



## A Heart on Hold

*Sara Barnard*

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## **A Heart on Hold** Sara Barnard

War. Devotion. Deceit. Death. How long can a heart hold on before it breaks? Most women would carry on with their lives after being thrust into widowhood, but not Charlotte Adamsland. Upon learning that her husband, Captain Sanderson Redding, was killed in a botched escape from a Confederate prison in Illinois, she clings to his promise to return to her no matter what, and quickly heads north through a war-ravaged country with only her faith in God and her beloved horse to bring her beloved Sanderson home—one way or another.

## **A Heart on Hold Details**

Date : Published August 21st 2012 by 5 Prince Publishing (first published August 6th 2012)

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Author : Sara Barnard

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## From Reader Review A Heart on Hold for online ebook

### **Angela(demonsangel) Fitzgerald says**

Review is available on Audible.

I hate not giving a better rating but I felt like the narrator killed the story. Don't get me wrong, there were problems with the story but the narrator couldn't get the men's voices in a man's voice so it was if a woman was speaking through the entire story. She was wonderful with the women's voices and the change in the accents for the women. She just wasn't good at all with talking like a man, at least not with this story.

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### **Ann Swann says**

This book has it all, action, heartache, history, and romance. Charlotte and Sanderson are two of my favorite characters, along with Cotton, of course. I loved this book. Can't wait for the sequel!

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### **Barb says**

“A Heart on Hold” by Sara Barnard is the first book in a series called “An Everlasting Heart” and is set in the time right before and during the Civil War in Arkansas. Charlotte Adamsland has loved Sanderson Redding her whole life. She was heartbroken when he left to go to school. Now he’s back home and the Civil War is threatening their way of life. Sanderson loves Charlotte and wants to marry, but the threat of imminent war persuades him to enlist in the Confederate Army. Right before he is to leave for his assignment, he asks Charlotte to marry him. They are married in front of the whole town and have a one-night honeymoon.

During the war, Sanderson is captured and ends up in a prison camp in Alton, Illinois. There he finds his brother, who is a Union soldier. Conditions are not very good in camp and there is an outbreak of smallpox which decimates the prisoner population. Sanderson’s brother dies and Sanderson puts on his Union uniform and flees the prison.

In the meantime, Charlotte has received word that Sanderson has been killed in a prison break and she decides to go after him and bring him home. Of course he is not dead and they finally meet up as they travel.

This novel is the first book in a series that needs to be read in order. I am anxious to read the next book in the series, “A Heart Broken”.

I received a free PDF copy of this book in return for my honest review.

You can read this review on my blog at <http://wp.me/p2pjIt-5E>

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## **Robyn Echols says**

### **Great Story**

An excellent Civil War romance with great characters and an interesting plot. Although two brothers meet fighting on opposite sides of the war, there is a twist to how it plays out. Two romances, separation, death as some of the gritty realities of that war work their way into the plot...This sweet romance is well worth reading.

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### **Jess says**

NOTE: THIS BOOK WAS RECEIVED FROM GOODREADS FIRST READS IN RETURN FOR AN HONEST REVIEW

My first once over of the book had me thinking it was one of those romance books with detailed sex scenes and a hint of the war. When I got into it I realised I was wrong and it was the other way around.

The author has done a great job in writing the story, focusing on the characters and the part they play in love and war.

Before I had even finished reading this book, I was on Sara's website to see when the next book in the series was coming out. Well I was astonished when I saw that there were already 4 books. I can't wait to read what happens to Sanderson and Charlotte.

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### **CoffeeTimeRomance and More says**

Wonderful tale of love, loss, and history. Charlotte and Sanderson just belong together and she is such a tough as nails woman yet has her softer side as well. I am looking forward to reading the rest of the series to see just how this couple's lives play out.

Matilda

Reviewer for Coffee Time Romance & More

Official Review @ Coffee Time Romance & More

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### **Cassandra (Thebookishcrypt) says**

\*Copy provided by author in exchange for an honest review\*

This was my first book by Sara, and I loved her character-building. This is a historical romance that takes place during the 1860's and it focuses mainly on Charlotte and her beau, Sanderson.

I was smitten with Sanderson from the very beginning. That man said the most perfect things that I was jealous of Charlotte for a little bit. They were the most adorable of couples and I never wanted anything to get in between them. It was difficult to follow their story since he was a soldier in the war and the consequences are terrifying. Sara managed to capture the heart-break and sadness of being in love with a soldier so well that I found myself tearing up at their goodbyes as if I were the one saying them. We also get to look into some of the letters that they wrote to each other while being separated; it was a special treat. I also enjoyed the look into another couple. I won't tell you who because of spoilers but I can say that I was

a fan of learning about a new culture. I always have a soft spot for gypsies but I wasn't as invested in this romance as I was with Sanderson and Charlotte.

There was a cameo from a famous person that lived back in the day and it was a nice addition. This story wasn't pretty due to the sicknesses running around this time and it gave a more realistic touch to it.

The reason I didn't give this more than 3.5 stars was because there were a few things that I wasn't really sure what to think of. Since this was told in the third person, it lacked the suspense we would've had if it were told in the first person. We knew exactly where all the characters were and whenever the plot line was meant to be heart-racing, I didn't think much of it due to the fact that I knew the character was fine. Some of the dialogue was a little... off, but I refused to dwell on them. Also, was page 198 supposed to be incomplete? Because mine was and I didn't know if it was on purpose or not.

That ending was the best! It was bittersweet but sweet nonetheless and I was all smiles a while after reading it.

