



A Heart for Any Fate: Westward to Oregon, 1845

By Linda Crew

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Seventeen-year-old Lovisa King leaves Missouri for the Oregon Territory in 1845. *A Heart for Any Fate*, based on the history of a company of real pioneers, tells the story of the King family, whose careful plans are challenged by the harsh, unforeseen realities of overland travel. The family makes the unfortunate decision to follow guide Stephen Meek, who leads them into blistering weather, drought, and treacherous river crossings along a shortcut that becomes known as the Terrible Trail.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

"In the spring of 1845, the King family of Carroll County, Missouri, loaded five covered wagons and set out for Oregon. Historical records tell us the route they chose." In this richly detailed novel that originally appeared in 2005, Crew creates a riveting, fictional story from the bare facts of an extended family's grueling journey across the Continental Divide. Illness and death claim some members, and grief and sorrow temper the survivors' jubilation when they finally reach the promised Eden in Oregon. Seventeen-year-old Lovisa narrates in a wholly believable voice filled with period colloquialisms (including a few derogatory references to Indians). While some readers may be slowed by the wealth of thoroughly researched particulars, others will be fascinated by each scene that vividly evokes a young woman's daily life on the trail. Readers, along with Lovisa's family and friends, will recognize love brewing long before she does, and her marriage forms a warm coda to the exhausting journey. A comprehensive foreword and afterword (with photos) complete this accomplished story that will easily find a place in the curriculum. Grades 6-10. --Gillian Engberg

Review

"What Crew has accomplished in *A Heart for Any Fate* is a tale that should make a place for itself in the classics of western historical fiction. This is a story for the whole family to enjoy, wholesome and captivating, a pioneer saga with a heroine as plucky, articulate, and entertaining as only a young adventurer can be." *The Advocate*

From the Publisher

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

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