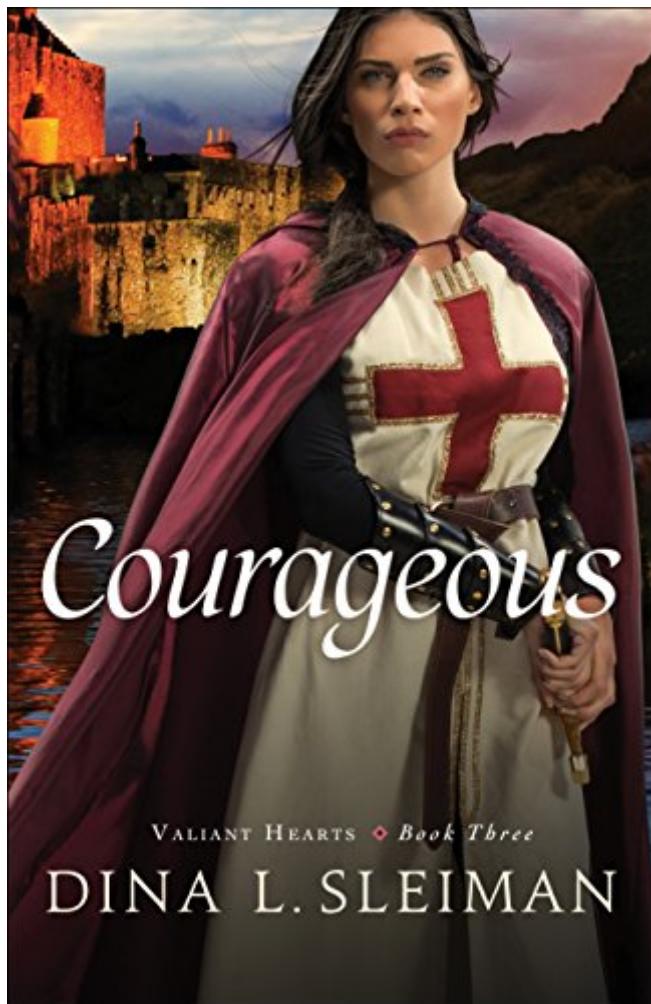


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Courageous (Valiant Hearts Book #3)



Synopsis

Valiant Hearts: Where Adventure and Romance MeetInspired by the vision of the Young Lady Sapphira, Rosalind of Ipsworth joins a group of men, women, and children as a defender of the cross, seeking to free captives from prisons near Tripoli. She gladly gives herself to the cause, as she's haunted by a tragic mistake and no longer deserves such joys as marriage and family might bring.Sir Randel Penigree was reared to serve in the church, but dreams of protecting the innocent as a knight. Joining a crusade to escape humiliation at home, he finds himself drawn to Rosalind as they partner to train and protect a group of young adolescents. When they face political machinations, danger, and an unknown enemy bent on their destruction, they are forced to reconsider their priorities and the very nature of the God they serve.

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Customer Reviews

Review coming soon...[...]Rosalind and Sir Randel embark on a treacherous adventure with a large load of emotional baggage. Rosalind is still determined to deny herself any happiness as she

continues to grieve her unborn child. Sir Randel has regrets of his own haunting him in his dreams and occasionally snatching his awareness during the day. Although I enjoyed the first two books of this series, Courageous quickly sailed away from my expectations and my heart just wouldn't go along for the ride. Even though the plot wasn't my cup of tea, I liked the characters and the thread of redemption was beautifully woven through their struggles. Watching both Rosalind and Sir Randel learn to forgive themselves and accept God's grace as sufficient was an encouraging reminder to do the same in my own non-fiction life! I requested the opportunity to read and review this title through NetGalley. The opinions expressed are my own.

Great Book. Great story, characters, themes, and everything a great book should have. I have so enjoyed this series, the female prospective is fine to read. Thank you.

My 14-15 year-old daughter loved all 3 books in this series (they were released over the course of two years)

My daughter loved the book.

I loved the first book of the series. Historical fiction set during the crusades, book three is still the same basic plot, names and places have been changed, so this one fell short. I don't mind reading a series as long as there are some new themes in the books as we go along. Still good clean fiction. I think these would have been better read with some time in between instead of all consecutively. Probably would have earned a higher rating then. I give it three stars. It was OK for the reasons mentioned above.

