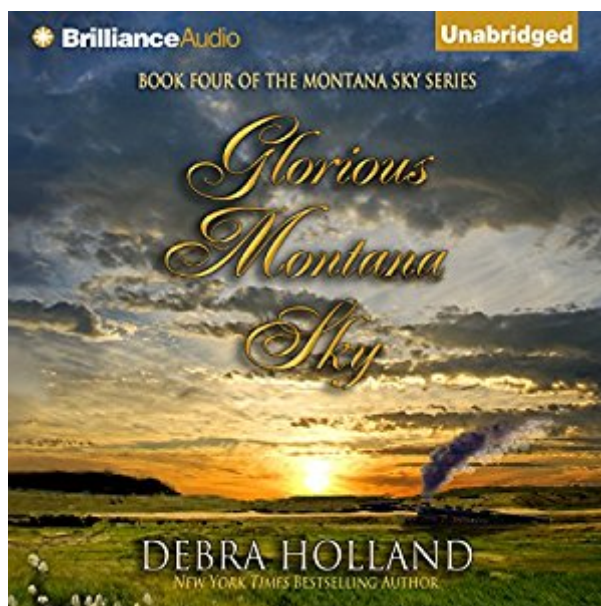


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# Glorious Montana Sky: Montana Sky, Book 4



## Synopsis

After spending nine years as a missionary in Africa and losing his wife to illness, Joshua Norton is exhausted, emotionally and physically. He returns home to the frontier Montana town of Sweetwater Springs with his estranged nine-year-old son in tow, hoping to rebuild his relationship with the boy. Meanwhile, New Orleans resident Delia Fortier plots to escape the terrible fate her mother has planned for her: becoming the mistress of a cruel, powerful politician. The mixed-race secret daughter of a wealthy Creole businessman, Delia boldly seeks help from her father's family. Although the rest of the family spurns her, her father is delighted to learn of Delia's existence and offers her an opportunity: travel west with him, pretending to be his legitimate daughter. When Joshua and Delia meet, their intense attraction is undeniable. But will Delia's secret stand in the way of their love? Or will prejudice destroy their future... and their lives? A stirring, sweeping frontier romance, *Glorious Montana Sky* is the fourth title in the best-selling series that has enchanted listeners.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I've just finished reading another of Debra Holland's great books. The listing of this book says it is #4 of 4, but I feel there should be a #5 of 5 because I want more. When I turned to see the next Chapter, it was over and I had a certain ache in my heart that the story was done. I love the Preacher, Joshua Norton, and felt his heartache over his unfulfilled marriage and death of his wife. His son seemed lost as he had to leave his African "family" behind when he and his father came home from their Missionary work. The life in Africa was the only life Micah had known so the strict

society rules of the East and the rules of the household of his Grandparents was more than he could bear. Joshua and his son, Micah, make a trip west to Sweetwater Springs, Montana, to visit the other Grandparents and try to make sense of their lives once again. Joshua is the fifth generation preacher and struggles to renew his faith, get more acquainted with his son and help his parents. Joshua and Micah meet Andre and Delia Bellaire from New Orleans. With personal secrets about their past, they come to be in Sweetwater Springs. Yes, there is some romance and that too is exceptionally well written into this book. There was a tear here and there as I truly felt the struggles of life when it comes to different religions and heritage. Debra Holland has a way of writing that makes you want more so you don't have to put the book down. I wanted another Chapter; I wanted an Epilogue; I wanted to see answers to questions BUT, I realize in today's world, there are no real answers and there are still many questions when it comes to race, religion, marriages, ethnic understandings and educations. Life itself has mysteries and I love how Ms. Holland draws you in and keeps you spellbound just looking for truth and answers. This book is life in 1895 which is not so different in the viewpoints of many lives today. Great writing!

Just to let you know, this is my first book that I have read by this author. I really like her way of storytelling and characterization. You will be missing out if you don't like western romance, but you will have to take my word for it. This is part of the series of Montana Sky #4, but can be read as a stand alone. Joshua Norton is a preacher just like his father before him. He was a missionary in Africa and has returned to his home town of Sweetwater Springs, Montana. He is now a widower with a sullen nine year old son who is missing his friends at his old home. Joshua is just plain worn out because he had to take care of his wife during her illness. He wants to get to know his son again and hopes they become closer. It sure is hard being a parent and happiness excludes Joshua during his married life. But things change when Joshua meets the lovely Delia Fortier. He is instantly attracted to the beautiful and spirited woman. She is also taken with the handsome preacher and his son. They soon become friends of sort, but Delia knows their relationship can't be anything more. Oh how she wished it could be. But Delia has secrets that would terminate everything she holds dear. I'm so glad that I had the opportunity to read this book. Thanks Net Galley for this ARC title for an honest review.

Delia was an octaroon, one eighth black, in a city where women of color were frequently sold to be mistresses to wealthy white men. Her mother took a large amount of money from a man known to be cruel and perverted, selling Delia to the highest bidder. It was only by the grace of God that the

young woman found her biological father, home in New Orleans from his business in New York for the first time in years, and the two decided to go out West to escape the stigma of Delia's illegitimacy and form a real family bond. When Andre had a heart attack as the train stopped in Sweetwater Springs, Montana, they were forced to stop there. Delia met the handsome son of the local minister, who had just come back with his son from a missionary work in Uganda. Joshua had nursed his sick wife until her death in Africa, then returned to America empty and exhausted. Can Delia trust Joshua with the truth about who she really is, and can Joshua let go of the past and his feelings of failure? Another book by Debra Holland that touches the heart with characters that feel like someone you might know.

This was an intriguing novel. Holland takes her readers back in time to Montana where life is anything but simple for her characters. There are definitely some strong religious undertones in this novel, without readers ever feeling as if the author is preaching at them. It melds with the history of the characters quite well. The rather serious tone that Holland's writing takes at the beginning morphs into something more upbeat by the ending, coinciding with the main character's place in life. That said, the overall writing style doesn't shift. Holland keeps the same well written, to the point style throughout, allowing readers to glide easily through the storyline. That said, I also found that the story ended rather abruptly. I was left without a sense of closure at the ending. Holland's characters take her readers back to a different time. A time where priorities were on different aspects than they are today. These well-developed individuals take the forefront of the novel, immersing you in their lives. I did, however, find it difficult to connect with the characters. That's not to say that they weren't well done, just that I couldn't find that thread to draw me irrevocably to them. Overall, this was a well written and insightful novel. It was a fairly enjoyable read that took me back to a simpler time. Although part of a series, it can easily be read as a standalone novel. Please note that I received a complimentary copy of this work in exchange for an honest review.

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