilatpu. I realize the author wanted to address family legacies and the dynamic between mother and daughter, but I didn't feel that angle had enough material to carry all three hundred and thirty six pages of this novel. It got lost in translation and didn't strike me as particularly compelling even when it shown through the events of Eliza and Andrew's marriage.

I don't know much about the Nez Perce, my knowledge base begins and ends with Chief Joseph, but I'm very familiar with Indian Country and sites such as Sand Creek, Washita, Wounded Knee and Little Bighorn and feel Kirkpatrick's effort shallowly representative of the complex history and culture of the native people. What little there is comes to the reader through Eliza who, in my opinion, possesses jarringly compassionate and modern ideas for someone who witnessed the 1847 Whitman massacre firsthand. Maybe it's just me, but I think the experience would have left her somewhat conflicted and felt Kirkpatrick's handling of the subject both superficial and unauthentic.

Atmospherically I've little to comment on. I've driven this part of the country more times than I can count and was disappointed that so little of it came to life under Kirkpatrick's pen. The characters also failed to impress and their emotional journeys didn't capture or captivate my imagination. Other reviewers have been mightily impressed with *The Memory Weaver*, and while I can appreciate varied opinions and tastes, I can't say I share in their admiration or delight.

Jennifer Leo says

Living in the Pacific Northwest, I took a special interest in Jane Kirkpatrick's new novel, *The Memory Weaver*, based on the true story of Eliza Spaulding, daughter of real-life missionaries Henry and Eliza Spaulding.

Background: The elder Spauldings, along with Marcus and Narcissa Whitman, made the arduous journey from New York to Oregon Territory in the 1830s with the goal of spreading Christianity among the Nez Perce Indians. (Eliza and Narcissa are said to have been the first white women to make that journey.) Upon arrival, the Spauldings settled in Lapwai, near present-day Lewiston, Idaho, while the Whitmans went on to what is now Walla Walla, Washington.

In 1847, a measles epidemic broke out where the Whitmans were serving. Lacking natural resistance to the disease, many Nez Perce died, and they resented Marcus Whitman for, as they saw it, giving preferential medical treatment to whites. That, combined with other simmering resentments toward the missionaries, boiled over into a massacre which killed the Whitmans and 12 other men. Eliza Spaulding witnessed the carnage, as she'd been attending a boarding school run by the Whitmans. She was taken hostage, but her life was spared, presumably because she spoke Nez Perce and could act as a translator.

The Memory Weaver opens a few years after these events have taken place. The Spauldings now live in Brownsville, Oregon Territory, where the widowed Henry Spaulding is a traveling preacher, his missionary

work having been shut down by the missions board in the wake of the massacre. Eliza, now thirteen, keeps house for the family and helps her father (a tough old bird with a significant mean streak) in his work. When she meets Andrew Warren, romance enters her young life, over her father's vehement objections.

The novel alternates between Eliza-the-daughter's first-person story, and the diary left by Eliza-the-mother. (These switches in point of view are not at all confusing. I had no trouble distinguishing one Eliza from the other.) As the younger Eliza grows to womanhood, experiences romance with Andrew, and faces life-changing decisions of her own, reading her mother's diaries gives her eye-opening insights into the truth about earlier events.

I found myself deeply engaged with both the characters and the story. Eliza has much to cope with, between her traumatic memories, her cold, demanding father, and the normal trials of adolescence and first love. The story is generously laced with Scripture and biblical themes, which are woven in quite naturally (but if Bible quotations offend you, you've been forewarned). And as a lover of history, I was fascinated by the details of missionary activity and daily life in the Oregon Territory. Highly recommended.

Disclosure: I've been given a review copy of this book by the publisher. This generosity, while appreciated, has not biased my review.

Jeanie says

The girl would remember that last solo ride with her mother: the sweep of the landscape, the scent of the flower and the horses, the sound of the Clearwater River chattering on its way to the faraway sea, and her mother's approving smile. She would weave those memories into what happened later, trying to make sense of those threads, praying they would support rather than threaten her own life as a woman, mother, and wife.

A true historical fiction on the life Eliza Spalding Warren during the 1800's as families were moving west. Her families were missionaries to the Indians and her mother was the first woman to make the trek across the North West Mountains. Eliza's account is told in her voice and her mother's diary. Each account woven with each other during different times of both mother and daughter, reflecting the special relationship that they shared and that was tragically cut off with the death of her mother while. When Eliza was quite young, she was taken hostage by the Indians and was a witness to a fear and evil. In reading historical accounts such as this, I always google and read the account for myself and was able to put a face with the word.

