



## Tender Touch

*Charlene Raddon*

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## **Tender Touch** Charlene Raddon

Staging her own death to escape a nightmarish marriage, Brianna Wight hires widower Columbus Nigh to help her go west and finds in him a passionate challenge that risks more than the perilous Oregon trail she follows. Original.

## **Tender Touch Details**

Date : Published December 1st 1994 by Zebra

ISBN : 9780821747773

Author : Charlene Raddon

Format : Paperback 431 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Westerns, Historical, Historical Fiction

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## From Reader Review Tender Touch for online ebook

### Katherine divin says

#### Great story

A really well written book with a great story. Believable characters. I really didn't expect how it ended but I'm so glad it didn't end how I thought it would. I really liked the hero and heroine. She especially was very dynamic and changed for the better. I gave this book five stars because of how well it was written grammatically as well as how good the plot and storyline was written.

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### InD'tale Magazine says

4.5/5.0

From the first word on the first page, Ms. Raddon grabs the reader and never lets loose!

Read full review in the 2013 Dec/Jan Holiday issue of InD'tale Magazine.

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### Kristy McCaffrey says

Brianna Wight is fleeing an abusive marriage and takes the courageous step of guiding a covered wagon on the Oregon Trail. With mountain man Columbus Nigh accompanying her, she learns how capable she truly is while discovering a love she never dreamed could be hers. The characters are wonderful and well-drawn and the historical aspects immerse the reader fully into the time period. Ms. Raddon doesn't shy from the more tragic aspects of the narrative—most notably the outbreak of cholera along the journey—but Columbus and Brianna's story will stay with you long after it has ended.

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### Regan Walker says

A great read from the Old West, a Wagon Train on the Oregon Trail

The story begins in 1849 in St. Louis where Brianna Wight, fleeing an abusive husband, joins a wagon train heading west to Oregon Territory. To ensure she gets there, she hires a mountain man, Columbus ("Col") Nigh. Soon they discover her husband is in pursuit and wants revenge. Meanwhile, Col, whose Indian wife died sometime ago, finds himself attracted to the very proper woman who initially told him she was a widow.

Raddon brings to life the struggles and hardships of the pioneers heading west along the Oregon Trail: cholera, bad water, torrential rains, a tornado, hail, grasshoppers, tainted water and insects. (Amazingly, there were no Indian attacks.) Her meticulous research provides a solid foundation for the budding love between Brianna and Col. Alas, while she includes three maps, they are way too small to see in the ebook

(and I love maps!). The ebook also doesn't open at the beginning, but in the middle of the table of contents, so just be aware.

Col is a worthy hero and a complex man, much like the real fur trappers and mountain men who infiltrated the far west in the early days of America. And Brianna is a woman who cares for the hurts of others having lost so many she loves.

It's a story of second chances and finding the courage to leave an abusing relationship.

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### **Cecily says**

It was a bit bleak at times - the body count/sexual assault count was relatively high for a romance novel, but the Oregon Trail was vividly brought to life along with the cholera and the dust. I thought - even with a head start - that Barrett took an unfeasibly long time to catch up with the wagon train but I guess it gave time for the action to develop in the wagon. This was an interesting, and sometimes tender book.

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### **Mermarie says**

I recall this being a lovely little read, some years back. SO glad I found this again! The hero was such a gentle-hearted fellow, and the heroine learned how to trust men again, through his keep and care. :D

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### **Charlene Raddon says**

TENDER TOUCH is a romantic Oregon Trail story set in 1849. Desperate to escape her abusive husband, Briana fakes her death and joins a wagon train to Oregon. Since single women are not allowed to travel with the wagon train alone, she hires ex-mountain man, Columbus Nigh, as her guide. The journey is hard and dangerous, but Briana finds peace and love in the arms of her guide--until her husband shows up, threatening her life and happiness.

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### **Connie S. Jones says**

#### **Tender Touch**

Charlene Radeon has written a real winner. Great Characters and makes you feel what the characters are feeling , a good southern love story worth the read. I look forward to reading some of your other books.

