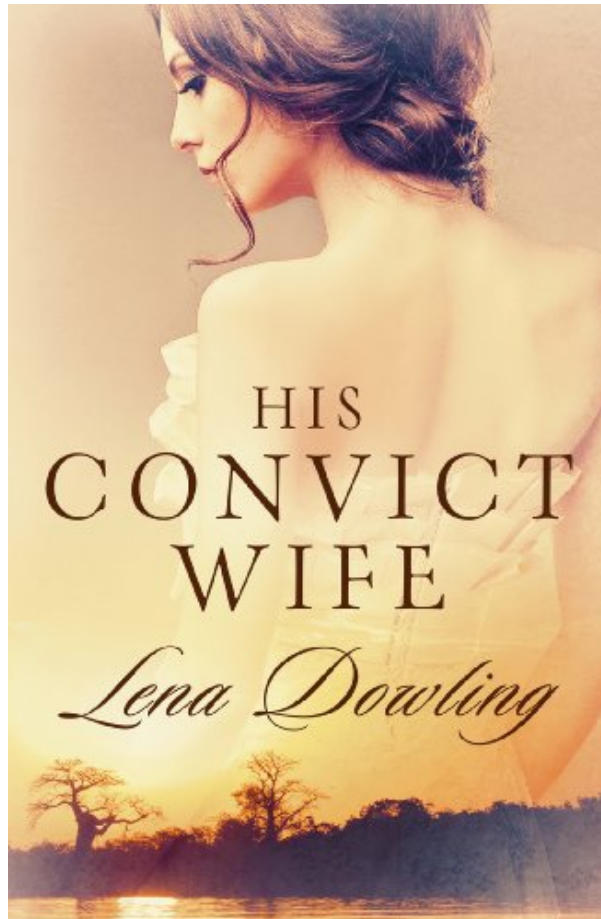
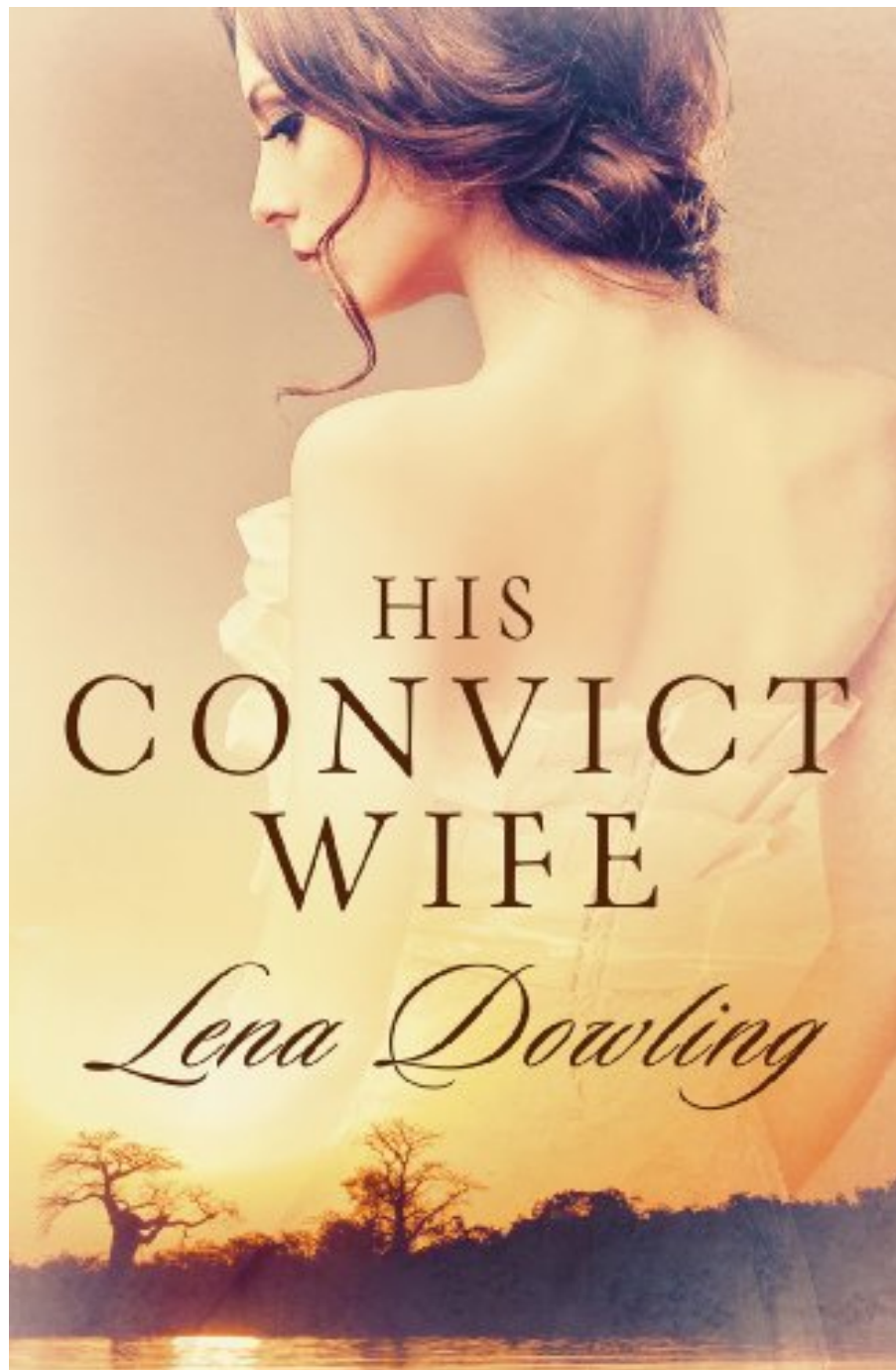


