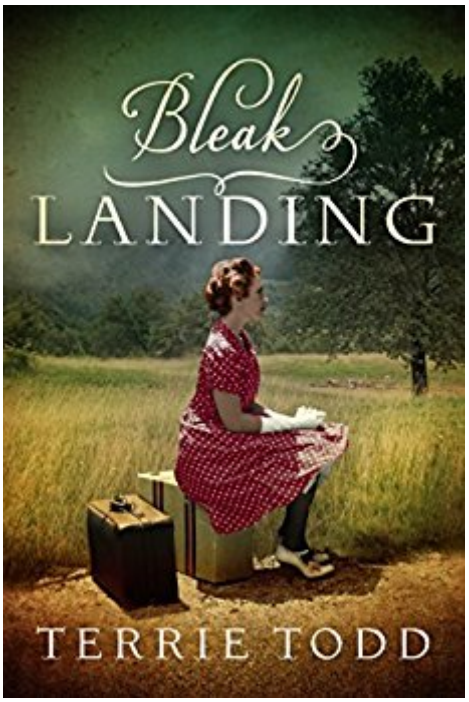
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Bleak Landing



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Synopsis

In the dead-end Canadian town of Bleak Landing, twelve-year-old Irish immigrant Bridget OÃ¢â ¬â„¢Sullivan lives in a ramshackle house and dreams of another life, even as the Great Depression rages. Routinely beaten by her father and bullied by schoolmate Victor Harrison, the waifish yet fiery redhead vows to run away and never return. Just a few short years later, run she doesÃ¢â ¬â •fleeing the unspeakable repercussions of her fatherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s gambling. In Winnipeg, Bridget lands a job at a garment factory, the first step on her journey to shed her past and begin anew.When her father dies, BridgetÃ¢â ¬â •now a striking and accomplished womanÃ¢â ¬â •returns home to claim her inheritance. But she has no identification to prove her stake, and no one in town recognizes herÃ¢â ¬â •except Victor, who has become a pastor and a candidate for town mayor. Though war has wounded him, his secret affection for Bridget remains, and now heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s the only one who can help her prove her integrity. But can he also prove heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a changed man worthy of her forgiveness?As Victor preaches of freedom in faith, will his words spark BridgetÃ¢â ¬â„¢s once-hopeless heart and lead her to the life sheÃ¢â ¬â„¢s been seeking?

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Customer Reviews

LOVED THIS BOOK. GREAT AUTHOR. WILL LOOK FOR HER BOOKS AGAIN.

A lovely read. Light hearted, enjoyable and warm. A reflection of love in action. I'd love a sequel. Yes please

Full confession: I was one of the initial reviewers of Terrie's latest novel. And I'm very pleased to see how well she's worked this story through the editing phases. Her main character, Bridget, is a hugely sympathetic character--a teenager, growing up and trying to find her way. She has a clear voice, as does her supporting cast. And Bridget's sidekick, Maxine, is a perfect counterpoint. Great repartee between them. Then there's poor Victor, who we find is not so poor after all. Don't let the title give you pause. This novel is anything but bleak. Buy. Read. Enjoy. You will not be disappointed.

In the same vein as her other two novels (The Silver Suitcase and Maggie's War), author Terrie Todd has created a strong, fighting female protagonist. Hardened by abuse and bullies, Bridgett O'Sullivan's main goal is to escape the town she was raised in -- Bleak Landing -- and to find hope. The author's historical settings are rich characters in their own right. I couldn't help but react to Bridgett's plight. Sometimes I felt sorry for her; other times I got mad at her for being so stubborn; then I'd be proud at her accomplishments. Complex characters, a well planned and written story, and a satisfying conclusion make this book one to read.

Another captivating story by Terrie Todd. Like her first two novels, this story features another female protagonist living through some difficult scenarios and making some difficult decisions. Very easy to see myself and relate because it is all so real, even though I am a 36 year old man. You will find yourself loving Bridget, even if you sometimes want to smack (yell at? give a stern talking to?) her. I listened to the audio version, and Alana Kerr Collins who does the reading is spot on. She brings Bridget to life in a way I wouldn't be able to inside my own head. Once again, so sad to get to the end of the story.

