



## Love's Fortune

*Laura Frantz*

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## **Love's Fortune** Laura Frantz

Sheltered since birth at her Kentucky home, Rowena Ballantyne has heard only whispered rumors of her grandfather Silas's vast fortune and grand manor in Pennsylvania. When her father receives a rare letter summoning him to New Hope, Rowena makes the journey with him and quickly finds herself in a whole new world--filled with family members she's never met, dances she's never learned, and a new side to the father she thought she knew. As she struggles to fit in during their extended stay, she finds a friend in James Sackett, the most valued steamship pilot of the Ballantynes' shipping line. Even with his help, Rowena feels she may never be comfortable in high society. Will she go her own way . . . to her peril?

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## **Love's Fortune Details**

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Author : Laura Frantz

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# From Reader Review Love's Fortune for online ebook

## Joleen says

[Wren is a free spi

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## Beth says

Inspirational historical fiction doesn't get any better than a Laura Frantz novel, and Love's Fortune is no exception. Frantz's novels are my favorite for two important reasons – the rich historical details and the gradually-built, tension-filled romance. Her characters are always memorable and their motivations realistic. After getting to know the Ballantyne's over the course of their three novels, I was sad to say goodbye to them, but utterly satisfied with the conclusion of their story.

With Wren Ballantyne, Frantz seemed to take the things I most loved about Eden and Ellie, and place them realistically into Wren's character. Wren was raised in Kentucky, so her southern speech and unpretentious manner set her apart from her Pennsylvania family. Though sheltered and naïve, much like her grandmother Eden was as a girl, she still has a spark of defiance, but also desire to make her father proud and be worthy of the Ballantyne legacy. Though matter of fact about her duties as a Ballantyne, Wren can't help but yearn for something more for her life, and yet, she knows that isn't to be found in wealth and excess.

The plot in this story isn't filled with action, but rather focuses on the family dynamics and issues of the time. Frantz is particular about what details she chooses to impart, but for me, it is the perfect amount of setting description and historical detail. I loved the atmosphere that she created in the novel, and it's clear that she does extensive research into the time period and setting. Wherever I "was" in the story, I was truly immersed. I loved the details about steamships as a mode of transport, and felt the sting of the rapidly increasing progress of the railroad predicted to overtake it. I never would have thought that I would find a noble steamship captain within these pages, but Captain James Sackett was the epitome of understated gentleman. Though I don't think any Frantz hero will top Silas Ballantyne (sigh!), James certainly held his own.

Obviously a historical romance wouldn't be complete without that romantic element, and Love's Fortune happens to have one of the most tension-filled kiss scenes I've read in a long time. Laura Frantz just proves once again that longing and desire can be communicated in such a beautiful way. She also focused a bit on some of the side characters, and since their story was tied up with Wren's, it added a lot to the story. The ending was spot-on for the story and so fitting to Wren's character. The Ballantyne Legacy is a wonderful trilogy and is on my keeper shelf. I will definitely be re-reading them and am eagerly waiting for whatever story Laura's pens next.

I loved Wren Ballantyne's simple, heartfelt prayer: "For all that Thy love has yet in store for me, O God, I give Thee gracious thanks."

5 stars!

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## Jennifer says

I'm sad to say that this book was disappointing. While I enjoyed the historical backdrop, the dual povs, seeing characters from previous books again, and the engaging writing, the MCs failed to compel me in any way. There was also a big grey cloud of melancholy hanging over this entire book and it was definitely a downer. The h spends more than half of the book being ungrateful and feeling sorry for herself. Her father, Ansel, a favourite character of mine from the previous book, was frustratingly absent, and the H's inner monologue was just depressing. And all of his issues were confusing to me as the author couldn't pick one to focus on. He wasn't the same class as the h. He was a man with a target on his back. His vocation was dangerous and he could be blown up to bits at any time. Any of those reasons would have been compelling had the author merely made one of them the H's main concern. As it was written, his hang ups were a little schizophrenic. Add to that the villains of this story (not true villains, but merely selfish/tunnel visioned people) were too single faceted to be believable. Bennett and Aunt Andra didn't seem to have any redeeming qualities and therefore read like caricatures.

