



All She Left Behind

Jane Kirkpatrick

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Already well-versed in the natural healing properties of herbs and oils, Jennie Pickett longs to become a doctor. But the Oregon frontier of the 1870s doesn't approve of such innovations as women attending medical school. To leave grief and guilt behind, as well as support herself and her challenging young son, Jennie cares for an elderly woman using skills she's developed on her own. When her patient dies, Jennie discovers that her heart has become entangled with the woman's widowed husband, a man many years her senior. Their unlikely romance may lead her to her ultimate goal--but the road will be winding and the way forward will not always be clear. Will Jennie find shelter in life's storms? Will she discover where healing truly lives?

Through her award-winning, layered storytelling, *New York Times* bestselling author Jane Kirkpatrick invites readers to leave behind their preconceived notions about love and life as they, along with Jennie, discover that dreams may be deferred--but they never really die. Based on a true story.

All She Left Behind Details

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Author : Jane Kirkpatrick

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From Reader Review *All She Left Behind* for online ebook

Ruth says

With *All She Left Behind*, Jane Kirkpatrick sheds light on the life of Jennie Parrish, one of the first women to finish medical school and practice medicine in the Oregon in the late 19th century. But more than a story of one woman defying social convention to pursue a "man's" vocation, Kirkpatrick weaves together the fragments of surviving history about Jennie's life, to paint a more complete portrait of this remarkable woman, who like so many before and after her, refuses to be contained in one box or descriptor that society deems most fitting for women at any given point in time. I love fiction that explores women's history, breathing fresh life into stories that are all too often forgotten by the history books. And Jennie could not be a more worthy (or timely) subject. It was fascinating to read about a woman with a learning disability (likely dyslexia?), passionate, intuitive, and far ahead of her time in recognizing and acknowledging addiction as a disease, rather than a simple choice. While Kirkpatrick drew from history to pen this portrait, any conjecture she uses to bridge the gap between fact and fiction results in a plausible, compelling portrait of an extraordinary individual who allowed hardship to refine her rather than destroy, to knit her into a woman who did not let the choices of others define her, but rather chose her response to such and from heartache and hardship left a remarkable legacy. While this is my first novel by Jane Kirkpatrick, it is certain not be my last. This is moving, inspiring, thought-provoking novel, bringing a slice of history to life that I'm grateful to now know.

Ashley says

I struggled with this book. While the initial storyline looked intriguing, I found the writing to be very choppy and the story to be less than interesting. I kept waiting for it to get better - for there to be a climatic moment - but it never got there. I was relieved when the book finally ended.

Sometimes multiple years would pass between sentences, and there was no "here's what happened." The author just kept pushing forward. It was like reading a personal diary where the writer only remembered to record the events of the day a few days a year.

While I received an advanced copy for my review purposes, I was shocked at the number of typographical errors throughout. I truly hope this book was re-edited before going to print.

Christy says

I will always enjoy Kirkpatrick's style and writing pattern but every now and again she will write about someone I'm less than thrilled to read about and such was the case with Jennie Pickett. I couldn't quite grasp Jennie's mentality or her inner reasoning through most of this book. Above all; the alcohol and drug abuse and addictions were just something I couldn't get passed. Ultimately I just did not want to read about these qualities in anyone and journey through life with them.

Shirley Revill says

I listened to the audiobook version of this story and I really enjoyed it.
All you could ever want in a book. Recommended.

Amy says

All She Left Behind is my new favorite novel written by Jane Kirkpatrick. I just love this story. This book is based on real events involving Jennie Pickett. I loved Jennie and loved that she refused to allow the times to keep her from following her dream. She was an extraordinary woman that went through so much to keep her dream alive. Such a beautiful story full of hope, faith, determination, and redemption.
All She Left Behind is most definitely a must read and I highly recommend it.
5 plus stars.
I received this book from the publisher. This review is 100% my own honest opinion.

