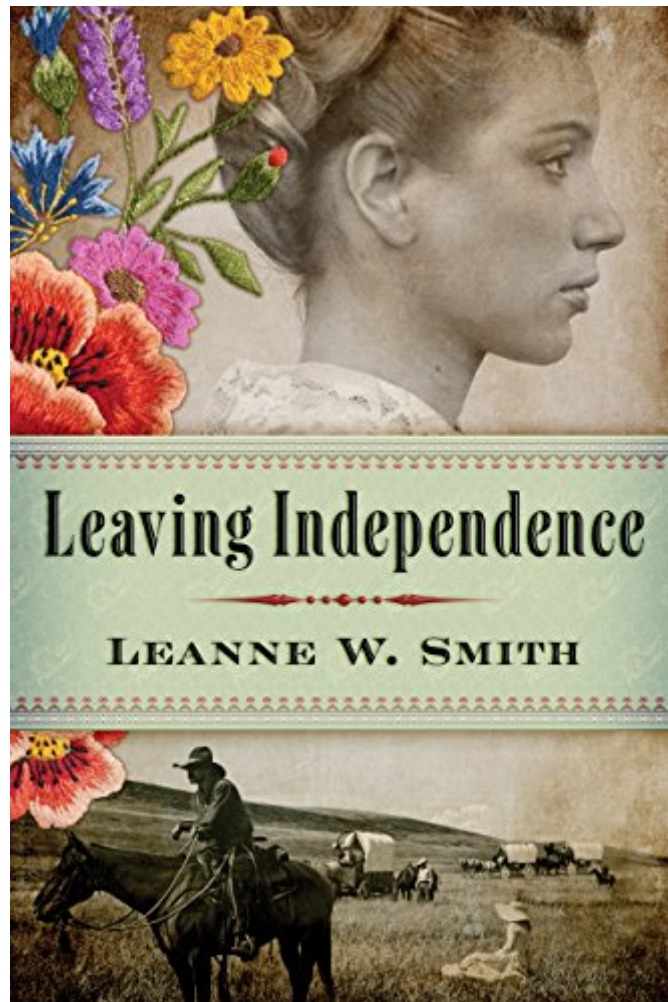


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# Leaving Independence



## Synopsis

Abigail Baldwin might not be a widow after all. Ever since she received word that her husband, Robert, was killed in the Civil War, Abigail has struggled to keep her Tennessee home and family together. Then a letter arrives claiming that Robert isn't dead, yet he has no plans to return. Desperate for answers, Abigail travels to Independence, Missouri, where she joins a westbound wagon train to find him. Leading a company along the Oregon Trail isn't part of Hoke Mathews's plans. But then the former cavalry scout gets a glimpse of Abigail—so elegant compared to the rest of their hardscrabble wagon community, yet spirited and resilient. Through every peril they encounter—snakebites, Indian raids, fevers, dangerous grudges—his bond with Abigail grows. Abigail knew this journey would test her courage. Now it's testing her marriage vows and her heart, daring her to claim a future on her own terms in a land rich with promise.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book was recommended by an author I follow on Facebook and am I ever glad I took her advice! I believe this is a new author and this is her debut work. I loved it! I cannot wait for her next book. This one was so rich in descriptions you actually felt like you were part of the wagon train

west. What does one do when she discovers she is not the widow she thought she was? Well, she packs up her children, leaves her fancy lifestyle, and heads west to find her husband. But does she? Perhaps there is a man on the wagon train who might capture her heart before she gets to her destination. But what of the long dead husband? The road to the truth is paved with elements from the weather, sickness, and soul searching. I highly recommend this book. I did not want to put it down each night but my eyes wouldn't stay open. I could not wait to get back to the story. It captured my attention right from the beginning.

Dear Mrs. Baldwin, it is my duty to inform you that your husband, Captain Robert Baldwin, is not deceased as previously reported. When Abigail Baldwin receives this letter that her 5-years dead husband Robert wasn't killed in the Civil War after all and that he had no plans to return to her, she decides to head west to find him and resolve why he never came home. She is out of money, her home to be foreclosed and her children's future at risk so what does she have to lose. Abigail leaves her life in Tennessee to travel westward with her 4 children. Enter swoon-worthy Hoke Matthews, a handsome, handy hunk of a man who after catching sight of beautiful Abigail, signs on with the company leading her westbound wagon ride via the Oregon Trail. Ah hah! I think I see where this is going. Although the burgeoning relationship between Hoke and Abigail was predictable, it was an enjoyable ride watching it unfold. Hoke, the dream I suspected, every good trait imaginable rolled into one charming man who happens to also love children and Abigail, the courageous and spunky mother who caught his eye. Their story captivated me even if the romance was a bit quieter than I usually prefer. But this is Waterfall Press, a Christian publishing imprint, so was completely understandable. The author did her research giving me a real sense of time and what life was like for the pioneers traveling the Oregon Trail via wagon train. Historical tidbits, sense of community, obstacles, and resourcefulness made me appreciate my current comforts.

I received an advance review copy of this book for an honest review. I like books that inspire me to think and live fully. Leaving Independence did all that and kept me dusty while riding along the wagon train as we all moved westward. You can feel the wind and hear the travelers call out to each other as their journey unfolds. I laughed and cried. I cheered and held my breath. Beyond the grand adventure of the story, Leanne has woven in wisdom and inspiration to go after your dreams. Bravo. A good story and well told. I am awaiting a sequel.

What happens when you're recommended this book on Facebook by an author you like? You buy

it...along with the audio version...and get wrapped up for days in Abigail Baldwin's life from Tennessee to Oregon in 1866!! highly recommend you listen to this book for the narrator made Leanne Smith's characters come alive. Since I listen while driving and at the gym, I have spent the last week trying to find places to go and spending longer time s at the gym to figure out what will happen next!! I have been blessed with this book and expect Leanne W. Smith is currently working on her 2nd book. If not, why not?

Abigail Baldwin has just received a letter from Major Frank Talbot telling her that her husband Robert is not dead as previously thought & is residing at Fort Hall. She has four children & the bank is about to claim the house & she writes Robert of the situation. He replies telling her to sell the house, drop the kids off with her father and come to Idaho. He likes it there & has no intention of coming back. This story is about Abigail & her children's trip west on a wagon train & her falling in love with Hoke Matthews. It's a beautiful story with a surprise ending. It is one of the very best books I believe I have ever read & I sincerely hope that we will soon hear more from this excellent writer. I found it very hard to believe that this is her first book. She has all the qualities you would expect in a seasoned writer that has many years of writing under their belt. Everything I look for in a book is here...one of my favorite subjects, wagon train travel, cleanly written, enough mystery to keep the reader involved & the characters are well thought out a bonding with the reader that is sure to leave a footprint on your heart. I have a special section in my Kindle that I put books that I know I will read again...this book will definitely be at the top of that list. I highly recommend it to any reader wishing for a good story. You will not be disappointed.

I'm not generally a fan of historical fiction but read this one because several friends knew the author. I have got to say I was totally enthralled. By the end of the first chapter I was hooked. Leanne Smith makes you feel as if you are a member of the wagon train building relationships with each of the characters. The heat of the romance is enough to feed your imagination without being raunchy, and the plot has just enough balance between predictability and surprise to keep you guessing and happy. This was a great book and I will be recommending it to all my friends! I sure hope there is a sequel!

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