The angst was annoying, due to lack of communication or the mantra of society at that time: people of good breeding don't talk about anything important such as politics, religion, money, or feelings. That, unfortunately, lead to a lot of misunderstandings and relationships that had to be saved by eleventh hour declarations. The h's ill treatment of one of her suitors was also wrong. It rubbed me the wrong way that the author let the situation with him go as far as it did. I didn't love that character, but he deserved better than what she did to him. The endings that the author wrote to tie up the various story lines were rushed and a bit inelegant. I appreciate that she wanted us to know what ultimately happened with all the characters, but it was almost better not knowing. I know...it's weird that I don't want to know every thing.

Overall, I'm glad this series is over. If this had not been the last book, I would have been bothered by the fact that there was more story to read but I had chosen not to. I will be more careful in choosing to read this author's books in the future. It seems like most of her books have a sad bent to them without a sufficient counterbalance of encouraging times.

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## Loraine says

**SUMMARY:** Sheltered since birth at her Kentucky home, Rowena Ballantyne has heard only whispered rumors of her grandfather Silas's vast fortune and grand manor in Pennsylvania. When her father receives a rare letter summoning him to New Hope, Rowena makes the journey with him and quickly finds herself in a whole new world--filled with family members she's never met, dances she's never learned, and a new side to the father she thought she knew. As she struggles to fit in during their extended stay, she finds a friend in James Sackett, the most valued steamship pilot of the Ballantynes' shipping line. Even with his help, Rowena feels she may never be comfortable in high society. Will she go her own way . . . to her peril?

With her signature attention to historical detail, Laura Frantz brings 1850s Pennsylvania alive with a tender story of loss, love, and loyalty. Fans will cheer for this final installment of the Ballatnye saga.

**REVIEW:** First and foremost I must say I hate to see this series end and definitely could see how it could be continued from where the author ended it. Once again with finesse and great attention to historical detail, Frantz has penned a historical romance that bring the time period to life. From rich heiresses who must ply the social scene (including all the proper rules and constrictions) to find a husband before they are considered

placed on the shelf to the tension between the pro-slavery people and the abolitionists, each page is filled with history come to life.

There are characters to love and watch grow, develop and strengthen in their faith (Rowena, James, Silas) and there are characters who will fill you with dislike (Audra, Bennett, Elspeth) But their disparities are what makes this tale come alive and feel so real.

The detail in the plot regarding the society of the that period makes the reader appreciate the good changes time has brought to the role of women in society.

I did feel the ending was wrapped up rather abruptly after all the tension and build up. It almost could have been written to leave the reader hanging and continued on to one more book to conclude some of the story lines.

#### FAVORITE QUOTES:

"For all that Thy love has yet in store for me, O God, I give Thee gracious thanks.

"Love was a chancy endeavor, best left to two hearts and the Lord."

"Somehow amid the pressures and protocols of business and society, he'd stop listening. stopped responding, stopped taking the gospel to heart."

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#### **Jamie says**

(It really needs to be 3.5, but Goodreads hates away at .5 ratings)

Guess what? It's release day for Laura Frantz' latest and final installment of the The Ballantyne Legacy series! Happy release day Laura! Now let's dive right in shall we?

As Frantz has the ability to do, she paints a story that flows with each page. As with the previous installments in the story, besides the romance of the main characters, it's a story of family. I think that's one thing I appreciated most about this novel. With grandparents, children and grandchildren, many take their own path, no matter what influence they had growing up. For better or worse, there's ripples that span generations. I liked that Frantz portrayed a realistic picture of that.