Eliza having lost control as a young girl with the Indians whom her family loved and served, feeling the betrayal of such a loss, her life reflected a life trying to control and fix things. Her relationship with her husband Andrew was sweet and endearing for they were such opposites but fit each other so well. Eliza comes to realize that controlling the people she loved and her circumstances was not working brought her a freedom to see the truth that she was seeking.

Some of the quotes I found inspiring.

We don't recall the detail in our stories, we remember the experience.

Blaming was a second language with him, one I hoped I wasn't learning. Finding fault was everything is tiring and breathes no hope of change.

They say we've lost our way, not brought sufficient heathens to the Lord, It was how they counted success, by numbers rather than how people changed their lives.

We saw the Nez Perce as people, not just heathens needing our Savior.

I loved the Christian theme as well without the preaching. It was Christian living lived out. That can be all the preaching anyone can hope for. You experience the pains of our young nation and the hard work of those before us. It is a book that is worth experiencing.

A Special Thank You to Goodreads Win, Revell, and Netgalley for the ARC and the opportunity to post an honest review.

Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower) says

Jane Kirkpatrick's newest novel is truly everything that makes historical fiction such a wonderful genre. Carefully researched and based on multiple accounts of true events, the book examines the life of Eliza Spalding - daughter of some of the earliest missionaries to the Nez Perce, survivor of a horrific attack that left 13 other people brutally murdered, and the first white child born in the Oregon Territory to survive.

The Memory Weaver may indeed be chock full of historical insight but it is certainly not a dull textbook! Kirkpatrick casts a fictional eye at Eliza's life and creatively fills in several gaps, including (most strikingly to me) the questions left between Eliza's account of her mother's death in 1851 and the sentence that followed it: "In 1854 I married Andrew Warren."

Though glimpses of romance dance throughout the story, this isn't the main focus. Instead, readers are swept up in a life that did in fact exist and taken with her on a journey that did in fact happen and, thanks to Jane Kirkpatrick's talented pen, we come to see Eliza and her friends and family as more than just a name on a page. She breathes, she cries, she laughs, she loves, she fears, she overcomes. This is the kind of story that makes me close the novel when I've read the last word, linger over it in my thoughts for a time, and then hunt down a text to find out more - to research the Spaldings and the Whitmans and the nightmare that changed everything for them all.

Kirkpatrick's writing skill peppers the book with lines that steal your breath at their poignancy, making even the most agonizing scene one of beauty and grace.

While not a light or easy read, The Memory Weaver is more than worth the investment. It is a book that will touch your heart in unexpected ways, full of characters who will do the same. The struggle of early missionaries and settlers sometimes gets lost in the romanticism of the time period, but readers won't find that to be the case here. Jane Kirkpatrick gives us an honest, emotional and grace-filled look inside a woman who lived - perhaps not happily ever after - but with great courage and grit and heart.

(I received a copy of this book in exchange for only my honest review.)

Anna says

Based upon the lives of the Spalding family who journeyed west to bring faith to the Nez Perce in the mid 1800's. Told through the voice of Eliza Spalding Warren and the diary entries of her mother, the struggles and triumphs of their history are revealed. Eliza grew up playing with the children of the Nez Perce, spoke their language and was loved and nurtured by her extended family. In a visit to the neighboring Whitman's mission, there is an attack by the Cayuse Indians, several people are murdered, and others are held hostage for several weeks. Eliza is among the captors, and speaking the language, she is enlisted as an interpreter. This experience scars the survivors, each finding ways to cope with the horrors they experienced. The memories haunt Eliza, causing difficulties in her relationship with her husband and father. She and fellow survivor, Nancy, help each other to cope. Time, faith and perseverance help Eliza to find peace within herself, and find forgiveness. The wisdom Eliza finds is found in the following quotes:

"But then every day is a day that starts a new life, that requires knitting and going back to pick up lost stitches."

"There was blame enough to go around, but also none to claim. Tragedies happened. People suffered. I was learning that it was what one did with the suffering that mattered."

What brave and heroic people who shaped our country, and willingly took a leap of faith to explore the unknown.

Christy says

While I'm still a fan of Jane Kirkpatrick The Memory Weaver was just difficult to read. The writing was as usual lovely but the story it-self evoked a most unlikeable group to care about. Young Eliza and her Andrew just made so many poor choices that I struggled to read through them. Henry the father wasn't much better. It was hard to read about the tunnel vision they all seemed to share about the Nez Perce Indians; it didn't come across as devotion but more of an obsession. Mother Eliza's diary added very little to the actual story; she read much like her husband and daughter. I think the vision was lost on me in this read. I was so aggravated by everyone besides the brother Henry Hart and Rachel and the sisters that I increasingly was ready for a close. On a side note I felt like the constant use of Young Eliza calling her husband Mr. Warren was distracting and did nothing to further my warmth of her character. I think Rachel the step-mother could have balanced this read with her point of view added to the Eliza's.

