

Until the Day Breaks

Paula Scott

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A young woman finds her loyalties tested beyond limit and her desires torn beyond measure in 1846 California.

After sailing around Cape Horn, and barely surviving the perilous journey, devout Protestant Rachel Tyler, arrives in California just in time for her father's wedding and the unfolding of the Bear Flag Revolt. Though already engaged to marry a minister in Massachusetts, Rachel's ambitious father arranges her betrothal to Roman Vasquez, a blue-blooded Catholic son of the gente de razón, the ruling class of California.

Roman, a proud, Spanish soldier is ready to fight and die for his homeland. As the Yankee rebels raise their bear flag in Sonoma square, the last thing Roman wants is an arranged marriage to the American daughter of his enemy Joshua Tyler. But his Uncle Pedro, the Patrón of the family, has other plans.

Neither Rachel nor Roman desire this unlikely engagement that assaults their religious beliefs, but they cannot escape the passion flaming between them as war looms on the horizon and bitter rivals rise up to destroy them amid the breathtaking backdrop of the last days of the Californios.

Until the Day Breaks is the first book in the sweeping saga of California Rising, a tale of love, intrigue, and destiny, where passionate men and women lay the foundation of the Golden State with their very lives.

Until the Day Breaks Details


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Author : Paula Scott

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From Reader Review Until the Day Breaks for online ebook

Meagan says

I wanted to like *Until the Day Breaks* more than I actually did. With strong resemblances to *The Mask of Zorro* - what's not to like? Oh yeah ... the sensuality. There were several scenes that I felt were over the top.

The author notes at the end of the book that while some content may raise eyebrows, "it's mentioned in the Bible". Yes ... I've read *Song of Solomon*. I get that. But there's a way to portray romance and love tastefully and God-honoring, and I felt like several scenes pushed the envelope and crossed a line. I am really picky in this regard - I don't personally need or want the mental image in my head and it's hard, once there, to get it out. So that was disappointing.

But the rest of the book was interesting (and I couldn't help but channel Zorro throughout, which is always enjoyable).

Leah says

I really enjoyed it and had to see what happened next.

Amy says

Until the Day Breaks is the first book by author Paula Scott and the first in her series *California Rising*. This story was amazing and absolutely captured my attention and did not let it go. I often found myself thinking about the story even when I was not reading it.

This novel is about a Californian, Roman who is passionate and rebellious and has just come back from fighting against the Americans in Texas. Well we know how that war ended and now Roman is back home to lick his wounds only to find out that his fiancé has been married off to an American. However this American has a daughter, Rachel, who was living out east. Now to make stronger alliances between the two families, Rachel and Roman have been betrothed against both of their wishes.

This turbulent love/hate affair is made only more complicated as Rachel is a Christian and Roman is not. This story was also set against the very turbulent times of California's history as the Americans are coming to claim and take the land. There was so much to this story, the characters, even the evil ones just leapt off the pages. There is some violence that was hard to stomach and there is a very evil spiritual thread as well. But through it all I relished the author's writing of how passionate God the Father is for His children and how He pursues them.

Another lesson I picked up was just how much God wants to give us our hearts desires when it falls in line with His will. However, like Roman we sometimes have to wait for very good reasons. I do believe that if Roman received the "gift" he so desperately wanted that he would have destroyed the "gift" and his heart in the process. God's timing is always best.

This is an adult read and a very realistic look at the history of California. I look forward to continuing the series and reading anything else she writes.

I purchased this book for my own reading pleasure.

<http://pausefortales.blogspot.com/201...>

Amy says

This is my first time to read this author and I was very impressed. Although parts of the book are a bit "edgier" than the usual Christian fiction books I read, the message of salvation is loud and clear, and that is definitely something I look for in a Christian fiction book - the Gospel.

The story was set back in the days before California became a state, ironically, tying in with some of the history lessons the kids and I have been working on this month. I was really able to get a feel for what it was like in the "wild west" so to speak - Rumors of war, actual war. Gun control? I don't think so! Outlaws roamed freely. And women definitely needed to be protected.

Rachel was a woman of strong faith, although at times, her Christian beliefs made her more self-righteous than loving, as happens to all of us. Her fiance or maybe I should say (ex)fiance demonstrated true love and self-sacrifice as Christ did and as quoted in the Epistles that Paul wrote as well as the Gospels. He saw people as lost souls in need of a Savior.

Roman, was one of those men you are drawn to in a heroic sense, and yet, he was desperately in need of a heart transplant - in the Spiritual sense. It was easy to see him as a hero, living on the wild side, but at times he could sure get under your skin, just as he did to Rachel.

There are so many aspects of this book that make it a great read, and also some that are difficult to read. What can I say? If you like romance, tough situations, raw emotion, a strong faith message flowing through it, you will want to pick it up. But beware, it also contains some unsettling parts, including Satan worship, sacrifices, animal cruelty, violence, and a few edgy sensual scenes, that at times even made me squirm a little.

Some of the content is not for the faint in heart, and the edgier parts would not be recommended for teens.