Wren and James have a sweet story as well and I enjoyed seeing each character grow and change. I did think the ending came rather quickly and I wish there would have been a few more chapters to see that all pan out and not as rushed. It was a change of pace from the rest of the novel, so I don't think I was prepared for it to end so quickly. I still enjoyed it though!

If you liked the first two, you're a fan of Laura Frantz, enjoy a sweet romance or all of the above, then I think you'll enjoy this final conclusion.

Have you read Laura's books before? If so, what's your favorite one?

(I was provided a copy of the book by Revell Books in exchange for my honest opinion)

### **Staci says**

Wren's story was an enjoyable journey. It was also rewarding to get updated on characters from the prior Ballantyne novels.

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### **Megan says**

4.5 stars

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### **Joy W. Doering says**

This book is everything I hoped it would be and more. What better way to end the Ballantyne Legacy series than with a sweet story that covers three generations, giving you a connection to the characters you knew and loved before, while not diminishing the individual journey of Rowena "Wren" Ballantyne and braw James Sackett. I will confess I am a "Frantz-natic" but all that aside, I simply loved this book. Who can't relate to having their world turned upside down? What happens when home and everything good and familiar is taken away, and the unknown looms like the dark churning waters of the Ohio river? What happens when someone we love betrays us? When we are cut so deeply that the only way to survive is to move on- never forgetting the wound- never forgetting the love.

I fell in love with Wren and her simple, honest heart. Her passion for life is contagious. I fell in love with James (not hard, honestly ;D ) and his loyalty- deep & strong like the river currents he navigates. I fell in love with Silas and Eden, and Ellie and Jack all over again.

The melody of Love's Fortune will play on in your heart long after you've turned the last page, lingering like the sweet, whistled song of a wren. You don't want to miss this delightful final chapter of The Ballantyne Legacy.

\*I was given a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. All the thoughts, opinions, and views expressed here are entirely my own, and in no way influenced by Revell Publishing, or anyone affiliated with this book.\*

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### **Brittany says**

Love's Fortune is the third book in the Ballantyne Legacy series. If you have not read the previous books, I encourage you to do so simply because Love's Reckoning and Love's Awakening are beautifully written and contain characters who have stayed with me, long after I returned the books to my bookshelf. Love's Fortune can now be placed in that same category...with characters who were able to burrow into my heart for keeps.

Rowena "Wren" Ballantyne is a character that I could not help but love. Her parents raised and sheltered her in a small Kentucky town. In Love's Fortune, Wren finds herself dropped into a large, powerful family and

all of the society trappings she is unfamiliar with. Wren's sweet and loving nature are evident in this book. The choices she makes, some of them naïve, are usually to help someone she cares for.

James Sackett, successful steamboat pilot and employee for Silas Ballantyne, knows that he owes his successes to the Ballantyne family. It takes a while for him to recognize God's hand in his life experiences. He is brooding at times and feels unworthy of desiring Wren as a wife. This inner turmoil makes him an excellent hero for the novel. Sometimes there is nothing better than a man with a sacrificial heart toward a heroine, wanting what he feels is best for her.

The tension between these two is great. I really liked their personalities and loved the portions of the book when they were in each other's company. The ending of the novel is sweet, satisfying, and beautifully written.

My thanks to the author and Revell for the complimentary copy of this book in exchange for an honest review, which I have given.

You can read this review on my blog at:  
<http://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.co...>

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## **Renee says**

Guys, you know if you've visited my blog at any given time, you can find a post about romance. Be it in book form or a movie or TV miniseries, I'm pretty much addicted to a good love story. There's a reason why Laura Frantz is one of my favorite writers. It's not because she pens good romances, it's because she pens epic, unforgettable, heart-tugging, amaaaazing romances.