Diane says

All She Left Behind by Jane Kirkpatrick is based on a true story from 1860's Oregon history. This book is a wonderful example of Jane Kirkpatrick's ability to tell a story from historical documentation that brings out the compassion in the readers. Jane "Jennie" overcomes great personal and physical obstacles to become a known healer, doctor, and public figure for her time in the Oregon west.
Seventeen year old Jane Lichtenthaler of Washington County, Oregon married Charles Pickett in March of 1860. During their wedding dance Charles slipped, fell hard, and hit his head on the rough floor. We will not know if this affected his personality or if he had problems before the accident, but Jennie soon learned hard lessons from the man she had married. He was not always the kind person she had thought him to be before the wedding. Jennie and Charles had a son, Douglas and a baby daughter who died at her birth due to the cord being around her neck. Jennie would always wonder if the delay of Charles bringing the doctor, both smelling of alcohol as she was in labor with baby Ariyah, had contributed to the death.
Jeanie has the spirit of a natural healer. She is knowledgeable about herbs, plants, tea, and tinctures. Her heart's desire is to be a doctor, although she knows that Oregon in the 1860 will be hesitant to approve of allowing a woman to become a healer equal to a man. Jeannie also has a small learning disability. She has trouble reading and deciphering letters, what we would call today as dyslexia.
Read how she overcame the spousal abuse, loss of a baby, financial disaster, divorce, and humiliation among family and community to rise above and be heralded as a forceful and strong woman who kept her faith during troubled times. Once you start reading you may not want to stop!

Laura says

If you read one book this year make it All She Left Behind by Jane Kirkpatrick. Based on a true story this is a book that will make you weep, get you angry, long for loved ones to be near, mourn those you've lost and get you thinking about doing all you can while you can with the life you've been given.

Jennie Pickett took what life threw at her and tried to make the best of it. Her alcoholic husband didn't make

that easy. I won't give you the rest of the story because to do so would take away from the emotions you will feel if I do. Suffice it to say that God always has a plan and can take the evil intentions of others and turn them into blessings we could never imagine.

Jennie's story will inspire you. I was amazed that she was not a fictional character but did at one time walk this earth. And oh, my! What an impact she had on the lives around her. And what a blessing those lives were to her, who dared her to pursue her dreams.

Read this book. You will not be disappointed!

Toni Osborne says

This historical fiction is a carefully researched blend of historical events using real people. The story is about Jennie Pickett and her struggle to become a doctor in the 1870's Oregon.

This tale is an amazing journey in a time where women physicians were shun by society. For Jennie to become a doctor she had to surmount imaginable obstacles: her dyslexia and a difficult husband and son. She first learned homeopathic treatments with herbs and oil and practiced her art at every occasion with passion. After her divorce from her husband, she met her second husband, a wonderful man who gave her all the encouragement and the push needed to become a doctor. We follow her life through a bad marriage and a good marriage.

This story is told in a smooth narrative one that easily pulled me in from the first chapter. I wanted Jennie to succeed and have a wonderful life. She is portrayed as a strong and determined person regardless of her disabilities and the tragedies in her life. We have a lot of surprises along the way to keep us flipping the pages.

This is a captivating story of over-coming tragedy and poor choices, personal and family challenges and never losing hope. It is also a story of love. Beautifully written this novel is hard not to like.

"All She Left Behind" is based on a true story

I received this ARC from the publisher Revell via the Early Reviewer Program for an honest and unbiased review.

Missy says

What She Left Behind is a book about Jennie Pickett who has the love and gift of medicine, using herbs and oils, though she is self-taught by listening to others read text books and articles to her. She obviously had dyslexia, with the turning of letters and taking longer than usual to read. It is a story of overcoming hardship, fear, and abuse. A lot goes on in this story, from the alcohol and drug abuse by her first husband and son, to her uncommon divorce at that time, being the nurse maid for a wealthy woman, the new found love with a much older widower, and the realization of her dream to become a doctor.

This was a good book, it showed the strength Jennie had all her life to realize her dream of becoming a doctor despite her reading disability. I liked the interaction of characters and how the story fed off them. I was not too crazy of the relationship of Jennie and Josiah Parrish, I thought being 36 years her senior was a bit much, so I did not like that. However, he showed love and support for Jennie to make her own dreams come true. But to my surprise, in the very end I learned the book was based on real life and how each person lived on after Jennie completed the story. So for that I am giving this book 4 stars.