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### **Emily-Jane Orford says**

Life was tough for the earlier settlers who followed wagon tracks across the country to start a new life in

Oregon. Diseases like cholera plagued their every move. Other dangers waited for them at every turn. Add to that the struggles some women faced with abusive husbands. Like the one Brianna was running away from. Barret, her husband, was a beast of a man who abused his wife in every way possible. Brianna hoped that in venturing west with a wagon train she could escape his abuse. But there were others – men who would try to abuse her along the way and men who abused women she befriended.

Charlene Raddon's historical novel, "Tender Touch", follows one woman's struggle to escape marital abuse and create a new life for herself on the rugged Oregon Trail. In an era when people looked the other way when witnessing abuse, Brianna is a character who finds a strength she never knew she had, not only to escape a madman husband, but to survive on a wagon trek across the country. What she finds is a life full of people who can and do genuinely love her, people she cares about equally in return. Her journey was more than a physical one; it was a journey of self discovery as she searches deep within herself to find the strength to face all of her fears, not just the fear of the man (or men) who abused her. With believable characters, this story's plot moves with amazing attentiveness to detail that allows the reader to ride along on the wagon train and feel like they are part of the story. A great read.

Reviewed for Readers' Favorite.

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### **Dianne says**

This was the first Charlene Raddon book I read and it certainly won't be the last! In fact as soon as I finished Tender Touch I purchased Forever Mine (that's what I love about ebooks if you want a book within minutes you can have it). Long after I finished Tender Touch I am still returning to it rereading my favorite bits. I loved every aspect of this book. I quickly became involved in the characters lives and hated when I was forced to put the book down. I highly recommend this incredibly good book.

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### **Jessica says**

\*3.5 stars\*

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### **Sarah says**

Good story that kept me intrigued but not my favorite.

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### **Patricia Anderson says**

#### **Gripping Romance**

From first to last page, I can't recommend this any more highly than saying I'm sorry it ended. The story offers human interest, wagon train conflicts, romance, and suspense. Brianna and Columbus were both very engrossing people living with heartache and love. Don't wait. Read this book now.

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## **Judy Esposito says**

### **Tender Touch!**

Charlene Raddon is a favorite author and I love escaping into her books. This was another enjoyable trip. I loved the hero, Columbus and the heroine, Brianna. They were both wonderful, well written characters, along with the secondary characters. Suspense, tension, romance and adventure, it kept me contented reading late into the night. Sexual content. JudyE

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## **Toni says**

This is a lovely book! It's filled with wonderful characters, all very real and human. Col may be illiterate, a man who's lived by his wits since the age of nine, but he's a man who can see beauty and goodness. Accustomed to the freedom and isolation of a mountain man's life, he longs to return to the wilderness until he meets Brianna who makes him yearn for a permanent place, for the first time in his life. Brianna is immersed in the mindset of the time as to a woman's place. She believes herself the cause of the abuse she suffers at her husband Barret's hands, and sees the loss of her sister and friends as some kind of punishment. Even when she admits her love for Col, she refuses to act on it because she's married and she won't break that final vow. Barrett is a typical wife-abuser. A coward and a bully, he sees it as his right to "punish" the woman he's suppose to protect.

The minor characters are also well-portrayed, showing the different classes and people from various walks of life...an upper class French mercantile owner, a widow with a man-hungry daughter, a man and his younger brother, the lecherous wagonmaster, a French trapper. Each and everyone is detailed enough to make them interesting and involve the reader in their part in the story, no matter how brief.

The hardships of the pioneers is related in detail, and one can almost feel the heat, the dust and grime, and the aching muscles from walking all day besides a team of oxen pulling a conestoga. The beauty of the Great Plains is here, too, as well as its cruelty, a land so different from the ones these people have left behind as they travel toward a new life. Some didn't make it. Their graves lay in Ash Hollow and in unmarked spots along the trail. Others, Like Col and Brianna had their hopes realized, but only after much suffering.

If I'd had time, I would've read this in one sitting. As it was, I had to space it out over three days! Having ridden the Oregon Trail through Nebraska, lived on the banks of the North Platte, seen Windlass Hill, the names carved into the Register of the Desert, and the graves at Ash Hollow, I probably enjoyed it more than someone who hasn't actually viewed the landmarks. Nevertheless, anyone who likes the story of the Western Movement, or just a plain good love story, will like this novel.

I recommend it.

Tender Touch is available from Smashwords, <http://www.smashwords.com/books/view/...>

This novel was supplied by the author and no remuneration was involved in the writing of this review.

