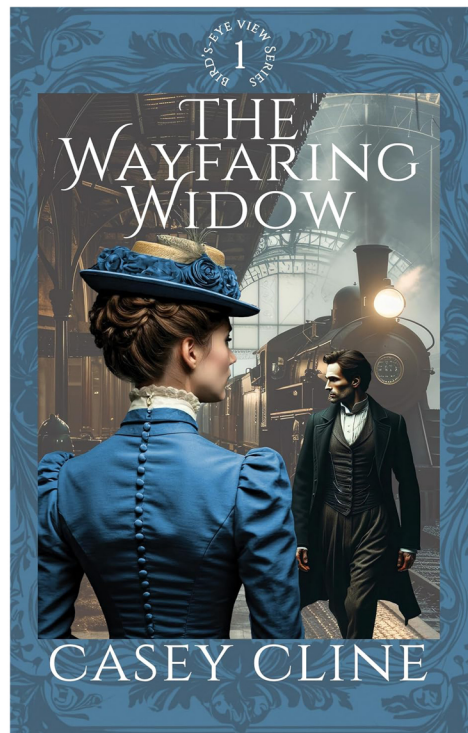




WAYFARING WIDOW
(Bird's-Eye View Book 1)

Casey Cline

To escape her grievous past and avoid her bleak future, twenty-eight-year-old widow Victoria Clarke joins her friend, Isabella Bird, on a once-in-a-lifetime journey from England to America in 1854. But Harrison Wright, the man acting as escort to the women on their journey, is cold and gruff, and his mannerisms conjure up the pains of Victoria's past, especially her former husband's mistreatment. Victoria doubles the defenses of her already fragile heart, but will it be enough to endure what she now feels is an ill-fated expedition?

Twenty-nine-year-old New York lawyer, Harrison Wright, has made a promise to his friend, Isabella Bird, to escort her around his home country. And unlike his father, Harrison keeps his promises. Since Harrison has sworn off women due to his own troubled past, he is not pleased Victoria will be joining the trip. But as a declared bachelor, he's built an impenetrable safeguard around his own heart that should withstand a few weeks in this other woman's company.

As the trio explores Boston, Detroit, Chicago, Niagara Falls, and New York City, surviving fires, disreputable innkeepers, sickness, and storms, Victoria and Harrison are loathe to find that they cannot avoid each other's company. But in such close proximity, will Victoria and Harrison's initial flared tempers lead to

even stronger and more unavoidable feelings about each other? Feelings that have them questioning whether their journey will have the most unlikely of destinations: love and healing—and happily ever after—with each other?

GENRE:
Historical Romance

AVAILABILITY:
Amazon (ebook, paperback)

Victoria Clarke has taken a tremendous risk traveling so far to visit her friend Isabella, and she could never have expected the threats and escapades such a trip would entail. But a change of scenery was required—all that was back home in England seemed to hold sorrow and pain. But Isabella had promised no men on this trip, and the very first person, other than Isabella, that Victoria meets is Harrison Wright.

Harrison Wright cannot entertain any of the wolfish women seeking his attention, as he is determined to avoid becoming his father. Yet Isabella and all her machinations are set against him, and he must endure, while maintaining his principles, his duty as an escort to the two ladies on a wild escapade planned by none other than Isabella herself. It will surely be a test of his will to keep his eyes and heart to himself while in the presence of the mysterious Victoria, a woman who holds her own counsel, but still seems capable of leveling him with a quick barb. Isabella seems to think he's met his match. Could she be right?

ACTION & ADVENTURE: Travelling from England to Boston in 1854 quickly proves to be an adventure Victoria had underestimated. Her time with Isabella begins with an unsteady boot in the rain, with a man who was never supposed to be there. As they travel to Niagara Falls and back to Boston, they must survive a terrible illness, blazing wildfires in the plains, boat sickness, an infamous American duel, every type of man and woman, deplorable living conditions, all while maintaining a distance from each other.

RELIGION: Though there is mention of prayer during times of character distress, there are no faith arcs, reading of scripture, or detailed prayers as religion isn't a major thread in the novel.

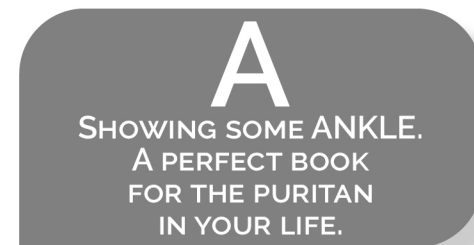
ROMANCE: This enemies-to-lovers historical romance has all the right tension and sweet moments that drive



a reader simply crazy for that happily ever after. The added element of the beautiful setting of 1854 America made the story rich with context and depth. Victoria is done with love, and she is not interested in Harrison, but she can't deny there's an attraction singing between them. With both characters determined to remain single, the brush of a knee in a carriage, the turn of a phrase that hits just right by accident, and the beautiful moments of intentional attention and vulnerability later in the novel are swoon-worthy.

CONTENT: Wayfaring Widow earned the "A" rating as it remains mild on violence and romance while exhibiting a positive worldview, even with the duel and some swarthy characters.

FINAL THOUGHTS: Casey Cline has launched her series Bird's-Eye View with a spectacular historical novel full of intrigue, complex characters driven by deep hurt that must heal in order to reach their happily ever after, and a rich tapestry of historical settings that included dining at Longfellow's house in Boston, P. T. Barnum's tent at the Michigan State Fair, and the Biddle Staircase at Niagara Falls, keeping the reader turning the pages. I highly recommend this beautiful story, carefully crafted to represent everything the real Isabella Bird experienced on her trip, with only a few creative liberties. Casey's extensive research into Isabella's impressive real-life endeavors, including Isabella Bird's first-hand account in The Englishwoman in America, makes this novel stand apart from others in the historical romance genre. I cannot wait for book two!



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