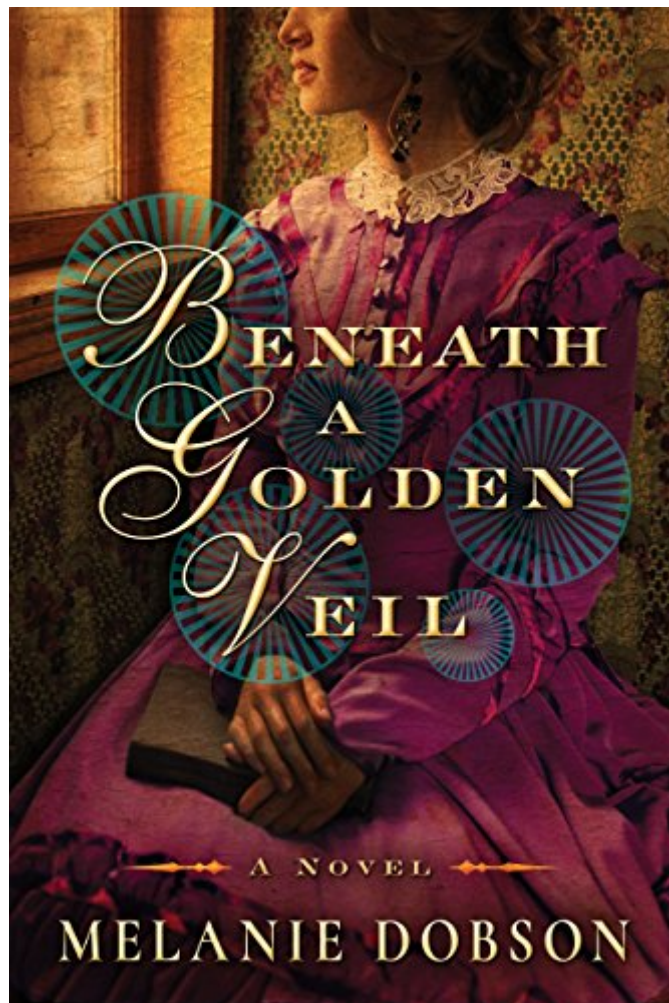


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# Beneath A Golden Veil



## Synopsis

As elegant as the Sacramento residence she operates, Isabelle Labrie keeps her past concealed, like the treasure she hides under the Golden Hotel. It's 1853, the heyday of the California Gold Rush. Isabelle is full of hope, staking her claim on the city's refined clientele and her future on a sweetheart's promise to marry her when he returns from the gold fields. Then, unexpected guests—fugitive slaves seeking safe passage to the North—force her to confront her past and reconsider her path. While Isabelle learns to trust God's provisions, a law student in Virginia must confront his father's cruelty and rescue a young slave from his family's tobacco plantation. As the two escape to freedom, and Isabelle risks everything to harbor runaway slaves, the past and present are set on an inevitable collision course—one that reveals hidden treasures of the heart.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is AMAZING! There are so many twists and turns, along with surprises that will keep you riveted to the pages of this book. Melanie Dobson has written a spell-binding story that will keep you

up long into the night! You'll get a glimpse of Millie who loses her baby (she's told he died) and then is sent away by the mistress of the house. Fast forward a few years) Then you meet Alden who is responsible for a nine year old boy that has been thrust upon...again by the same mistress. This mistress is Alden's sister. When Alden arrives home for Christmas his life changes dramatically and he makes changes. Alden and Isaac travel together finding themselves and discovering more about their life and their endurance. You'll meet Isabelle. A strong and determined woman. With a powerful secret. I loved Isabella! Her character reminds me of myself! Isabella is determined to see all slaves are free. I totally disliked Victor. I was hoping he would've accidentally been killed off by the end of the book. I didn't know anything about California's 'free law state' for slaves, but it didn't seem very effective or helpful. I think it's true about a lot of things in history, there's so much we know but yet there's so much we don't know. Either it's because we were not taught or we just didn't want to know those details. Disclosure statement: I receive complimentary books for review from publishers, publicists, and/or authors, in Netgalley. I am not required to write positive reviews. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255. Thank you, Waterfall Press and Netgalley, for the opportunity to read and review this book!

"Each of us has a natural right-from God- to defend his person, his liberty and his property." The elegant Isabelle Labrie has experienced life on both sides of liberty, maintaining her comfortable lifestyle as a co-owner of the esteemed Golden Hotel, situated in the midst of Sacramento, California during the height of the infamous Gold Rush; her past but a distant memory, but a constant fear; her future hopeful, but infinitely precarious. Isabelle covertly uses her good fortune to aid those who are less fortunate, especially those desperately fighting against the nearly impenetrable chains of slavery. Alden Payne is an aspiring Harvard law student, until his cruel father crosses the line of civility and commits a heinous act. Fleeing the East Coast with a young Negro boy, Alden fights his way to California, where the state slavery laws are progressive but murky, and where Alden has been promised gainful employment. When Alden's path happens to cross that of the lovely Isabelle Labrie; his life, her life and the life of the young boy Alden is trying to free, enter into a battle for freedom that none of them ever imagined could have existed. Liberty; a sacred ideal for those who don't have it, and especially precious for those who fear that it may simply be a mirage that will one day disappear. "Beneath a Golden Veil" gifts its readers with glimpses of the legacy that brave Americans fought for; earning "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" for all men and women, regardless of their heritage or skin color, for truly "where the Spirit of the Lord is, there

is liberty".

Not my favorite book by this author, but still interesting. A few good, unexpected, twists that were welcome. I still buy everything this author writes.

Written with compassion, written with knowledge, written to keep a person captivated from beginning to end. One of the best, I mean best books I have read on historical facts and fiction. Melanie was a new author to me, now listed in my favorites. I have even preordered her new one coming out soon.

Wow! Surprises in the plot and the characters themselves. I found this book more than satisfying. Deep characters looking to solve very real problems.

The story itself is very good, and also well-written. It is at times heart-wrenching, and at others heartwarming, without being sappy. The time flew by listening to it and I did not find myself wondering if I would continue to listen, or how many chapters were left as I often do when starting a new story. Well done!

this was the best book I have read in a long time, great writing great story line, once you get caught up in the characters of the story your lost into the story line. I will gladly buy more books written by this author.

Great history read! Wasn't aware of what was happening in the West during the years just prior to Civil War!

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