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# Livin' In High Cotton: A Historical Clean Romance Novel



## Synopsis

A historical clean romance novel by best selling authors Jennifer Youngblood and Sandra Poole. A man she couldn't forget ... a second chance to prove that love never fails ... Cultured, graceful, feisty Shelby Collins is the epitome of a southern lady. She tries to prove her competence by looking after her siblings while her mother is away caring for an ailing relative. Shelby's secure world is turned upside down when her father, in a drunken rage, tries to rape her. Fearing others will learn of his treachery, he kidnaps her, takes her to a reform school, and abandons her. In utter despair, Shelby is sure that her life is over--but sometimes blessings come in the most unexpected ways. When a chance meeting brings her face to face with the ruggedly handsome, Harlan Rhodes, Shelby is unprepared for the feelings that stir within her. Hearts collide, and a love in bloom becomes a lasting love that will span time and space. Through a series of unfortunate events, Shelby and Harlan are separated, forcing them to lead separate lives of loneliness and frustration. Years later, when their lives converge, old feelings rekindle, and they must decide if they will risk all to finally be together. Inspired by a true story, this novel is set against the rich tapestry of the South during the late 1920's and early 1930's. It's a story of love, betrayal, and the indomitable human spirit in the face of adversity. It's about a young girl, growing up, who realizes that life is full of second chances, and that it's never too late to learn how to live. "A compelling story of family loyalty, love, loss, and strength, as warm and fertile as the rich red clay of a Georgia field. The inspiring, hardscrabble lives of Depression-era southerners make for a vivid story of love and forgiveness."--Deborah Smith, New York Times bestselling author of *A Place to Call Home* "Strongly recommended and superbly crafted reading."--Midwest Book Review "With a combination of heartbreak, romance, and triumph, *Living in High Cotton* is a page-turning pleasure."--LDS Living Magazine "You've got to read this book. I loved it. You won't be able to put it down. It evoked so many emotions, and it was easy reading. I felt like I was actually there. It's one of those books you want to pick up and read a second time."--Rilly Winkle, Alabama TV and radio personality

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I didn't quite enjoy this book as much as most of the other reviewers. The book seemed to be a lot longer than it really was. Some areas just seemed to drag a bit for me and some of it was just plain sad. I kept looking ahead to see how much was left because I felt like it should be finished. It wasn't a "bad" story just not the romance I was expecting. The story is more about the life of young girl, Shelby, and the hurdles and obstacles she faces as she grows up and then those she faces after she's married...to the wrong man. The story begins with 16 year old Shelby taking care of her younger brother and sister while her mother is away caring for her own mother who's fallen ill. Shelby's father comes home drunk one night and attacks her. She manages to escape but at that moment her life takes a drastic turn. The story is mostly about how she deals with the changes and upheaval in her life. She eventually adapts to her new circumstances and falls in love with Harlen but even that doesn't go well for her. The misunderstandings and missed opportunities between Shelby and Harlen over the years, was almost painful to read. The story contains many twists and turns, deaths and near deaths as the story spans many years, beginning when Shelby is a teenager and ending when her son is a young man.

This could have been a good story of love and redemption. Instead it rambled on getting lost in more and more injustice. There were never any consequence for any of the crimes committed. The only one asking for forgiveness comes at the end and just hangs there.

This was interesting, but a lot more historical than romance. I didn't enjoy this story as much as all the others from these authors. I did love what a strong woman the main character was though.

This is such a beautiful and moving story. I REALLY loved it. The book is well written and the characters are very well developed. You truly feel like you know them. I got sucked in to this book and did not want it to end. I loved escaping 2014 and emerging myself into the southern world of the 1930's.

I loved every word of it, and I would love to read more by these authors. I enjoyed the fact that this book covered several years, and continued the story instead of being hurried to the end. You get to know the characters as they stumble their way through life, as we all do. They make mistakes and they cry just as all humans do. Keep writing, and it would be good to see what the next generation does.

Intriguing story of a girl who ends up mirroring her mother's life without realizing it. Filled with twists that keep you reading. One star removed for grammar and spelling errors.

Historical romance set in the south. Great book, suspenseful and romantic. I enjoyed this immensely, it is clean with nothing offensive like many books today.

Most of this story really seemed like real life. The characters go through a lot but life becomes good for them in the end.

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