Kelvey says

I've got four words for you: Go read this book! I highly enjoyed *The Memory Weaver*, and I personally think that Jane Kirkpatrick is greatly talented. She is wonderful at weaving words in such a way that history comes alive in her characters.

The history behind the Spalding family has always fascinated me so I was very excited to dive into this particular book. However, I found it to be a slow-burner. Please don't get me wrong because even though it's slower, it's highly enjoyable. I think part of the reason it took me so long is the fact that I was slipping into a reading slump at the time.

The characters were great, and I loved the switch between Eliza and her mother's point of view—it fit very well.

The only thing I was disappointed about was the lack of Natives in this book. What I mean by that is: I wish we had a look at Eliza's captivity and the massacre. It was what I was expecting when I picked it up, but it doesn't really matter because I still enjoyed it nonetheless.

With all of that said, I'm going to give *The Memory Weaver* 5/5 stars!

If you would like to read more of my reviews, check out: <http://www.kelvreadsbooks.blog.com>

I was sent this book by the publisher for the purpose of this review. All opinions are my own. I was in no other way compensated for this review.

Jalynn Patterson says

About the Book:

Eliza Spalding Warren was just a child when she was taken hostage by the Cayuse Indians during a massacre in 1847. Now the young mother of two children, Eliza faces a different kind of dislocation; her impulsive husband wants them to make a new start in another territory, which will mean leaving her beloved home and her departed mother's grave--and returning to the land of her captivity. Eliza longs to know how her mother, an early missionary to the Nez Perce Indians, dealt with the challenges of life with a sometimes difficult husband and with her daughter's captivity.

When Eliza is finally given her mother's diary, she is stunned to find that her own memories are not necessarily the whole story of what happened. Can she lay the dark past to rest and move on? Or will her childhood memories always hold her hostage?

Based on true events, *The Memory Weaver* is New York Times bestselling author Jane Kirkpatrick's latest literary journey into the past, where threads of western landscapes, family, and faith weave a tapestry of hope inside every pioneering woman's heart. Readers will find themselves swept up in this emotional story of the memories that entangle us and the healing that awaits us when we bravely unravel the threads of the past.

My Review:

As a young girl, Eliza Spalding Warren was held hostage, during a massacre, by the Cayuse Indians. Her memories of those days haunt her day in and day out. The only person to console her was her mother, but now she too is gone. At thirteen, Eliza must take care of her three younger siblings and her grieving father. Her life seems to drone on and on, that is until she meets Mr. Andrew Warren. Being only nineteen, Mr. Warren has a deep understanding about life in general. Not only that he makes Eliza feel special, like she is the smartest girl in the world.

Now a wife to Mr. Warren and a mother of two, Eliza finds herself at a cross roads of sorts. Her dear husband, can be quite impulsive, but this time he is beyond crazy. He wishes to leave their home and head out to the place of Eliza's past captivity. Memories of those days hit her harder and stronger unlike ever before, as she prepares to make a journey to the land that haunts her, with two children in tow.

The Memory Weaver is an amazing novel, based on the 1800s. This book will have you captivated all the way from the first page on. Jane Kirkpatrick is an epic author, I just love every book she has written. She is one of my all time favorite authors. So when I had a chance to read this book, I knew it was going to be a crazy good one.

Disclosure This book was sent to me free of charge for my honest review from Revell.

Robin Willson says

Another wonderful Christian Historical by master story teller Jane Kirkpatrick, based on facts about American Indian missionaries Eliza and Henry Spalding, and their daughter Eliza. This is the story about the daughter - expanding on actual diaries and documents - mixed as Jane Kirkpatrick so skillfully does with faith and life wisdoms.

At the age of 10 young Eliza was among the hostages taken by the Cayuse, a traumatic event (including massacres) that took place for 39 days before the British paid the ransom for their release. Eliza was forced to be an interpreter, since she was the only one who spoke all the languages of the captors and hostages. This explores her life as she lives on after this tragedy, expected to act as an adult, and goes on to marry and raise children of her own.

The story of her relationship with her father, her husband and actual events in their lives is very interesting - growing up and still coping with memories of her early life. It's woven with excerpts from her mother's diary, sometimes showing that things were not always the way that she perceived them from her 10 year old vantage point. You can't help but be touched by the story of this strong woman of the 1800's and her story of survival.

