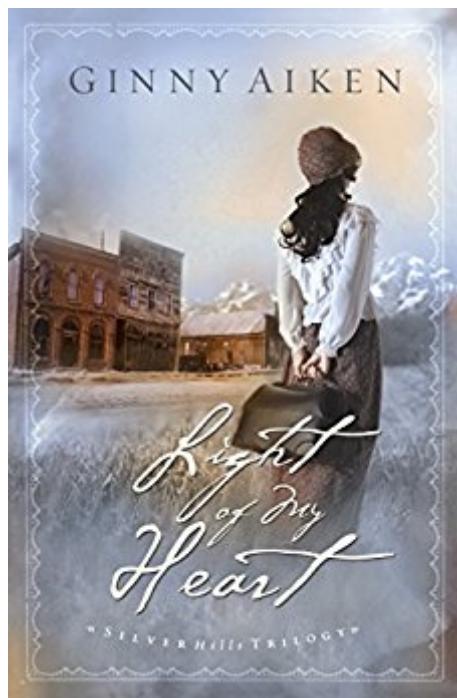


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Light Of My Heart (Silver Hills Trilogy Book #1)



Synopsis

Dr. Letitia Morgan comes to Hartville, Colorado, in the late 1800s to follow her God-given calling to heal. Soon she becomes Hartville's ministering angel, reaching out to the children of the town drunk, and skillfully touching all who need her. But not everyone warms to the lovely new physician and Letty ruffles plenty of feathers when she takes on Hartville's thriving brothels. As she rescues first one then another young girl forced into the sordid trade, Letty becomes the target of some of the town's most powerful people. Eric Wagner, Hartville's newspaper editor, finds he got much more than he bargained for when he brought this female doctor to town. As Letty stirs more controversy with each passing day, he wonders if he can save the noble-minded doctor from herself. This is heart-warming and engaging fiction at its best, straight from the pen of a skilled storyteller.

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Customer Reviews

This book was OK, until I got to the passage where the famous suffragist, Susan B Anthony, came to give a lecture in the town. The author presents her as being a proponent of "free love" and opined that she "hated men", neither of which were true. In the 1890s, Anthony was in her 70s and her sole

focus at that time was promoting the right of women to vote. The author confused Anthony with free love advocate, Victoria Woodhull, with whom Anthony was acquainted, but she did not share Woodhull's views, knowing that such views would distract people from her main goal of achieving the right to vote for women. If the author wanted to use the free love angle as a vehicle to draw Eric and Letty closer together, she should have used Victoria Woodhull as the lecturer, rather than writing untrue things about Anthony. Anthony never married, but it wasn't because she never had a chance to marry or hated men. Back in the 19th century, a married woman had a legal status little different from that of a child - she could not sign any contracts, she had no right to her own wages if she worked outside the home - such wages were paid directly to her husband, nor could most women expect much help with their children. Because she made gaining a woman's right to vote her life goal, she sacrificed her own personal happiness in order to devote her life to the cause, because a single woman had more rights than a married woman at the time. She could sign contracts, own her own wages, and act for herself legally and in public, without having to first gain her husband's permission. She was able to book lecture halls, have time to write books and to lecture, and so on. She also loved children, and often helped to care for fellow suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton's children, so that Cady Stanton could write, too. Though the story was interesting, it disturbed me to see Susan B Anthony portrayed in such an untrue fashion.

Raised by a 'proper' mother and a doctor father Letty chooses to follow in her father's footsteps and go to medical school. Unheard of for a female. Unnatural according to her mother. Unable to find acceptance, as a doctor or as a woman, Letty struggles to stay ahead in Philadelphia and during a visit to her old medical school discovers a letter that leads to a new path and a new future for Doctor Morgan. Moving halfway across the country to Hartville Colorado at the request of the town for a woman doctor. Of course girl meets boy and is smitten. Boy meets girl and is smitten. However, boy is still drowning in his own grief and self pity that despite all the feelings will not accept his, or her, feelings and attempts to stifle them. And attempts to thwart them. And attempts to push her away. Mired in her own self pity girl can't decide whether to pursue or leave town. After she tries to save the world. And he tries to stop that at every step as well. Oh the tangled webs we weave when we attempt to deceive ourselves. That's ultimately what it all boils down to. Eric Wagner has his own demons, his own battles and his own self deceptions. Having lost his wife and child tragically he writes to find a female doctor for their booming town. What he expected is no where near what he received. He also never expected to develop feelings for the new doctor. Letty Morgan expected to meet the newspaper man who wrote and his wife. She had long before given up the idea that she

could be a doctor and have a family. That didn't stop her from developing feelings for Eric. However, please do not be drawn to the idea that this book is only about feelings and falling for each other. There's oh so much more to talk about. Letty's life focus on her calling to minister to the sick. Not just through medicine but also through her faith in God. When confronted with the fact that there are young women, read teenagers, working in the brothels she is focused on rescuing them for a better life. Many in town are not OK with Letty putting herself into the position to spend them with these girls. Eric included. He is convinced that if he can find another way to close the brothels, and jail the women, then he can save her from herself. Save her practice and her reputation. Through all the ups and downs of their battle of wills the friendship grows stronger. But Eric can't just let the past be the past. So many times in this story I wanted to yell at both of them. What is it with the books I choose here lately and the inability of the characters to communicate with each other. And my need, desire, want, to yell at them. The urge to fix it for them. When they both stopped being so hard-headed and self-absorbed they were able to communicate. When they both stopped lying to themselves they were able to communicate. And when they started communicated...life was grand. Parts of the story dragged for me. Parts of the story felt rushed. All in all though the author did an amazing job of creating two strong characters that I became invested in and want to read more about in the next installment of this series.

This author wrote how the mining towns probably were. Dr. Letitia Morgan has worked hard to become part of the medical profession. In the east she is not allowed to practice due to prejudice against female doctors. She secures a position in a mining community in Colorado where she will be allowed to only treat children and women. There is a medical male doctor who will take care of the men. She uses the natural methods of homeopathy treatment with practiced knowledge she learned from not only school but from her father. Erik Wagner owns the newspaper in Hartville, Colorado, and has taken on the responsibility of finding care for the wives and mothers of this mining town. Because of the death of his wife and son during childbirth, he has lost touch with God and his faith. This is a story you will long remember because not only are there problems in the community but there is the challenging trip for Erik to find God and peace in his life. There is no sensual scenes in this book; only some kissing. The Patterson children grabbed my heart in the storyline and I loved them to the end of the book.

A female physician in the early years of the country's history braved ridicule, fear and bias. Letty received her training in Philadelphia following in her own father's footsteps. Because of the bias,

female physicians received her patients were the indigent and homeless people of the area. Knowing she could not support herself in Philadelphia, she takes a chance on traveling to the west after finding an advertisement for a women doctor that is needed. When Letty arrives she sees the plight of young orphaned female children forced into unsavory situations as a way to help them. Unfortunately the towns wealthier population does not agree with her helping anyone but their class of people. The towns newspaper owner Eric tries to stop her from damaging her reputation even as he respects her choice to help the less fortunate. This story could be a wake up call for some people.

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