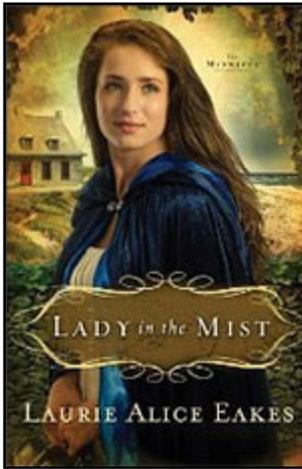


Readin' & Writin' with Lauraine- February 2012



They say that February is the month for love and romance, so my review for this month is especially appropriate: an inspirational, historical romance which is an excellent example of great storytelling and writing. The two don't necessarily go hand in hand, as you well know. The litmus test: is this a good story? I don't bother to review books that I can't say that about.

I have to confess, *Lady in the Mist* is the first novel I've read by Laurie Alice Eakes, but I can guarantee, it won't be the last. In fact, the second book in this series is due to be released any day and I will be one of the early buyers.

The story is set in the early 1800s, in a Virginia town on the coast, when many of the local men were being impressed into her majesty's royal navy, right off their fishing boats or during land raids. Sounds a bit like the days of the Vikings.

Tabitha Eckles is by training and experience a midwife; a very young and unmarried midwife, which is against local law, but since there are no other healers in the area, her age and marital state are overlooked. Midwifery is handed down through the generations to the women of her family. Tabitha would have been married, but her fiancé disappeared one night. The town thinks he was one of those impressed by the British.

Enter a charming Englishman, the younger son of nobility, who, due to misconduct, has been sent to America as an indentured servant. His duty is to find out who in this small

town is the traitor selling out the British. Most folks on either side of the Atlantic don't want another war, but there are those looking to get rich from the hostilities.

I have learned that I like historical romances better when much of the story is set on this continent, and *Lady in the Mist* was not only an enjoyable read, but opened a window into a small, unappreciated bit of American history in a delightful way. Laurie Alice Eakes needs to become part of your reading lists as well.

I decided to add something new to my column, not every month but now and then. I'm often asked by readers what am I reading. So here is my list. I can't give you a list of the books on my to-be-read shelves, because this column is not long enough. The first book is *The Healing Code* by Alexander Lloyd. It is phenomenal. A friend and I are putting the simple code to use. I'll let you know what we learn.

Next is *The Circle Maker*, a book on prayer and spiritual growth. Unusual and well done. *Jesus Calling* is my daily devotional book for this year. Sarah Young writes from the person of God speaking to each of us, using verses from the Bible as basis. A personal God, can you beat that?

The Bippolo Seed by Dr. Seuss is a collection of his earlier stories that were published in magazines. I so love Dr. Seuss. You'll learn more about *Sworn to Protect* by DiAnn Mills next month. This suspense novel is not good bedtime reading, because it is too hard to put down. I am lacking in sleep at times.

That's it for this month. Say I love you to all the people that you love while you still can. Life changes in an instant and sometimes then it is too late for them to hear you.

Oh, I almost forgot. My latest title, in partnership with Kathleen Wright, *Dog Daze* for readers ages 7-12, will be out March first. I promise that readers of any age will enjoy these four girls and their escapades.

Until next time,

Happy readin' & writin' from Lauraine