

UK edition forthcoming



Tennant's Rock



American reviews of Steve McGiffen's debut novel

"McGiffen's simple story provides the basis for an exploration of the isolation and hardships of rural life in frontier California, and he builds an engaging portrait of the difficulties experienced by western pioneers."

Kirkus Reviews

"Steve McGiffen is to be commended for writing a book from a feminine viewpoint and doing it so very, very well. He has incorporated themes more common to modern times – spouse abuse, patricide and illiteracy – and set them in a period more often romanticized than portrayed realistically by fiction. McGiffen has created genuine characters and exposes them to the reader, warts and all. There is conflict in the story and there is conflict in the interpretation. Except for Swann, who is totally repulsive, and Sissy, who is totally endearing, the characters weigh in with both good and bad traits.

"*Tennant's Rock* is a quick read, possibly because it is difficult to put down. McGiffen's prose is touching in its simplicity and echoes the sighing of a wounded, but healing heart."

Louisville Courier-Journal

"Events and actions in Sissy's life rarely go as she plans – or even hopes – and Nate's return, while a wonderful occasion, proves to her that he is not to be her saviour. Now Sissy has to learn to depend on her own strength and survival skills. Although bleak at times, this novel is an accomplished reflection on the power of love and inner strength, sure to please readers of historical fiction."

Booklist

"A powerful tale of a family's struggle to overcome insurmountable odds, find the wisdom to let go and the courage to start again. Set in California, just after the Civil War, the novel begins when Sissy's brother, Nate, returns from prison and the war to take over the family farm. In his 10-year absence, Swann, a dangerous outsider, has taken hold of the family and fathered Sissy's two children . . .

"This deftly written debut novel is difficult to put down. Sissy and her mother are women of the western frontier, isolated and seemingly defined by the mores of the times, yet, in the end, capable of amazing strength. A memorable story."

Denver Post

"Author reminds me of: Jane Hamilton in her character detail and sense of conflict; Wally Lamb in his ability to write well from a woman's perspective.
Best reason to read: For its history, suspense and satisfying conclusion."

Rocky Mountain News

Black Ace Books

PO Box 7547, Perth, PH2 1AU, Scotland

Answerphone: 01821-642822 Fax: 01821-642101

www.blackacebooks.com