Since I first read *The Frontiersman's Daughter* way back when, I'm beginning to think that nobody knows the frontier better than Frantz! While *Love's Fortune* isn't set in the frontier, but rather in the burgeoning industrial city of mid-19th century Pittsburgh, it still had an air of wildness and unpredictability about it. Living in the city with its dank back alleyways and cloying puffs of smoke was equally as dangerous as the woods of Kentucky and Laura Frantz deftly brings both to life.

As with any of her stories, amid the daring and danger, the sweet, gentle romance manages to weave its way into your heart. This time there's not just one love story, but a pair between two couples you can't help but root for. A few times the gentlemen in the story were frustrating to the point of asking for a smack from this reader to prod them in the right direction, but what's a good book if you don't feel passionately about the characters in it? The entire Ballantyne Legacy series has been full of characters who are easy to relate to and authentic. If you've enjoyed the previous two books, you will more than likely love this tale and wish it wasn't the last book in the series!

~ My Rating: 5 out of 5 stars ~

\*I receive complimentary books for review from publishers, publicists, and/or authors. I am not required to write positive reviews. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.\*

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## Alyssa says

{About the Book}

Sheltered since birth at her Kentucky home, Rowena Ballantyne has heard only whispered rumors of her grandfather Silas's vast fortune and grand manor in Pennsylvania. When her father receives a rare letter summoning him to New Hope, Rowena makes the journey with him and quickly finds herself in a whole new world--filled with family members she's never met, dances she's never learned, and a new side to the father she thought she knew. As she struggles to fit in during their extended stay, she finds a friend in James Sackett, the most valued steamship pilot of the Ballantynes' shipping line. Even with his help, Rowena feels she may never be comfortable in high society. Will she go her own way . . . to her peril?

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{My Review}

I have so many people telling me this series is so amazing and I have to try it. Well, as an avid fan of Historical Romance I thought to give it a shot. It was an okay read at best. The writing was good to a point and odd at other times. This isn't a series I'll be continuing.

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## Charity Andrews says

There are only a handful of authors that I adore enough to pre-order their books and read them right away. Laura Frantz is absolutely one of those. Her knowledge of American history is astounding and beautiful. She is so passionate about history and authenticity that she writes her manuscripts in longhand first.

Love's Fortune is the last book in a The Ballantyne Legacy Trilogy. This book revolves around Wren Ballantyne. Raised in the wilds of Kentucky during the early 1800's, she is wild, free and has no aspirations towards wealth and title. She is sent to live in Pittsburgh with her wealthy grandparents and must learn to become a gentile woman while finding a husband. She is thrown into the path of two exceptional gentlemen and must choose what it is she really wants in life.

Of course, I am sad to see the series end. However, I do look forward to seeing what Laura has next! I am giving this a rare 5 Stars because history is so beautifully intertwined with great storytelling.

Thanks so much, netgalley.com, for this book in return for an honest review. Here's to many more!!!

[www.aTransparentMom.blogspot.com](http://www.aTransparentMom.blogspot.com)

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## **Brooke Barenfanger says**

Breathtaking and intoxicating. Surely there are other words to describe Laura's writings, but I can think of no others at the moment. The moment I met Wren Ballantyne—Silas and Eden Ballantyne's granddaughter—I knew I would love her. Her personality, I felt, was similar to Eden's. Wren was sweet, innocent, and unpretentious.

Wren's love interest was James Sackett, an old friend of her father's. I could not help but admire and like James from the very beginning. He had a certain aura of authority about him that I do not find in other male characters in books I read. The thing about this author is that she doesn't tell it so much as show it. She means every word she writes and every detail adds either beauty or reinforcement to her characters and theme. I enjoy the way Laura adds heart-rending desperation to her stories. It draws the reader in unequivocally. Every time I read one of Laura's books, I sigh at the end, sorry that it's over.

I really like how this trilogy carries through three generations. It allows for new characters to be created, though the much-loved old ones will still be at least somewhat present in the story. Seeing what Laura has done with this series, I cannot wait for her next novel. Whatever it will be about, I know that it will be wonderful.

