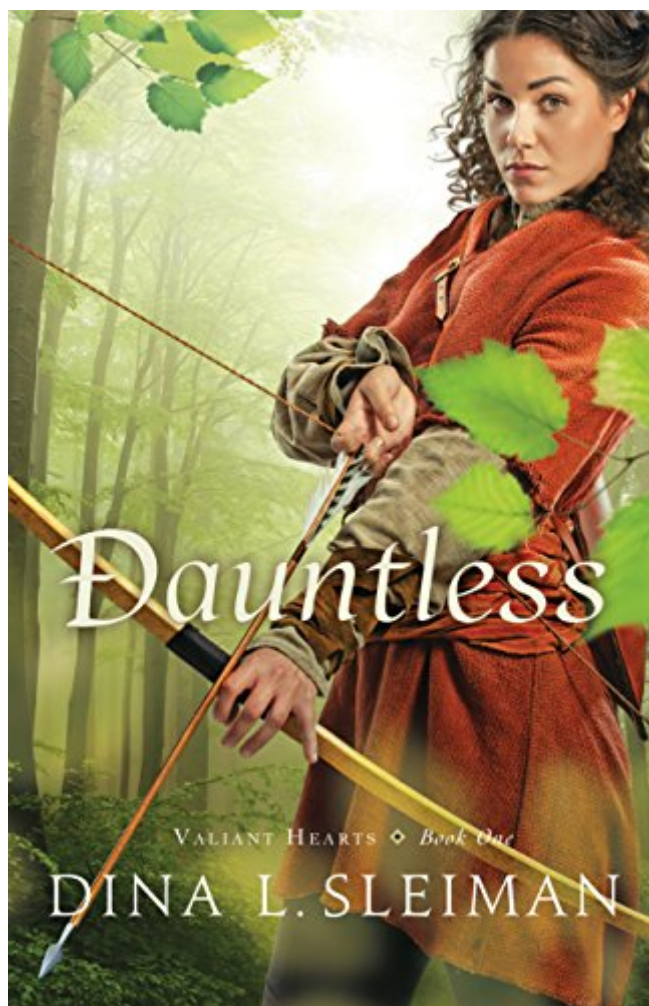


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# Dauntless (Valiant Hearts Book #1)



## Synopsis

Where Legend and History Collide, One Young Woman Will Fight for the Innocent Born a baron's daughter, Lady Merry Ellison is now an enemy of the throne after her father's failed assassination attempt upon the king. Bold and uniquely skilled, she is willing to go to any lengths to protect the orphaned children of her former village--a group that becomes known as "The Ghosts of Farthingale Forest." Merry finds her charge more difficult as their growing notoriety brings increasing trouble their way. Timothy Grey, ninth child of the Baron of Greyham, longs to perform some feat so legendary that he will rise from obscurity and earn a title of his own. When the Ghosts of Farthingale Forest are spotted in Wyndeshire, where he serves as assistant to the local earl, he might have found his chance. But when he comes face-to-face with the leader of the thieves, he's forced to reexamine everything he's known. "Sleiman launches an action-packed, historical series of adventure and romance, starring a strong, intelligent female Robin Hood who lives up to the famous outlaw's reputation. This fun read makes a great adult-YA crossover for Robin Hood fans who enjoy a twist to a classic tale." -Library Journal, starred review

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

To my mind, there's nothing better than adventure, romance, and history all combined--and Dina Sleiman combines them with stylistic prowess and perfect skill! The characters of DAUNTLESS will make you laugh, smile, cheer, and be ready to stand up and fight beside them for justice. I love how she captures the flavor of the Robin Hood tales, yet makes them even more noble. Not just stealing from the rich and giving to the poor, Merry and her band of children-warriors are stealing from the rich in order to protect a village worth of orphans whose parents were murdered by the wicked King John. I wasn't always certain how good was going to triumph in this tale as our hero sets out to arrest our heroine, but I absolutely loved how it all came together! With excellent writing, well developed characters, heart-warming romance, and a faith thread to weave it all together, DAUNTLESS is a must-read for both teens and adults alike!