Joleen says

All She Left Behind by **Jane Kirkpatrick**

Genre: Historical Fiction

Format: Kindle

Timeframe: 1860-1887ish

Location: Oregon Territory

Main Characters:

Jennie Pickett: AKA Jennie Parrish

Charles Pickett: First husband, addict

Dougie Pickett: Jennie's son, also addict

Josiah Parrish: Jennie's second husband, church minister

Jennie had a learning disability making reading and writing difficult. Although exceptionally intelligent, this hardship caused others to think her intellectually inferior, including some family members, her husband, and even herself. But she excelled at anything having to do with medicine. She was able to develop ways to dry and distill plants for medicine and oils. But having a distillery did not entirely work in her favor as her husband turned out to be an addict, and introduced it to their son.

Eventually he left her for a sad life. But with the support of her family, all of whom lived nearby, and with Jennie having such a hard work ethic, her new life was not easy at first, but God provided for her needs, including a new family.

The title made it sound like she had much and left it all, for whatever reason. This is not the case. It's more like the life she lived was so full and such a blessing to everyone, that it was a legacy of Godliness and generosity and healing many that she left behind.

This was not my favorite Jane Kirkpatrick novel. It was like a day to day history of Jennie and her family, which did in fact seem a bit like a historical account rather than a flowing novel. Ah well, it was interesting, just not riveting.

Brandi (Rambles of a SAHM) says

I can't get enough of Jane Kirkpatrick's historical novels. She has such a gift of resurrecting long forgotten figures from the past and allowing us to take a journey with them. Most of her leading characters are women and that's what we find in *All She Left Behind*.

Jennie Pickett is a young bride when we first meet her. A minor accident on her wedding day changes the entire scope of her married life. But Jennie is nothing but persistent. She's the epitome of "when life gives you lemons . . . make lemonade." For the first part of the novel we see Jennie being dealt blow after blow until the dreams she had for herself and her family seem impossible.

But Jennie serves a God of the possible. I don't want to give away the plot so I will just say that Jennie's story is inspiring. You will be reminded to never give up on a dream. It may be delayed far longer than you can imagine but if it's from God it will come to pass.

I can't stress enough to read the author's notes at the end. There is an epilogue that gives you part of the rest of the story. But the author's notes are like an epilogue to the epilogue. Fascinating stuff. If you are looking for a great read about a real person that will inspire you to dream big, this is the book for you!

I received a copy of this book to facilitate my review.

Julia Wilson says

All She Left Behind by Jane Kirkpatrick is a marvellous Christian historical novel. It is an epic read that blends fact and fiction into a wonderful story.

Jane Kirkpatrick tells the story of a modern woman, a pioneer of her time who became a doctor. As well as researching into obstetrics. The reader 'feels' the passion of the leading lady to help those around her.

There is the difficult topic of alcoholism and drug dependency. It is heartbreaking to see the consequences of these taking hold. A terrible craving where everything else comes second to drugs and alcohol is terrible to witness.

The novel is peppered with tragedy. Life was precarious in the nineteenth century. Poor choices can spell disaster. Forgiveness ties in to this. "He had yet to forgive himself." Often we are the hardest person to forgive.

Characters sometimes lose the fight to survive. This description when facing death really lodged in my heart. "It's still a new beginning... Just one we have to take alone." Tears are referred to as 'liquid love' which I think is beautiful.

There are some very comprehensive descriptions of the landscape, making the area come alive for the reader. God has a prominent part to play in the novel. There are some battles that only God can fight when we commit our struggles to Him in prayer.

Strong friendships in the novel withstand both time and tragedy.

All She Left Behind is an epic tale of nineteenth century pioneers of medicine. It is a wonderful story that both educates and entertains.

I received this book for free. A favourable review was not required and all views expressed are my own.

Laura says

ALL SHE LEFT BEHIND is a story based on a true story - which always makes for a good read. Jennie Pickett is a pioneer woman who was into essential oils long before they became popular. Her dream is to help heal women and children and to help men recover from alcoholism.

Unfortunately, she discovers that her husband is totally against the idea, her best friend denies there's a problem, and Jennie must come to terms with her own problems.

Ms. Kirkpatrick knows how to set the scene, and the reader can almost "see" what the character sees in this story. Almost feel what the character feels, which generally makes for a story that they are drawn into.