I received a copy courtesy of the author and was not asked to write a positive review. I am looking forward to reading the second and third books in the series.

Rosanne Lortz says

When Rachel Tyler sails around Cape Horn to join her father in California, she finds a new home simmering with tension and unease. Revolution is in the air and the question of whether California will join the United States or forge its own destiny. Eager to increase his own influence, Rachel's father betroths her to Roman Vasquez, a Spanish-speaking Catholic landowner with a chiseled physique, a hot temper, and far more experience with women than he ought to have. As battle lines are joined, Roman spirits Rachel away to his

family's home for protection, and Rachel must decide whether this passionate caballero, who is unlike any man she has ever known, is someone she can come to love.

I am conflicted about this book. The characters were well-drawn, the pacing was pitch-perfect, and the historical setting was fascinating. I have never read much about California pre-statehood, and the passion of the Californios for the liberty of their home territory was interesting. Several reviews that I read compared this story to *The Mark of Zorro*, and the comparison seems apt.

But on the other hand, there was also a lot of violence and sensuality in this book (it seems like every other chapter has someone being half-naked or Roman attempting to get Rachel to sleep with him). While I appreciated the author's attempts to show how the Gospel changes everything, the way in which Roman "accepted Jesus as His Savior" seemed more Billy Graham-style than nineteenth century Spurgeon/Moody-style. I also had reservations about Rachel marrying someone who had done the things Roman did in the recent past—while the reformed rake works nicely for a romantic plot, it seems a little less desirable in real life.

Overall, this was an engaging read, but I would be careful about who I recommend it to instead of recommending it indiscriminately.

Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower) says

Until the Day Breaks, the first book in Paula Scott's California Rising series is full of passionate characters, honest faith, and fascinating history. It's beautifully penned, allowing the settings and people to come alive as you read, drawing a range of soul-deep emotion from you as well.

Rachel, our heroine, is pure of heart and faith but is yanked away from her comfort zone – where others look like her and talk like her and believe like her – and is forced to reunite with her father, a man of few ethics or morals and little regard for his daughter's wellbeing. Nearly everyone she encounters in California tests her commitment to God, from her authentically evil stepmother to Roman, the man her father arranges for her to marry.

Roman is fiery and passionate ... and he is ruled by those passions in nearly every area of his life. But Rachel confuses him. He's not sure what to make of her or her faith. And to be honest? Roman isn't the greatest hero material in the beginning or the middle ... of this book. He's angry. He's seductive. He's arrogant.

And that's one of the things I love most about *Until the Day Breaks*. These are real, raw characters. Dealing with real, raw life. It's clear that Roman doesn't follow Jesus; he doesn't live by God's standards because he doesn't really know God. Yet. Because you see, there's a third character that bears considering in this novel. And that is Steven, the man Rachel had always planned to marry. He is everything Roman is not (and vice versa), and while Rachel is flustered and somewhat intimidated by Roman's passion (especially when it's directed at seducing her) Steven filters Roman and his betrothal to Rachel through the lens of God's Word. The exquisite poignancy that Steven brings to the story – and the impact he has on their lives – is not to be missed.

Bottom Line: A tumultuous time in California's history coupled with religious tensions and romantic passions make *Until the Day Breaks* a very rich read. Paula Scott has done a remarkable job of taking those

deep swirls of volatile emotions present in so many stories found in Scriptures and transferring them to a tale that goes beyond a simple love story. It's tastefully shocking in parts but it's brimming with mercy, grace, and sacrificial love. I loved the faith struggles for their authenticity and the faith victories for their surge of hope. I'm looking forward to more from Paula Scott!

(I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book.)

See my full review at [Reading Is My SuperPower](#)

CA Portnellus says

Roman Vasquez while a Californio Spaniard, is treated by the Americanos like a heathen and a devil. Americanos (gringos) who are beginning to settle and take over the lands in California are convinced that they should not only exterminate the Native Americans throughout the state but also run out the Spanish who have been there for more than a century. The Spanish Missions are slowly being vacated as is the diminishing power of the Roman Catholic Church. There is a fight between the Catholic faiths and those of the new settlers, many of whom are Protestants. Coming soon is the revolution between the Americanos who are taking over large land grants for farms and cattle ranches and the powers of the Hispanics. California is a rich dessert for the United States, especially with the Gold Rush in northern California. These are the background histories behind this love story.

Two people from opposite sides of the country and beliefs are unwillingly betrothed all to gain or keep power over their lands in case of war with Mexico and the US. Roman, a proud and handsome man has recently fought in Texas for Mexico, he comes home to find all he knew is changing. Now he is betrothed to the daughter of his American enemy. There is a hot, steamy connection between the virginal Protestant and him that is hard to fight. Yet when the real war and fighting comes, Roman is the most changed as he accepts a new way to revere God and his faith.

There are a lot of back and forth Christian ethical conversations and arguments, which in some ways are silly when both sides realize they believe in the same God and Jesus, it is just how they worship and live that differs. For some readers, there might be too much of this proselytizing and the characters trying to convert each other, for me it sort of detracted from the story. But perhaps it was crucial for the character of Roman Vasquez to make his changes and become something his new bride will desire.