From Eliza's mother's diaries:

"... suffering arrives when one longs for what is not and can never be again. "

And during her life among the Indians: "... she aided me in understanding that the way I saw the world was not the only way to see it. "

As stated by the author: "It's my hope that this story allows each of us shaped by tragic and painful events to see that we are not alone and that there is a way to weave new cloth."

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from the Baker Publishing Group, Revell Reads - Netgalley book review bloggers program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising".

<http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/wa...>

Carole Jarvis says

Reviewed at The Power of Words: <http://bit.ly/1JvKqPH>

For historical fiction that focuses on America's pioneer years, Jane Kirkpatrick is outstanding. The Memory Weaver is based on the true account of Eliza Spaulding, daughter of pioneer missionaries Henry and Eliza Spaulding, who ministered to the Nez Perce Indians. In Jane's capable hands, rich historical detail provides the backdrop for a narrative that beautifully conveys the hardships, emotions, commitment and sheer determination of these early missionaries and settlers to the Oregon Territory.

Jane has a way with words, evidenced in Eliza's opening line: "My earliest memory is of laughter inside a waterfall of words." I enjoy reading about historical figures, can't even begin to imagine all that they endured, and the young Eliza's character is developed with a depth that I found fascinating. As the title suggests, memory is key in this story, as Eliza, haunted by flashbacks, begins reading her mother's diaries and gradually pieces together memories of a massacre that she not only witnessed, but in which she was taken hostage. Eliza touched my heart when she said, "My shame is living when so many didn't."

I love these thought-provoking quotes that give not only a taste of Jane's writing style, but the overall feel of story as well:

Reflecting at her mother's graveside, Eliza says, "I didn't know then that the healing of old wounds comes not from pushing tragic memories away but from remembering them, filtering them through love, to transform their distinctive brand of pain."

Regarding her marriage to Warren: "I'd treat my marriage like Rachel's woodstove, working hard to keep the fire going, not too hot and not too cold, making sure the damper was closed so no outside winds could buffet or send a flame across the floor to burn things up."

And this is especially true: "Every day is a day that starts a new life, that requires knitting and going back to pick up lost stitches."

The Memory Weaver is not a fast-paced narrative, but rather an in-depth look at Eliza Spaulding's memorable life and the wonderful ministry of her family. Recommended to all who enjoy historical fiction.

Thank you to Revell for providing a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Nora St Laurent says

I read from the back of the book in author notes first. I also found the author interview with Jane Kirkpatrick informative. They helped to bring a depth and clarity to this true story I wouldn't have otherwise. The author gives a glimpse into this tragedy from a different angle than other writers.

This author wanted to explore the daughter's life and make it the focal point of this novel. Jane says, "There had never been an exploration of Eliza the child as an interpreter during the Whitman tragedy." ..."Novels are meant to move people, to bring emotion to the surface and enable us to see our lives in new ways. To paraphrase French writer Marcel Proust, "The real journey of discovery is not in seeking new landscape but in seeing with new eyes. I wanted to show Eliza's journey toward seeing with new eyes."..."A novel allows one to speculate about the why and how one felt regarding an incident..."

I had never heard of the Whitman tragedy. I learned about this event up-close and personal. The author is brilliant at weaving the mother's diary entries and the daughter's first person POV to create a heart-felt, compelling and fascinating way to learn about this historical event. This is a journey filled with challenges, survivors and a sense of hope. I liked how the author explores our memories in this tragic event. She says, "...What we remember isn't always the way it actually, factually was and that new stories can transform our wounds and old shames, weave new memories that nourish."

I found this statement and subject illuminating. I hadn't thought of this before. This author does a great job of revealing a dark past and give renewed hope for a bright future in this novel. I love the deep faith that is

portrayed through her characters, who in spite of the unbearable circumstances they are in, find peace. If you like historicals you'll love this story.

Disclosure of Material Connection: #AD Sponsor

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising"

Nora St Laurent

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Book Fun Magazine www.bookfunmagazine.com

The Book Club Network blog www.psalm516.blogspot.com

Shannah Mauney says

This is the first book I've read in a long time. I was in a little bit of a reading slump, and then I had a lot going on in my personal life. I just didn't have time to read. I think this book is going to be the gateway for me to get back into reading. I really enjoyed the story. It's written like the pages of a diary from Eliza's point of view. At times, I was a little confused as to what was going on, but I think it's because the first half of the story was read in little bits and pieces at a time by me. To fully enjoy the beauty of this narrative, I think I would have had to read bigger chunks at a time. Read my full review:

<http://faithlovebooks.blogspot.com/20...>