This is a stand-alone story. A number of the characters were in secondary roles in the earlier books in the series but there is enough information included in this book about them that you don't need to have read either of the previous novels before this one. I loved getting to know more about Rosalind and meeting Randel. They are both wonderful though flawed characters. They each have deep seated guilt that they are carrying from things that have happened in their pasts. They each have a journey to travel to try and deal with their guilt and learn to accept God's love and forgiveness as truth. I thoroughly enjoyed the action and battle scenes. Part of what I liked was that there are no graphic details given and yet the fear and focus

that the knights and other fighters experienced was clearly expressed. The other aspect of this group of crusaders and their battles was the attention that they had on prayer and seeking God's guidance. This is how I believe we are all supposed to live and I love it when that is how the characters in books live as well. I received a free copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for my honest review.

Rosalind has sworn an oath to join the Crusade. Among the men, women, and children going is her best friend, Sir Randel. Sir Randel has decided to go so that he can start on his journey to become a Templar Knight. Both Rosalind and Sir Randel train and protect the young adolescents that have become a part of the Crusade. As danger looms near, both Rosalind and Sir Randel find themselves drawn to each other. Can the two forgive their past mistakes and let love in their hearts? I was happy that Rosalind was given her own story! She was a tragic figure in Chivalrous, and I wanted to see her have a happy ending. After the act that she committed in the previous book, Rosalind is full of self-loathing and regret. She doesn't feel she is worthy of love. Yet, while Rosalind may not yet love herself, she loves those around her. She wants to protect the young women from making the same mistakes as she. Rosalind was a very sympathetic figure, and I loved watching her come to terms with herself. Randel was a good hero for Rosalind. He also has a tragic past that haunts him. He is also full of self-loathing. He hopes to find redemption for his past mistakes. I also like how Randel was a conflicted character. He had to make tough choices to either follow his family wishes so he wouldn't be disowned or to follow his own path. Thus, Randel had to trust in God to help him make the right decision. I really loved the relationship between Randel and Rosalind. They were a perfect match for each other. They started out as friends. Eventually, their friendship deepened into something more. They truly understood and loved each other. Both of them have been haunted by their sins, and are constantly searching for redemption. They both feel that they are unworthy of love. Yet, it is because of their sins that they are able to love each other and forgive themselves. They are able to see God's love and that they are worthy of happiness, too. Thus, out of the Valiant Hearts series, I thought that they were the most interesting couple. Overall, this book is about loss, regret, redemption, and forgiveness. The message of the book is to love yourself. Courageous was a darker story than the two previous novels, which were very light and fun. Because of the characters and the Crusade setting, this was a more mature novel. Thus, this book is more suited to teenagers sixteen and up. I also thought the setting was perfect for these two characters. They were looking for healing amidst the backdrop of a violent war. This helped make a compelling love story. The only thing I did not like

about this book was the switching of the points of view from, Rosalind, Randel, Sapphira, the girl and who inspired the Crusade, and the villain. This was a bit confusing for me, and I would have liked it only from Rosalind and Randel's perspectives. Also, while Courageous can be read as a standalone, I suggest that you read Chivalrous first to understand the background story for the two main protagonists. Still, Courageous was an excellent conclusion to Valiant Hearts, and it was a great pleasure to read this series! If you love Melanie Dickerson, Jody Hedlund, and Tamara Leigh, I urge you to read Dauntless, the first book in Valiant Hearts, for you definitely do not want to miss out on this series!(Note: I read an ARC copy of this book in courtesy of Netgalley.)

I was ready to read something other than mysteries...I know *gasp*....so I was excited to receive a book by a new author to me. And I must tell you this read by Dina Sleiman is quite a read. As I began reading I had thoughts of Mary Queen of Scots and Joan of Arc . . . great women in the medieval ages! Rosalind of Ipsworth joins a group of people who defenders of the Cross on a mission to free captives from prisons near Tripoli. why would a young woman seek to arm herself and go on a dangerous mission to free innocents? Because she feels that she has made a tragic mistake in her past and doesn't deserve to marry or have a family. It's somewhat of a self imposed sentence. But Rosalind doesn't count on another person joining the group who also has feelings of humiliation...enter Sir Randel Pedigree. I loved this medieval read! The romance was *just right* and the crusades were interesting as well as the faith. This is a grandastic summer read! Go grab your copy today!*This book was provided for review by Bethany House*

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