Jennie has a very hard life, sharing a three bedroom home with her husband, son, and two other families, mourning the loss of her infant daughter (which no one wants to admit existed -- most women who miscarried or had a stillborn baby can relate to that) and having a dream that very few people, not even her husband, is willing to acknowledge or support. Even when he seems to support it, he really has ulterior motives.

The story starts out slow and seems to have a dark, depressing undertone which made it difficult to read this book for long stretches of time. It dragged me down with it, and I didn't like those feelings. However, it was interesting reading about Jennie's journey as she struggled to realize her dreams.

I received a copy of this book free. All opinions are my own.

Nicole says

All She Left Behind (2017) is a stand-alone novel masterfully written by Jane Kirkpatrick. This novel was just released on September 5, 2017. This novel comes in all forms including eBook, and is 343 pages in length. With a full-time job and a busy five-year old, this novel took me two days to read. I received a free copy of this novel directly from the publisher, Revell of the Baker Publishing Group. In no way has this influenced my opinions of the story. All opinions expressed in this review are mine. I give this novel 5+ STARS. This novel is a Christian Historical Fiction based on authentic historical people and events.

The main character in this novel is Jennie Lichtenthaler, one of Oregon's first female doctors. Jennie's story is so engaging I read 3/4 of the book in one sitting! From a small girl, Jennie has always been fascinated with herbs and medicinals prepared naturally. She loves healing others, and does dream of becoming a doctor one day. But, a lack of confidence and some seriously upsetting moments put that dream on hold for Jennie.

Jennie's life was really hard. Her first marriage was a disaster due to her husband's alcohol and drug addiction. Jennie also lost one child at birth, which completely devastated her. Some of the events described in this book are so heart-wrenching I wanted so desperately to reach into the novel and give Jennie a comforting hug. I would love to expound on Jennie's first marriage, some of the things she endures are beyond bearable, but I don't want to ruin one single page of this novel. Jane Kirkpatrick does a fantastic job of putting her readers directly into the time period. The arrogance of men and the way many of them treated women as less than second class citizens was really hard to read. Every insult Jennie had hurled at her, I felt deeply.

But, Jennie does have a fantastic love story as well. Her second husband, Josiah Parrish, was the love of her life, and treated her so well. He is so beautifully written in this novel -- he may well be my top fictional hero. The relationship between Josiah and Jennie gave me hope as I read this novel that good people, loving people really do exist in this hard world.

This novel does discuss alcohol and drug addiction at great length. Jennie was tremendously affected by the

abuse of such substances. In fact, it is one of the driving forces that help her determine her course of studies in the medical field. Alcohol and drug abuse is a terrible sickness. It ruins not just the lives of those addicted, but the lives of family members who truly want to help but are completely helpless to do so. I felt this novel touched on these topics with grace, authenticity, and truth. It is frustrating and traumatic to take second (or third or fourth) place in the hearts of loved ones choosing harmful substances over you and your love. It's a terrible thing to watch a loved one succumb to the depravity of drug and/or alcohol abuse, and the other sins that typically go along with these abuses. And, the grief and guilt you feel when you finally let go of these loved ones is almost indescribable. But, as is subtly illustrated in the novel, give it all to God. Give God the pain and the grief and the guilt and the loss of the loved one. He is the only One who can truly heal!

All She Left Behind is one of the best books of 2017. It is exquisitely written! My goodness did God bless Jane Kirkpatrick with a phenomenal writing talent. I highly, highly recommend this novel.

Anne says

This book was difficult to read because it deals with some pretty distressing and depressing subjects, like substance abuse and addiction. And given that it's based on a true story, happy endings are not in store for everyone. I had a harder time with it than I expected.

I never really got to the place where I was really invested in the main character, and I'm not sure if it's because of the way she was written or because of who she was. Truth is stranger than fiction, and if I hadn't known this was a true story, I would have thought it extremely far-fetched, especially for the era in which it was set.

My other complaint was that we waited for so long for Jennie to become a doctor, that when she does, it's anticlimactic. That part of the story felt rushed and a little dry. There was a lot about her accomplishments as a doctor, but little about her actual experiences.

The writing itself was lovely. I loved the character Aariyah, and the thread of musical insights she brought into the narrative. That was a beautiful touch that added a lot to the story.