I liked the book in general, the story arc is fairly well done. The history is interesting and the premise is realistic. We have become a different society from then, forgetting the historically old biases that divide the Hispanics and the Gringo Americans. (Well, sadly some of that still exists).

This Gringa liked the book. There is enough history to intrigue, rich character to like or hate, and spice to keep the romance alive. Maybe there could have been more descriptive stories later once these two lovers join.

April says

4.5 Stars

Paula Scott had me completely swept up for most of this story. You will find history, drama, romance, action, faith and the list goes on. If you are looking for a book about perfect people this is not it. While there are some in here who seem to come pretty close, this novel is more of a redemption story. A story about the

battle within and with out.

While there were a few things I felt got brushed over too quickly, for the most part this novel just held me captive. There is some violence in this novel; I include that as a warning for very sensitive readers.

I believe most readers will be as engrossed in the story as I was. I am looking forward to the rest of the series!

Beth Erin says

Series review on Faithfully Bookish

Like many historical fiction fans, I go absolutely gaga over rarely explored (or new-to-me) settings! While territorial California isn't the exclusive setting, the California Rising series is an ode to California's roots and growing pains. Specifically, in book 1, I enjoyed the contrast of Eastern American versus Western American culture and the countries who influenced those traditions.

This series is loaded with nuggets of historical content related to and preceding the transitional period of the 1840-50s. The cultural climate is vibrant and rich with several diverse backgrounds thoroughly represented. Many race related injustices and tragedies are mentioned or explored yet the beauty of what makes each culture unique is respected and revered.

In my opinion, California Rising's crowning glory is its engaging tales of good versus evil and God's boundless redeeming grace which covers the heights, width, and depths of human depravity. Readers who don't shy away from the raw truth of sin and darkness will especially enjoy this series. Paula Scott has a uniquely straightforward writing style with complex interwoven story threads and I look forward to her future work.

I purchased Kindle copies of books 1 & 2 and received a complimentary copy of the third book in this series from the publisher and was under no obligation to post a review. The opinions expressed are my own.

Rebecca says

2.5

It didn't really work well for me. The MC has little agency, primarily buffeted about by the events around her and other characters. It was too religious at odd times. The ending part with Maria is just a giant hook. Blah

Shonda says

What a great book! I loved the characters, especially Roman. Roman is handsome rugged bad boy image but a great heart. The story shows temptation is every where we look but with God we can overcome. I like how the author showed us how even though we are sinners God still loves us. The romance has spicey moments. There are many ups and downs in the book that will have you engrossed in the pages. I will be reading the

next books in the series. You will absolutely love this book.

Rachel Dodson says

Love, Love, Love!!! I am still trying to come up with ways to say how much I enjoyed this book. It's real, it's refreshing, it's engaging. I haven't read anything this good in a while. I really think this could rival some of Francine River's works. The author has a way of taking something gritty and a little edgy, that you might not normally read, and makes you keep turning page after page after page. I have now found an author that I want to read everything she has ever written. I cannot wait to read the rest in this series and I hope that she keeps writing more and more. I was very impressed with the salvation message and the message of redemption that was so beautifully woven into the story. Also on a side note I loved that the main character has my name! I felt a special connection to her.

****Special Note**** This book is a bit on the edgy side in some scenes, but I felt like it was very well done and not vulgar or sinful.

Give this book and this author a chance. I know you are going to love her!

I received this book for free from the author. A positive review was not required. All opinions are my own.

Michael Ross says

Until the Day Breaks grabs the reader with a sense of mystery - who are the young woman and young man meeting with her wading in a fountain? From that moment forward, the Californio Roman and the Boston belle Rachel Tyler are on a collision course to unravel both their worlds and each other. Two love triangles push the story forward - the evil Sarita, Rachel's step mother who is really in love with Roman rather than Rachel's father, and Rachel's fiancé Stephen, who follows her from Boston to the California wilderness of the early 1840s. Forced into an arranged marriage that neither wants, Rachel and Roman must find who they are to each other, and what it means to forgive and be a child of God. Both are drawn to each other, yet Roman's worldly ways repel. Stephen must struggle to find God's will in his relationship with Rachel and Roman, while Sarita is only out to destroy them all. You'll keep reading this one! Throughout, Paula keeps the theme of God's redemption. "Being Protestant or Catholic didn't make a person serve Jesus any more or any less, she'd decided after praying about it. Sin must be forsaken and a life consecrated to the Lord. "Being Protestant or Catholic didn't make a person serve Jesus any more or any less, she'd decided after praying about it. Sin must be forsaken and a life consecrated to the Lord. That's what mattered to God, not one's religion."

It's a wonderful love story with sensuality, intrigue, moments of danger, and forgiveness.

Jody Link says

Very real writing. Loved it!

Tressia Avellar says

Prayers for protection answered

This was a very good read, I thoroughly enjoyed it. The way the author was able to bring about the gentle persuasion of God and his he speaks to us in a "still small voice" was truly wonderful. It is how I see Him speaking to those He loves.