I give Love's Fortune 5 out of 5 stars.

\*I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publishers, for my honest review, which I have given. The opinions expressed in this review are mine and mine alone.\*

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## **Michelle says**

I have read all of the books in this series but this one might just be my favorite. While you could read the books apart from each others, since it is a family, I recommend starting at the first book.

This book grabbed me and sucked me in until the end, I don't think I ever set it down. Rowena or Wren is a great character and I loved reading about her life. Her attitude with life and simple ways make this book so much better. James is also a great lead male character. He is smart and not an over the top hero type. Laura has made all of her characters realistic with real problems but creates a beautiful story continuing on the Ballantyne legacy.

I loved the setting and getting to imagine being on a steamship. Silas and Eden are also strongly in the story line which I also enjoyed. Wren struggles with living in high society and she has to decide if she wants to marry as a business transaction, for love, or perhaps go her own way.

This is a sweeping story of family and love-beautifully written.

Highly recommend this book and the rest of the series!

Watch a video on how the cover was made!

"I received this book from Revell for free in exchange for an honest review."

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### **Shantelle says**

Exquisite. Enthralling. Laura Frantz pens yet another novel rich with emotion, beauty, and historical depth.

Book three in the Ballantyne Legacy series, *Love's Fortune* delves into the life of Rowena (Wren) Ballantyne, who lives a simple existence in Kentucky with her father, Ansel. Though missing her mother, she loves her home. Then everything changes with a letter from her father's family... family she scarcely remembers. Grandfather Silas and Grandmother Eden Ballantyne. Uncle Jack and Aunt Ellie Turlock. As Wren is thrust into Pittsburgh high society, she's in danger of losing not only her heart, but also herself, in the web of schemes some of her own relatives create.

Meanwhile, things are heating up in America as a whole. Rumors of war are whispered of. Anti-abolitionists are growing more bold and vicious; a grand problem for steamship pilot James Sackett, who secrets slaves to freedom from the Ballantynes' shipping line.

Not much is as it seems, yet love remains...

Each time I pick up one of Laura Frantz's books, it feels kind of like meeting up with an old friend, yet going on a fresh adventure all at the same time. She writes with such a captivating charm, it's so easy to get lost in her sentences; in the simplistic wilderness of Kentucky, the intrigues of Pittsburgh, the homeyness of Scotland. Her characters are not easily forgotten. The gentle and quiet spirits of the women always delight me afresh... their innocence, sweetness, inner strength... it seems you seldom find that in novels these days. The love stories are always so deep and heartfelt. I especially noticed that in *Love's Fortune*, of Wren's romance. It tugged at my heartstrings for sure! :)

I really appreciated the faith elements of this novel. They were woven in so flawlessly, yet so fully. I saw growth in both Wren and some of the other characters' lives, and it was beautiful.

There was sort of four main characters in *Love's Fortune*. Rowena Ballantyne. Her cousin, Izannah Turlock. James Sackett. And Malachi Cameron. Both men are acquainted with the Ballantynes and Turlocks. It was a little different following the lives of four characters, I don't think Laura Frantz did that in her other novels; yet it didn't take away from the book. It was sweet to watch Izannah's story unfold additionally.

I don't know what else to say without revealing parts of the story that I shouldn't! :) I very much enjoyed *Love's Fortune*. It was lovely really, with fascinating history, intriguing plots, heart-melting romance, beautiful characters, and just flawless writing.

I heard somewhere that *Love's Fortune* is the last book of the Ballantyne Legacy series (coming after *Love's Reckoning* and *Love's Awakening*). That saddens me... :( However, it was a satisfying and beautiful conclusion to the series.

In any case, I eagerly await Laura Frantz's next release, whatever that may be! Let's hope it comes soon, anyway! :)

*I received a copy of Love's Fortune from Revell in exchange for my honest review.*

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