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The Far West (Frontier Magic Book 3)



Synopsis

From #1 New York Times bestselling author Patricia C. Wrede, the fantastic conclusion to her tale of magic on the western frontier. Eff is an unlucky thirteenth child...but also the seventh daughter in her family. Her twin brother, Lan, is a powerful double seventh son. Her life at the edge of the Great Barrier Spell is different from anyone else's that she knows. When the government forms an expedition to map the Far West, Eff has the opportunity to travel farther than anyone in the world. With Lan, William, Professor Torgeson, Wash, and Professor Ochiba, Eff finds that nothing on the wild frontier is as they expected. There are strange findings in their research, a long prairie winter spent in too-close quarters, and more new species, magical and otherwise, dangerous and benign, than they ever expected to find. And then spring comes, and the explorers realize how tenuous life near the Great Barrier Spell may be if they don't find a way to stop a magical flood in a hurry. Eff's unique way of viewing magic has saved the settlers time and again, but this time all of Columbia is at stake if she should fail.

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Customer Reviews

The third and final novel in the Frontier Magic trilogy is the story of a journey both literally and

figuratively. When the story begins, Eff Rothmer is twenty and working as an assistant to Professor Torgeson at the university in Mill City. Mill City is at Columbia's Western edge of civilization right up against the Great Barrier Spell, a magic spell concocted by Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson to keep magical creatures out of the East. But 83 years have passed and settlements have extended 100 miles west of the Great Barrier even though it is much more dangerous out there. A journey is being planned to explore further west - perhaps, all the way to the Rocky Mountains. Eff is excited about it but doesn't think she has any hope of going along. Her brother Lan who is a powerful magician and a double seven (seventh son of a seventh son) has been invited as has her brother-in-law Brant who was a hero of the previous successful McNeil Expedition. Also going is Roger Boden who is Eff's suitor, even though she turned down his proposal, and her best friend William Graham who is a student of magic. This expedition is being partially financed by the Cathayan government and their representative is Adept Alikaket. When she is asked to go along as an assistant to Professor Torgeson, she is excited, scared and eager but she also recognizes the danger. After all, the Lewis and Clark Expedition was lost when they tried to explore. This story has excitement, adventure and even romance. Magic is woven into this story in many ways. Most people have the ability to do magic. It is taught in their schools. Eff does have problems with the most common form of magic - the Avrupan. Her spells have a tendency to go wrong.

"The Far West" is the third entry in Patricia Wrede's 'Frontier Magic' trilogy of an alternate colonial America, where there is magic aplenty on the frontier just west of the Mammoth (Mississippi) River. There are also large mammals that in our 'real' time-line died out at the end of the Pleistocene 10,000 years ago, e.g. Woolly Mammoths and Sabertooth Tigers. These critters compete with the human settlers for their crops and sometimes their lives, but they also have to contend with magical animals. There's one particularly nasty entity called a 'steam dragon' that could eat a horse and rider for breakfast and then polish off a farmer's dairy herd for lunch. In "Thirteenth Child," the first book in this series, we watched Eff Rothmer, the "unlucky"™ thirteenth child of a Professor of Magic grow from age five to eighteen and slowly come to grips with her own magical talent. Her twin brother, Lan is the fourteenth child and also the seventh son of a seventh son. Everyone expects great magic from Lan, and he is sent off to one of the great Eastern colleges of magic to further his talent. In "Across the Great Barrier" when a classroom spell goes horribly wrong, Eff rescues her brother and they return to Mill City on Columbia's (America's) Western frontier. Book 2 ends with the discovery of yet another magical monstrosity that the magical twins must pit themselves against. Book 3 gets off to a slow start, spending much print on character building and

relationships. If nothing else, readers can guess right away from the cover illustration that Eff is going to be a member of the expedition that travels into the unknown Far West, all the way to the Rocky Mountains.

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