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The Last Woman Standing: A Novel

By Thelma Adams

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Two decades after the Civil War, Josephine Marcus, the teenage daughter of Jewish immigrants, is lured west with the promise of marriage to Johnny Behan, one of Arizona's famous lawmen. She leaves her San Francisco home to join Behan in Tombstone, Arizona, a magnet for miners (and outlaws) attracted by the silver boom. Though united by the glint of metal, Tombstone is plagued by divided loyalties: between Confederates and Unionists, Lincoln Republicans and Democrats.

But when the silver-tongued Behan proves unreliable, it is legendary frontiersman Wyatt Earp who emerges as Josephine's match. As the couple's romance sparks, Behan's jealousy ignites a rivalry destined for the history books...

At once an epic account of an improbable romance and a retelling of an iconic American tale, *The Last Woman Standing* recalls the famed gunfight at the O.K. Corral through the eyes of a spunky heroine who sought her happy ending in a lawless outpost—with a fierce will and an unflagging spirit.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Who doesn’t want to read about the woman who married Wyatt Earp? A legend of her own, she was Jewish, beautiful, and exotic, and Adams has made her alive and kicking on the page. A Wild West story made even wilder, more poignant and inspired by Adams’s fascinating research and glittering prose.”

—**Caroline Leavitt, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Is This Tomorrow* and *Pictures of You***

“It is not merely because *The Last Woman Standing* takes us to a time in the past that I felt dislocated upon completing it. Thelma Adams has also taken me back to a time when we could expect a gripping and rich yarn, for lack of a better word. I found myself thinking of Doctorow and Jong and Oates, and other good writers who have taken the historical novel and given it their vast intelligence and talent and a modern-day take on their subject. This—and more—Adams has done, and *The Last Woman Standing* will make you think of good work done by other writers, but it is also entirely original, and a marvel. It is a book you set aside like a fine wine and wait for the chance to reopen and savor it.” —**James Grissom, author of *Follies of God: Tennessee Williams and the Women of the Fog***

“This transporting novel swiftly whisks readers away to the rough-and-tumble, gritty boomtown of Tombstone, Arizona, during its heyday. Miners, outlaws, and lawmen live almost side by side, and one remarkable woman makes her mark alongside the men. Blending fact and fiction, Adams brings Josephine Marcus Earp to life with her sassy, no-holds-barred, first-person account. This is a fascinating read that will make readers wish they could join Josie on her life’s journey.” —**RT Book Reviews**

“*The Last Woman Standing* is an exciting glimpse into the life of a young woman embroiled in the violence and rivalries of Wild West Tombstone...Adams brings a uniquely female perspective to the town’s legends.” —**Night Owl Reviews**

“If you enjoy history and romance, danger and deceit, you will find this is a terrific book for your library. Learning more of the past through such a venue keeps you reading and searching to the very end. Adams has given us a strong and passionate story filled with historical facts, and you will find it hard to put this book down. This would be a great book for a reading or discussion group, with a great deal of interest to them both.” —**BlogCritics**

“There’s a great deal to be said about Thelma Adams’s book *The Last Woman Standing*...and all of it good. Very, very good. A feminist western mixing real and fictional characters, and totally defiling the era and prevailing attitudes of the times is no easy trick to pull off, and Adams does it with humor and, Lord help us all, charm.” —**Examiner.com**

“Movies, television shows, and books tell the story about lawman Wyatt Earp but very few mention his wife. Married for nearly fifty years, Josephine Sarah Marcus Earp was beautiful, gusty, and Jewish. Thelma Adams has delved into the life and times of Mrs. Wyatt with her latest...There would be no children but an enduring love, a passion that remained throughout the decades with the hurts and the laughter told during a time in history when one man and one woman would try to tame the west and each other.” —**Las Vegas Informer**

“Truth can be stranger than fiction, they say. But Adams does a pretty bang-up job of blending the two while embellishing Mrs. Earp’s rightful place in Western lore.” —**The Buffalo News**

“Wyatt Earp dodged many a bullet, but *The Last Woman Standing* is a fanciful, deeply entertaining account of how Josephine Marcus got him right in the heart.” —*Chronogram*

About the Author

Thelma Adams is an established figure in the entertainment industry. For two decades, she has penned celebrity features and criticism for high-profile publications. Her portfolio of actor interviews includes Julianne Moore, George Clooney, Jessica Chastain, and Matthew McConaughey, among many others. While covering film for the *New York Post*, *Us Weekly*, and Yahoo Movies, Thelma became a regular at film festivals from Berlin to Dubai, Toronto to Tribeca. She sits on the Hamptons International Film Festival Advisory Board and twice chaired the prestigious New York Film Critics Circle. Her debut novel, *Playdate*, published by Thomas Dunne Books, won high critical acclaim. Adams is often recognized, as she has been invited to share her expertise on many broadcast outlets, including appearances on NBC's *Today*, CBS's *Early Show*, and CNN. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a history degree from UC Berkeley and earned an MFA from Columbia University. She lives in Hyde Park, New York, with her family.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

William Coker:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a book. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled *The Last Woman Standing: A Novel*. Try to face the book *The Last Woman Standing: A Novel* as your friend. It means that it can being your friend when you really feel alone and beside that course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortunated to suit your needs. The book makes you more confidence because you can know almost everything by the book. So , let me make new experience and knowledge with this book.

Clarence Lowery:

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reading through a book especially fictional works book the author will bring that you imagine the story how the characters do it anything. Third, you may share your knowledge to others. When you read this The Last Woman Standing: A Novel, you can tell your family, friends in addition to soon about your book. Your knowledge can inspire different ones, make them reading a reserve.

Kenneth Quisenberry:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of information. Even you love The Last Woman Standing: A Novel, you may enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

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