This is the first book in the series. The other two books are called Chivalrous and Courageous. Merry's family has been murdered by King John. Now she has taken the other children from her village and hidden in the woods. They live there, occasionally stealing what they need. Merry misses her old life but won't let herself think of it. She needs to focus on protecting the children. Their band has labeled the Ghosts of Farthingale Forest, but in reality, they're just struggling to survive. Rumors of the ghosts in the woods have reached the ears of a nearby earl. Working for him is a young man named Timothy. The earl asks him to capture the ghosts to prove himself and when Timothy finds out that Merry is with them, his heart is torn. He thought she was dead, and knowing she's not, he wants to do everything he can to make sure she's safe. If the king finds out, he'll probably demand her death. Merry is slow to trust, but Timothy works hard for it. Woven through the story is also the perspective of a man named John. He hates Timothy, and is planning on destroying him. You don't get to figure out who he is exactly until close to the end, but there's a level of tension there as you hope the villain won't succeed. Technically, this is labeled as a teen book, but I enjoyed it as an adult. The story was engaging and the characters nicely written. The second book in the series, Chivalrous, has Allen in it. He was a pretty major character in this one, so I was glad to see his story was going to continue.

Lady Merry Ellison is a natural leader and fiercely protective of her fellow orphans. She's beautifully complex, a tender and compassionate mother figure to the littlest orphans, and also a stealthy, calculating, and skilled leader. Merry's little community is filled with clever, hard working young people who have benefited and flourished under her teaching and training. A band of orphans

surviving in the forest dubbed as "Ghosts" would be an interesting story in itself but the addition of Merry's childhood best friend and playmate Timothy Grey elevates the story to a new level of intriguing and suspenseful! Merry and Timothy have to learn to trust one another all over again, come to terms with the past, and figure out what the future holds.

Dina Sleiman introduced me to an awesome heroine. An innocent trapped by the political intrigue of changing kings in England, she assumes the responsibility for all the children misplaced with her father's castle and village are razed in retaliation for his unpopular political views. Surviving as thieves in the woods (compared to Robin Hood) the group of children all under 15 years earns a reputation as "ghosts" that causes them to become hunted for bounty of political gain - by her betrothed who thought her dead until he discovers their hide out. She is faithful, unwavering, nurturing, true to self.... a full bodied, emotionally sound heroine of any age or time. Entertaining and engaging light read. Bravo to the author!

This was a delightful Christian fiction novel filled with adventure, love and redemption. Ms. Sleiman is a new author for me, but I am excited to read and review the other books in this series. Her writing is fantastic, her characters memorable and her historical details will pull you into this story and hold you captive to the very end. It is a novel of faith and the characters accomplish this without the story becoming preachy. However, there is one scene which seemed a bit too supernatural for me toward the end when a small child is miraculously healed. Other than that, I absolutely loved this book! It's free right now. Grab yourself a copy.

I had downloaded this book quite some time ago. In fact I think it was a freebie at the time. I finally got around to reading it and was impressed. A "Robin Hood" type female, teenage bandit, who is trying to save the children of her father's workers who were murdered by an evil king. An old love comes back into her life, and her whole life gets crazier. This is written from a Christian viewpoint, there is some fighting and violence, no swearing or sexual content. I can recommend for teens and up. I give it four stars and am on to the next book.

The storyline had some promise and I did find myself invested in the characters but not as much as I wish I could have been. The story is underdeveloped and I saw opportunities where it could have been enriched or taken in an interesting direction but the author didn't take it. Things usually seem to happen to resolve problems quickly and easily rather than a real struggle. Overall....just an ok

read for me. I wouldn't read it again. I did appreciate that the book is clean- no language or sex scenes which is refreshing.

Quite a different story than I expected. Lots of adventure, mystery, romance and Christian faith. Many unexpected twists and turns.

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