Terrie Todd's novel, Bleak Landing, is an engaging and heartwarming story about a young girl with

an abusive past who makes her own way in the world to find success but finds she still isn't happy with her life or with herself. It is a good reminder of how it takes the love and acceptance of people along the way to help those who have trauma in their past to overcome the hurts and feelings that keep them from being all they can be. It also shows us how God's people can influence those around us but it is never preachy. I enjoyed this book very much and would definitely recommend it.

This was a story about real life. Not a pretty tale of romance, mystery or even science fiction or fantasy. If you are looking for those keep looking. This about life, the good the bad and even the ugly. A Christian story without sex or foul language. Young Bridget has the ugly life, without love. The bad luck of being the brunt of school bullies and being a "foreign" outcaste. But A very brave and determined, and intelligent girl. Her story is filled with strife, misfortune, mistrust, doubt, but also with loyal friends, good fortune. All of which she feels she doesn't deserve. It is Bridget's story of faith and love entering her, sometimes from unexpected persons. She has to return to her hated, hurtful past to find where God has been leading her. A good clean and hopeful story about life.

Irish immigrant Bridget O'Sullivan lives anything but the American dream. If you wanted to be poetic, you could call it a Canadian nightmare. She lost her mom and little brother on the voyage to Manitoba, left only with a perpetually drunk and gambling father who beats her constantly. Bridget's solace comes from her studies and the books her generous teacher lets her borrow. She constantly deals with bullies, especially Bruce Nilsen and his best friend Victor Harrison. When Bridget finally makes her escape from aptly named Bleak Landing at age fifteen, she swears never to go back. But as it always does, life happens, and it takes her in directions she never anticipated--including back home.Bleak Landing is a well-written story of a life, the trials and triumphs of a woman who had everything against her but managed to make something of herself, as we all long to do. Bridget is often a hard-bitten and cynical person, but never unpleasant or unsympathetic. Instead, she gains sympathy without being pitiable because she survives and thrives despite her harsh environment. When she shows her vulnerable side, as happens somewhat often, she also gains empathy.Terrie Todd's other characters are also well-drawn, especially Victor Harrison and Maxine Ross. Though unlikely friends for taciturn Bridget, these two influence her life in ways she usually can't see or will not acknowledge. In turn, they become better and more mature people for knowing her, Victor especially. Maxine provides some comic relief, but she's not a one-note character. She sometimes comes off as stereotypical, but is usually a great foil--gregarious, hopeful, and unfailingly optimistic.The plot of Bleak Landing flows well and keeps readers' attention, but I feel like there

should have been more to it in many places. For instance, the narrative often switches into Victor's POV without warning. This gives us a good glimpse into his character, but he's never as developed as Bridget. He enlists to fight in World War II and comes home as a wounded veteran, but we don't get much of how that changed him. We're just told it did, now he's a better person, and now he's attracted to Bridget. Okay, but...meh...Bridget grows, learns, and changes throughout the story, but I never felt I got to know any of the people and places she did very well. She job- and home-hops somewhat frequently, and the details of those changes are pretty sketchy in terms of new people, places, etc. She has a spiritual arc, but her growth in this area is mostly pushed along via other people who sometimes resort to Christian-ese. Bridget herself rarely engages in introspection, or really talks to God other than to challenge Him, except near the end.Finally, I found it extremely frustrating that Bridget never opened up about the details of her past. I understand why, but felt that if she made different choices, people like Maxine, Mrs. Cohen, and others would've understood her better and been able to break through her defenses. There are even a couple of scenes where Bridget breaks down completely but won't tell anyone why, forcing herself to continue muddling through the fallout alone.This being said, Bleak Landing is more than a three-star "okay." It's more of a 3.5. It could be deeper and more developed, but it is an enjoyable novel. It's also refreshingly different from most Christian novels, which can be formulaic. It's an engaging story of a life, and sometimes that's all you need to enjoy a book.

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