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Stone Field: A Novel



Synopsis

A stunning debut novel that offers a new look at a classic love story about soul mates torn apart by the circumstances of their time. Catrina Dickinson is haunted by her past and feels caged in by life in small town Missouri. When she discovers a strange man in Stone Field where her family grows their sorghum crop, her life takes on new meaning. He has no memory of who he is or what brought him to Cat's farm, but they fall passionately in love. Meanwhile, the country is on the brink of the Civil War, and the conflict in Missouri demands that everyone take a side before the bloodbath reaches their doorstep. A passionate and atmospheric reimagining of Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*, *Stone Field* explores how violence and vengeance perverts the human spirit, and how hatred can be transcended by love.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Yes. I read another retelling of Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*. What of it? I know there are a lot of feelings towards *Wuthering Heights*, but it is my favourite book and instead of reading it over and over again, I will devour the story in any form at every opportunity. So of course, when *Stone Field* by Christy Lenzi came across my radar, I requested an ARC immediately. I loved the cover, I loved the title, and chances are I was going to love the book. I don't know why I love retellings so much, you'd think they get old, but I think what fascinates me most is how each time, the author finds a way to tell the same story in a new and fresh light. There's a new angle, new names based on the original names, new suspense even though you know what is going to happen. At this point I know this story inside out and yet I was still on the edge of my seat

wondering what was going to happen. What I liked about this take is that Lenzi gives such a casual voice to Catrina, our Catherine. Her thoughts and feelings are so potent and open; you have a strong line into what she is thinking, which isn't always so available in other versions or in the original. Yes, we know Catherine lives and does as she pleases, but the running commentary isn't always there and I found this added another opportunity to intimately reconnect with the character. The downside of this voice, though, was how plain and obvious the instalove was and sometimes it felt a bit much. Knowing the story you understand the intense and passionate chemistry that ignited almost immediately, but when you put it into terms like "He wants me and I want him too" before they've said nearly five words to each other, it reminds me of everything that drives me crazy in so many books and kind of takes that guttural attraction out of the equation. I feel anyone who isn't overly familiar with the original might be turned off by this elementary instalove. Catrina seems like such a wild woman in this text, but taking the time into consideration, the extreme actions of those around her feed into her passion for freedom and the two constantly battling one another creates this almost unbelievable chaos. It seems overdramatic or exaggerated, but I actually think it's quite fitting and I loved how absolutely crazy Catrina seemed at times. She was like a passionate hurricane, devouring everyone around her. This tone of voice is also very merciless to the unpleasant characteristics these characters have. Catherine is notoriously selfish, but it's kind of veiled behind Bronte's beautiful words. But here, it's plain as day and you really see that darkness in her coming through so vividly. This isn't necessarily favourable to the character, but I loved how in your face these flaws were in this book. It's almost like just by changing the way it was written, Lenzi was able to focus on a different element of the story that doesn't always get a lot of focus. It doesn't change things overall, it just gives a different angle to the story. Catherine's passion and urgency is so very much alive in Catrina and alive in Lenzi's words. Some of the passages are so well written I actually felt an ache in my chest. This is why I read books, for moments like this, to be so moved by stringing together a few words. If I were to list everything I liked about this book, I'd almost be rewriting it line for line. Honestly, I loved everything. Every. Single.

Word. Originally posted on citygirlscapes.com

4.5 stars I loved the drama and the tension that escalated within this novel. Catrina wanted to be her own person while the world was pressing down on her to conform. Her brother, her friends and society was throwing out their opinions and judgments on her while she fought to stay strong and keep their notions at bay. She was feisty and she fought hard not to lean or give way to the views of

others and I had to laugh as her actions and/or her words astonished a few people and left them shaking their heads. The day of the wedding was one such event. I was smiling as I read this part of the novel as Catrina was definitely doing her own thing for this event. When speaking with the Reverend that same day about the Holy Scripture, I never wanted her to stop. She was on fire. I wished I could have seen the Reverend's face when the two of them were conversing for she definitely had done her reading and she knew a thing or two about the good book. The romance between Catrina and Stonefield had me on edge throughout the novel. I was fearful that she was infatuated with him and he would leave her shattered. Catrina fell for Stonefield immediately; he made up her air, he made up the majority of her thoughts and they spoke to each other without opening their lips. Stonefield had amnesia when she found him naked in the field and it was because of these unknown details, their relationship terrified me. When would his past come calling and what would it say? Where did he come from and why was he found naked in a field? Her brother kept an eye on Stonefield as the war was full of individuals who were crossing the countryside, who were up to no good and Henry thought Stonefield was one of them. He never gave Stonefield a break; this tension pushed the two lovers outside the home, their intimacy hidden amongst the trees and cliffs surrounding the homestead. I loved all the different aspects that came into play as Catrina tries to build upon her relationship with Stonefield. It was sudden; their bond became passionate and intensified as they spent more time together. Hidden from others, their relationship becomes exciting and tense. Catrina is too much in love to realize what is materializing between the two of them. When Stonefield starts to recover some of his memories, he is excited to discover his past and Catrina begins to realize that this is going to change their relationship. The novel shifts and things begin to move faster. I'm really glad that I read this novel, I was on a reading slump and this helped it drastically.

*I was NOT given a copy of this book in exchange for a review. I'm happy to write a very positive review of this author's first book:

http://www..com/Stone-Field-Novel-Christy-Lenzi-ebook/dp/B0151VI4JG?ie=UTF8&redirect=true&ref_=cm_cr_ryp_prd_ttl_sol_0

Stone Field: A Novel. It is easy to see how this Young Adult Novel was inspired by Catherine and the tumultuous love affair of Wuthering Heights, as author Christy Lenzi acknowledges, The central character -- the independent, free-spirited, non-conforming Catrina -- also reminds me of the female heroines I doted on growing up: Jo March, Nancy Drew, Anne of Green Gables, Kit in the Witch of Blackbird Pond--those fictional characters like today's Hermoine and Katniss who give permission to young girls to be

themselves, to be dreamers, to nurture adventuring, and to have the courage to defy feminine stereotypes. So I was drawn to Catrina because she wore pants, did not want to be confined to the kitchen, had an active inner life, and chose how she would spend her time in Civil War America, despite the pressure from everyone else to be what she knew she was not. But Stone Field is ultimately a love story which sweeps Catrina's independent spirit up in finding and falling in love with her soul mate. There is a good bit to learn here about Civil War partisanship, racism, and religion in mid-nineteenth century Missouri, some of which still confound us today, but the best part of the book for me are the descriptions of Catrina and Stonefield's secret meeting place and the imaginative, artful decorations that use feathers, stones, sticks, and flowers to creatively express their love for one another. This is a dreamy book for a teenager to curl up with in a big armchair and imagine finding her own Stonefield.

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