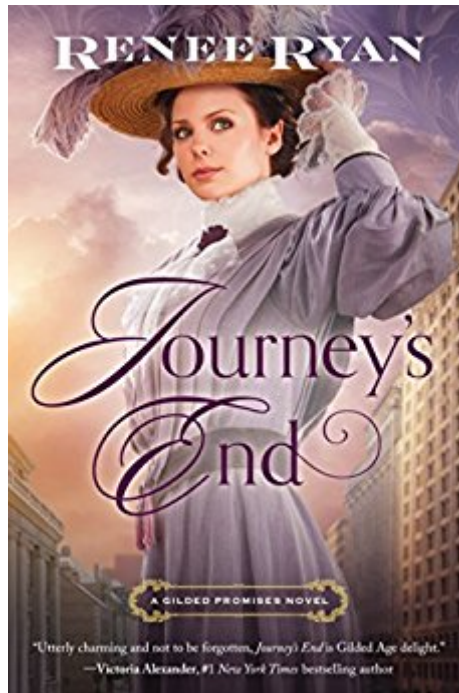




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Journey's End (Gilded Promises)



Synopsis

Having grown up on the mean streets of nineteenth-century London, Caroline St. James is used to fighting to survive. So when her beloved mother is abandoned and ignored by her wealthy family and suddenly dies, the scrappy twenty-two-year-old devises a plan to right this terrible wrong. With nothing to lose, she sails to New York to find the man who turned a cold shoulder to her mother's suffering: Caroline's grandfather. To settle the family score, Caroline infiltrates her grandfather's privileged world, hoping to sabotage his business from the inside. But as she sets her plot in motion, she meets Jackson Montgomery, a virtuous man who is struggling to recover from a family scandal of his own. As their friendship grows, and Caroline begins to piece together the motives that led her family to turn its back, she is forced to make a decision: Should she risk everything in the name of justice? Or can she look toward the future and let love and forgiveness guide her instead?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Another month, another Kindle First choice to make. I normally stay away from historical fiction, but

this book looked to be the best choice- the descriptions of the others turned me off completely. The heroine, Caroline is so likeable- you can picture her as the street-wise urchin in London she once was. But at the same time she is elegantly taking on her new family, her grandfather's partner and the social scene in New York. This is an emotional story about forgiveness and love. I will be reading the rest of the series as they come out.

Renee Ryan has crafted a beautifully written story that is both heartwarming and inspiring. Her heroine, Caroline St. James, is a strong woman determined to right a terrible wrong. She travels from England to America to seek justice. The Gilded Age in New York City comes alive in Ms. Ryan's deft hands. I've been to Ellis Island and done tours of the tenements in the Bowery. I was transported back in time to those places as well as to the homes of New York's privileged. Jackson Montgomery was the perfect man for Caroline, strong and virtuous, but with family secrets of his own. I found myself cheering for Caroline and Jackson as they slowly opened up to one another and learned to deal with their past hurts. This inspirational romance is not a "preachy" book, it is a wonderful story about love and the power of forgiveness. If you're a fan of the Gilded Age or simply looking for a romance that will make you want to sigh with happiness when you read that last page, *Journey's End* is for you!

Many of the flaws of this novel have been gone over by other reviewers, so I just have this to say: I was hoping that the strong and interesting woman introduced at the beginning would be the one to tackle the challenges she'd brought with her, but that woman disappeared the moment she set eyes on the hero, becoming pretty much a swooning flower from then on, emotionally and sometimes even physically at the mercy of the vagaries of all the other characters. As for the hero, he was the most unwelcome presence in the entire tale, a busybody so taken with himself that he believed he had license to confront her about everything, intruding into her business and even personal space whenever the mood struck him, which seemed to be every time he showed up. It was very unpleasant, and not mitigated by a "romance" that never rang true. And let me say this about the "inspirational" aspect: it felt grafted on and was, to all intents and purposes, pointless. The characters and tale could have commenced and proceeded perfectly well without it.

When I got this as a kindle first, I didn't realize it was what I'd classify as a romance novel. She is soooooo beautiful; he is soooooo handsome. They are so very attracted to one another, but for reasons of their own fight against destiny in an attempt to deny their feelings. The story is written

from an unabashedly Christian perspective, which is fine, but I prefer the more subtle style of Shelley Adina's steampunk mysteries. In short, if you like romance, and you prefer virtuous characters, this is an excellent choice for you.

If you cut out all the repeated monologues about Jackson being a man of duty and honor and Carolina being clever and sharp (we never see either of these things in action or even see her use her rain man skills) this book would be a one third as long and twice as readable. I'm also really tired of romance novels with a flimsy excuse for the main characters not to be together that you're supposed to consider a plot point when said ridiculous reason is removed. 2 stars for an interesting concept, minus 3 for execution. Also, I enjoy a good inspirational book, but the religious message is shoehorned in and shallow in this book. It's basically "I didn't believe in God until everything worked out great in my life" Try Francine Rivers if you want a book with believable dialogue and a meaningful message.

A wonderful book!! I will be reading the rest of the series as soon as they come out. The best part to me was there was NO cliffhanger, it had an ending! I'm so tired of reading books that leave you hanging.

I sort of liked it. Got it as a Kindle First. Would not have got it if I had seen Christian faith-based book anywhere in the description. Would have preferred not reading author-selected scripture throughout the story. It was slow and sometimes repetitive. Probably not too realistic of turn of the century times when it got into the business parts of the story. The end dragged out for me.

I should caveat that I don't like romance novels as a genre, so am perhaps less forgiving than I would be for genres I like. I ordered this book as a Kindle First selection and thought it would be a fun historical novel with an interesting mystery twist. In fact, it was so poorly written that I could barely get through half of it. On top of incredibly clichéd writing, the writer can't decide what her characters believe, think, or are motivated by. They change their minds constantly, which I think is meant to evoke that classic romance novel push-pull of attraction for someone unsuitable, but just makes these characters seem like they have personality disorders. This writer used exceptionally banal adjectives throughout the whole book which was incredibly distracting and made it difficult to focus on the plot (as thin as the plot was). Ultimately I think the bad writing was the biggest problem with this book. I didn't get far enough in to find the religious subtext, but I'm sure that would have

been another reason to put the book down and move on.

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