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POST FULFILLMENT REPORT

Bookvertise Basic Package | Lorri-
Ann Champagne - Common Thread



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AliReads

★★★★★ **A thrilling journey written very well**

Reviewed in the United States on June 3, 2022

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Common Threads by LA Champagne is an intriguing rollercoaster ride full of adventure, suspense, and thrill that I absolutely enjoyed. The story revolves around Jed, previously Berko, a young teenager kidnapped from Ghana and taken to Jamaica. After reaching Jamaica, Jed is lucky enough to get sold to Jacob, an extremely compassionate slaveholder. While staying there, he meets the love of his life, Mary, and the duo flees to Canada after a terrible incident and meets another couple. And from here, the thrilling adventure and a unique example of friendship begin!

Champagne has done a commendable job in writing the Common Threads. The characters are brilliantly-written, and the entire story is overwhelming. I loved it!



Barscoinc

★★★★★ **Two very different couples find kinship in 1800's Africa, Scotland, Jamaica and Canada**

Reviewed in the United States on May 21, 2022

Common Threads

L.A. Champagne

--Barbara Bamberger Scott

New author Champagne has worked diligently to tie together two couples – one African, the other Scottish – in the mid-1800s, following their fates and exploring singular hardships, until, by meeting, they achieve expanded possibilities for happiness and genuine understanding. Jed, whose birth name was Berko, is a teenage boy stolen from his home in Ghana, and suffering horrific conditions aboard a slave ship bound for Jamaica. There he is fortunate to be bought by Jacob, an unusually thoughtful slave master who tries to give his charges the best life possible on his sugar plantation. There, Jed will meet and wed fellow slave Afua, now named Mary. Incited by tragic circumstance and impelled by a longing to be free, the couple will escape to Canada where they meet Johnny and Diana, who have left their native Scotland to embark their own new, independent adventures. This is a dynamic story told in alternating sequences, intermingling historical, racial and cultural factors in a page-turning novel very much to Champagne's credit - a story with a cinematic feel that is bound to garner fans for her future creations.



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Fresa Wolf

★★★★☆ **Not entirely appropriate for these times**

Reviewed in the United States on June 23, 2022

Verified Purchase

Problematic story lines such as intentionally drawing comparisons between a slave and a free white person's lives and a charitable slave owner made me very uncomfortable. I suppose *Outlander* does it too, but this seemed to be aiming at being more historically correct and in some way 'teaching us' that a slave and a white man can be equals in ways that they cannot ever be. So I'm sure the author had good intentions, but this seems like a tone deaf premise when written by a white person especially, and read as such, making me uncomfortable.



Veritas Vincit

★★★★☆ **A Probing, Partial Study of History and Oppression**

Reviewed in the United States on June 29, 2022

Verified Purchase

Visceral in its descriptions and deep in its character portraits, *Common Threads* is a powerful piece of historical fiction that attempts to tear down the barriers between us. Tracing the journey of a young black man chained in the hold of a ship to America, this novel holds little back in terms of graphic depictions. In a completely different world, as a white man struggling to find success as a farmer, Johnny is the counterpoint and co-protagonist of this novel. Their eventual relationship and the generational stories that surround their families paint an interesting portrait of America, and the more global idea of seeking a better life.

However, Jed's ongoing years as a slave, his marriage, and eventual escape are painted with something of a romantic brush, as is his reception in Canada, particularly for readers of color who may not appreciate the hint of "not all slaves had it that bad" rhetoric. Overall, the detail and amount of research that went into the writing of this novel is impressive. At moments, it feels like the author is projecting a good amount of significance or meaning into experiences of trauma from centuries ago, and some readers may object to those subjective choices. Some of the dialogue also feels contrived, like narration rather than authentic conversation, but a final edit could polish away those storytelling stumbles. While there is room for improvement, this is a bold and sweeping achievement in historical fiction, and the start of an exciting series, particularly given how this book ends on a new beginning in the American South.



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