HIS CONVICT WIFE (CONVICT SERIES BOOK 2) BY LENA DOWLING



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About the Author

In her previous lives, Lena Dowling has been a lawyer, policy analyst, and an administration manager. While Lena was born and raised in New Zealand, it was during a stint working across the ditch' in Australia that she took up writing in earnest. Having found her inspiration in The Lucky Country, Lena writes Australasian themed romances about gutsy, intelligent heroines, and the men who dare to love them. Lena currently lives in beautiful, sub-tropical Northland, New Zealand, with her own computer-code-writing hero.

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HIS CONVICT WIFE (CONVICT SERIES BOOK 2) BY LENA DOWLING PDF

From the author of *The Convict's Bounty Bride* comes a new Australian historical about a free settler and the wife he chooses from a workhouse...

For Irish convict Colleen Malone, being framed, transported to Australia and forced into prostitution seemed like the worst that life could throw at her. Then she fell pregnant to a client and was sent back to prison by her cruel owner. Now, her only hope of a decent life for her and her baby is to find someone to marry.

Widower and former London businessman Samuel Biggs arrived in Australia hoping to put his grief behind him. When James Hunter offers him a job on his Parramatta farm, he accepts eagerly. He'll put his back into his new work, and bury any thoughts of new love and marriage in the rich earth of his new home.

However, all plans are compromised when Samuel is manipulated into visiting a workhouse to choose a new housekeeper, and Colleen seizes her chance — literally grabbing Samuel and begging for her life. The only way Samuel can oblige is by marrying her, but on one thing he stands firm — there is no way he will fall in love...Praise for *HIS CONVICT WIFE*:

'This story achieved a wonderful balance of character development, romance, plot and pacing along with weaving in the details and descriptions of the time.' — Delighted Reader

'His Convict's Wife is a sparkling gem that is light-hearted and delightfully angst-free.' — Book Reviews & More By Kathy

'The characters were very convincingly written, and from a technical standpoint, the writing was clean, fast-paced, and well-written.' — Author Unpublished

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15 of 17 people found the following review helpful.

Good and Bad Moments

By Cat's Romance Novel Themepark

Review

I have a real affinity for books set in the Penal Colony Days of Australia. I like the interesting historical dynamics of this moment and what it might mean to start anew.

Here we have a female convict who does not escape the horrors of being a woman in a penal state controlled by men and does her time on her back. This book is not graphic but it isn't shy about the harshness of what it would have been like to be in this situation.

Our hero is a widower who has undergone a physical transformation into a much more muscular and active man due to the labor required of him on his journey from England. He is a free settler looking to start over.

We have a lovely marriage of connivence plot which is complicated by some very real and compelling factors. The conflicts are spot on and well done and the love story that develops is a touching one. The historical details are finely wrought.

Overall, I enjoyed this book but I didn't love it.

Here is why...

I didn't need the heroine to be falsely accused. She could be there wrongly but I didn't like how much the hero cared that she hadn't done it.

If I had read the first book in the series (which I haven't), I think I would really dislike this book.

The hero and heroine from that book are very featured in this one but we get no alone time with them or anything for their point of view. I don't like much of what the hero says about his wife nor how his wife is in many moments. Also, the hero from the last book has some past actions that come to light that aren't good, let's say. And we don't really process those and in fact the couple ends up separated over it. What the hero did, in the past, was wrong. It made him really unlikeable to me as there is never an acknowledgment of how and why it was wrong.

The plot was too fast. The love story need more time to develop.

However, it was still a good read and I will try this writer again.

I was given this book for my honest review. So, there you have it.

11 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

Continuing Story from The Convict's Bounty Bride Is Engaging From Cover to Cover With Love Growing on Australia's Frontier

By Sophia Rose

A historical romance with its backdrop Australia when it was still a convict colony enticed me into reading this one. I am so glad that I did because I was engaged in the story from cover to cover. The author did a superb job of both telling a story and telling of a historical time that was rough, raw and gritty.

