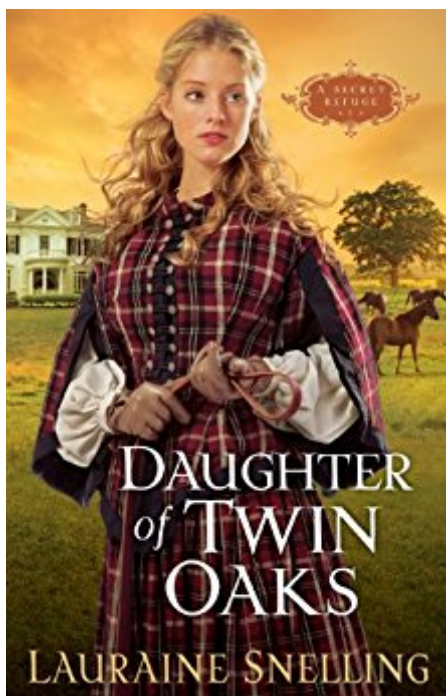


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# Daughter Of Twin Oaks (A Secret Refuge Book #1)



## Synopsis

Will the Wounded Soldier She Rescues From Certain Death be Able to Break Down the Walls of Bitterness That Surround Her Heart? Seeking to fulfill the promise she made to her dying father, eighteen-year-old Jesselynn Highwood determines to take her little brother and the family's remaining Thoroughbreds from Twin Oaks plantation in Kentucky to her uncle's farm in Missouri, where they will be safe for the remainder of the Civil War. Jesselynn is also fleeing a cruel man in Confederate uniform who has pledged to take revenge against her for refusing his hand in marriage. No longer safe at Twin Oaks, she embarks on a perilous journey, taking on the momentous responsibility for the lives and welfare of all who go with her. They ride at night and hide during the day, dodging both Confederate and Union troops along the way. Encountering hunger, sickness, and the devastation of war, they finally arrive in Missouri only to discover that the situation there puts them in even greater danger. Discouraged, disillusioned, and facing a severe testing of her faith, Jesselynn will stop at nothing to save her family, the horses, and whatever remains of Twin Oaks.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This has been on my Kindle for a while and I didn't bother to read the most recent reviews. Had I known it would have such a dreadful ending, I would have passed. Until the end, I found it a captivating story. The characters were realistic, it had great Civil War depictions and the heroine was a decent person and could stand on her own two feet. Some of the parts I found a little unbelievable or predictable, but nothing crazy. Then I got to the end. Oh, wait. There was no ending. The book stopped. Two things that drive me to not read an author again are ridiculous grammar/spelling issues and forcing a reader to get another book to finish a story. I enjoy series books but don't want to have to purchase another book to know how the story ends. Individual books should stand alone or at least it should be clearly indicated you have to buy subsequent books in the series to see how things end.

Unique story line that is telling two related stories but a rushed ending with no closure leaves you wondering what was the point of the story.

One of my least favorite books in a long time. Depressing plot and no closure at the end. I've read from this author in the past, but this was not high quality.

I really did want to love this story but couldn't for several reasons. #1 It is very predictable in places which is fine to a point. #2 The book has several different plots to follow which again is fine, but this book gave no clear climatic event, therefore no resolution which brings me to #3 There is no closure whatsoever. Again series books are fine, but personally I do not want to purchase one book only to be required to purchase two more just to know how one plot ends. Individual books should have individual story lines and not be so dependent on the rest of the series so I feel I've read a "book" not just the first "section" in a larger book. So I would recommend this book to anyone the above does not bother :) because otherwise it is a good story. So all-in-all I give "Daughter of Twin Oaks" three stars because its "fine".

I don't write reviews very often, but since this is the third time I've tried to enjoy a book by this particular author and have not, I felt like I should share my opinion. And it is strictly just my opinion. Obviously, Mrs. Shelling is a well seasoned author, with dozens of books and awards to attest to her talent. However, her stories just seem to not be my cup of tea. Here's why. I found this to be a very beautifully written story about a young woman trying to find her way in a war torn world.

The premise was intriguing and the main character, Jesselynn, was very likeable. However, the overall feeling of the story was quite depressing and even though I felt like the author tried to include Faith and God, the story lacked any feeling of hope. As such, I have no desire to read the other books in this series and probably nothing else by this author as this is the third book of hers that I have tried to read but was left feeling sorrowful and joyless. Don't get me wrong, I love stories that test the limits and fortitude of the main characters, but when nothing goes right for your characters ever, the story starts to become bleak and disheartening. I also like when books end with some kind of hope for the future leaving me with a desire to get the next book and see what happens. Unfortunately, this did not do that for me and none of her other books have either. So if you don't mind feeling sad, and can endure missteps, trials, dreams not coming true, and everything going wrong that could possibly go wrong, and having to read an entire series to see if there is any kind of a happy ending for the characters, then this may be the right story/author for you.

Jessalyn Highwood promises her father she will take their horses to his brother Hiram's home in Missouri. In order to do that Jessalyn becomes Jesse. She starts off with three plantation workers and her young brother. Louisa, her sister, is in Richmond and tending to wounded soldiers. They're on the road and face many trials and tribulations and pick up four more people and another horse along the way. The war is all around them.

Definitely an enjoyable book. - I enjoyed reading about what it may have been like during the Civil War - sad yes, but was educational thinking about how some may have felt and how some may have lived. As some may have said - the book did 'end' - BUT it ended with their deciding to go further West - Yet to continue, this book would have been really really longer. So actually the original story was told along with stories of her two sisters and brother - but her journey to an uncle did end so that was the actual ending of this book. Worth Reading & I did not want to put it down. Glad this was Saturday because that is what I did today - I read this book.

\*using husband account\* This book drags, I'm already on Chapter 9 and there is no hero in this book unless it was the one captain then you only meet him on one page (out of the so far 9 chapters that I read), also it jumps to the sister and back again (which sister is the heroine to this book?) In the book so far, it starts with a long decision of how to leave then it turns out a long never ending road trip in the night to get out of the state without being seen. That is what is on the first 9 chapters. That is rather bothersome to me. I am not seeing how this is a romance book what so ever. It should

not take this long to meet the hero. I'm glad it was free.Desiree

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