Samuel Biggs, who was once a soft-bodied man of business for his employer, lost his wife and decided to sail for the frontier of Australia to put his grief behind him and start anew. His former employer, James Hunter, an ex-convict, welcomes him and agrees to hire him as an overseer on his farm. James' wife, Thea, gets that look in her eye like she is planning something like matchmaking, but he has no intentions of ever taking a wife again.

Colleen Malone has had it rough. She is wrongfully accused alongside her cousin, shipped out as a convict to Australia, taken in charge by a man who runs a brothel, and forced to whore herself out. Now that she is expecting a child, Danny, her procurer, has no use for her and sends her back to The Factory where she will do hard labor and likely lose her child and maybe die there.

Samuel is finagled by Thea to choose a housekeeper from the first rate women at the prison, but before they even get inside he is petitioned by a woman breaking up stone outside. He sees the blistered hands and that she is unaccustomed to her task. He does the unprecedented thing and bypasses the first raters for this third rate woman. Unfortunately, the matron informs him that those who have been sent back to prison can only leave when their time is up or they are taken as wives. He reasons that if he has a wife that Thea will leave him be and it can just be an arrangement and not a true marriage.

Colleen can't believe her good fortune. She has a husband now and her freedom, but then she realizes that it's not that simple. Samuel has no intentions of a true marriage and she needs that so he'll believe her child is his own. And then there's that issue that Samuel's employer was once one of her customers and the sneaky housegirl convict knows this. Colleen just has to get Samuel past his grief for his wife so that he'll accept her as a wife in all ways and she has to figure out how to keep that other secret too. So much and why does her tummy flip-flop whenever her big handsome husband is around? It has to be the baby, right?

This story achieved a wonderful balance of character development, romance, plot and pacing along with weaving in the details and descriptions of the time. It's like a fairytale the way Colleen was wrongfully convicted and had a drudgery life until Samuel came along. Though, Samuel and Colleen are no insipid fairytale characters. Both have seen a lot of life and have a realistic and pragmatic view of things. There's no freakish behavior when things are at their worst. They display true emotions for what is going on and I loved the slow to build romance between them. They are both so strong and enduring considering all that happened. I just loved spending time in their story and was sad to see it end.

Now, I should say that even though it isn't noted anywhere that I could see, this is really a sequel story that works best when *The Convict's Bounty Bride* is read first. That is James and Thea's story that carries on a little into this book running as a minor plot thread behind Samuel and Colleen's story until near the end when it all comes together. I wasn't into James and Thea's story like I was this one, but I enjoyed seeing what happened to them after they returned to Australia.

My only real niggle with this book is that it ended abruptly leaving a few things hanging that I would have enjoyed seeing resolved. I felt that way at the end of the first one not realizing there would be another book so with that in mind, I'll give the benefit of the doubt that there is more to come to finish off the other plot threads.

All in all, this is a fabulous historical romance that is authentic and yet very romantic. It's a perfect blend and will appeal to those who enjoy just a few extra pinches of spice in their romance to heat things up nicely and want something a little grittier and real in the way of their historicals.

My thanks to Net Galley for the opportunity to read this story in exchange for an honest review.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Enjoyable

By Portnawak

Colleen is a strong young woman despite everything that happened to her, and I understood that, afraid of being sent back to prison (where they would take her baby) she decides to have her new husband believe the child is his, and to hide the fact their employer was a client of the whorehouse where she was. As she has constant remorse, that make things much more believable. I was amused when she thinks the signs of desire she feels with her husband are dizzy spells due to her pregnancy, or when she asks Samuel shamelessly if he is a Molly when he refuses to consummate their union (after seven years in a brothel you must have lost lots of taboo about sexuality).

Samuel is rather narrow-minded, he sees things in black or white, not many grays in his life, and he has ideas on a lot of things. I even found him cruel in some of his reactions, even if it was impulsiveness that made him talk. His difficulties to deal with his wife's past when she begins to be important for him are quite well done. And at the same time on other points he can be kind and comprehensive, like when he learns about Colleen's pregnancy and thinks immediately that even if the baby isn't his it will be his child all the same.

The beginning is really fast, and the synopsis occurs in the first three chapters. In fact all the beginning of the story, of which I dreaded the distressing side (and at the same time which would have brought so much depth) was quickly finished in three chapters and some sentences here and there. There is also a timeline problem, with details making me think a lot more time had passed than in reality. For example I had the impression there was several weeks between the moment the heroine is sent back to prison and the one where she seduces her husband when in reality there was only six days.

I was waiting for a big saga a la Barbara Wood or Colleen McCullough, and we're far from it. His convict wife is a story that may be not deepened enough but enjoyable, with convincing characters and an unusual and interesting setting.

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