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### **Linda Dickson says**

I received this book free from Goodreads First Reads. "A Heart on Hold" is a beautifully written love story centered in an Arkansas setting during the Civil War. The characters immediately capture your heart and draw you into their struggle to return to each other after being separated by the war. Their nurturing nature is a refreshing turn. This is good, clean writing that is suitable for teens through seniors.

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### **InD'tale Magazine says**

"A Heart on Hold" is a story ripe with emotion, pulling the reader along in the rushing current of the character's turmoil.

Full review in March 2013 issue of InD'tale Magazine.

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### **Denise Moncrief says**

I am a romance junkie, and Sara Barnard's historical romance set during the Civil War satisfied my addiction. It's been awhile since I've read a romance set during this time in America's history. *A Heart on Hold* was a very enjoyable read from cover to cover. The pacing of the book was just right, juxtaposing suspenseful situations with sweet moments of romance. Ms. Barnard has a smooth narrative voice that is easy to read. The author adds just enough descriptive details to give the reader a good idea of living and loving in a war torn country.

On the brink of the Civil War, Sanderson returns to Arkansas from the east and pledges to marry his childhood sweetheart, Charlotte. Before they can arrange their wedding, the country is embroiled in a Civil War. Sanderson leaves with his regiment only to return home nearly dead from pneumonia. Charlotte nurses him back to health, and the two are married before he returns to the front lines. When Sanderson is captured and imprisoned at the prisoner of war camp in Alton, Illinois, Charlotte packs a few provisions and heads north to find him. The book relates her adventures and misadventures on her journey to find him, as well Sanderson's adventures and misadventures in escaping from the prison camp.

The narrative is filled with secondary characters Ms. Barnard weaves in and out of the story line, giving the book texture and interest. From Sanderson's brother Jackson who enlisted in the Union army to the band of traveling gypsies hired as healers at the prison camp to the Irish noble woman wandering around in the woods to the encounter with Harriet Tubman in an isolated area of Arkansas to the mixed race boy who can't find his place in the white or Indian community, the author presents a group of memorable characters.

But it was the two main characters, Charlotte and Sanderson, I found myself cheering onward. I felt Charlotte's joys and fears, her longing for her beloved Sanderson, and especially her determination to find him even when looking for him seemed hopeless. I experienced the prisoner of war camp right along with Sanderson. The relationship between the two brothers, Sanderson and Jackson, was touching. The author wrote compassion and humanity in their personalities, something I often find missing in the typical alpha male romance hero. This book as a stand alone truly has a happily ever after ending. But there are two more books in this series, so I'm very interested to know what happens to Charlotte and Sanderson after the end of the war. I would recommend *A Heart on Hold* to lovers of historical romance genre.

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### **Dianne says**

Before I read this book I did my research and every review/rating I saw was very positive giving five stars and glowing reviews. Ms Bernard deserves all the praise she is receiving for this wonderful book. I started reading *A Heart to Hold* last night. I forced myself to stop reading at 1.45 am after my husband grumbled about me still reading. At 6 am I continued reading and now a few hours later I am finished...I wish the story had continued I feel lost now it has finished!

*A Heart on Hold* is a well written love story with believable characters you cannot help but fall in love with. The storyline captures the reader's attention from start to finish leaving them with the sense they have just accompanied the characters on their long arduous journey. I highly recommend this book and congratulate Sara Barnard for writing this exceptionally good novel. I am thrilled to read Charlotte and Sanderson's story will continue.

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### **Christine Steendam says**

Within the first few pages I was hooked. The story of Charlotte and Sanderson is not one of a budding romance, but of one that is already strong. The question isn't, will they end up together? It's, will the war tear them apart?

The characters were believable and fit right into the timeline of the Civil War. The language used, the little slangs, the behavior of the characters had me transported back in time. Sara Barnard brings the American West alive in both the horrors of war and the beauty in the land.

For the last 20% of the book I couldn't put it down. I knew it was drawing to an end and I had to know if everything paid off, if love won out in the end. Sara writes some pretty intense moments, revealing how close the story is to conclusion while the characters still have no idea! It was maddening, but in a good way.

*A Heart on Hold* is a beautiful story of a love that is real, not a whirlwind romance, and a fight to hold on to

it throughout the trials of war. I give it 5 out of 5 stars.

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### **Dianne says**

The review below was written on 6 October 2012 - I have included it here because it had gone missing for some reason (probably due to the fact I read the ebook rather than the paperback version and I couldn't see it on Ms Barnard's list of books!)

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### **Kimberlie says**

Wow - talk about a non-stop adventure! *A Heart on Hold* never stops to rest - it's an exhilarating ride. The story of Charlotte and Sanderson, childhood sweethearts during the American Civil War. He goes away to war, gets captured, and she sets off, without a qualm, to bring him back home. The author has a firm grasp of history, historical figures, and also small details -- herbs used to treat a black widow bite, causes and repercussions of a host of ailments -- that make this story come alive. The women in this book are role models -- vulnerable (and therefore, relatable) but strong and willing to risk anything for their loved ones and their faith -- all the things they strongly believe in. Speaking of ailments, though, beware that the author doesn't shy away from describing what these characters go through physically when they're sick or hurting. Just a note to the squeamish.

My only quibble - and it's a small one -- but I realize how attractive these characters are -- and I think the author could cut back on reminding me about their physical beauty. It does keep me from relating to them as much as I could. But again - that's just a quibble. Otherwise, five stars. A great ride! Definitely gets you excited about the next installments. Here's to you, Charlotte and Sanderson!

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### **Lilmismolly says**

I listened to the Audible version of *A Heart on Hold* by Sara Barnard, which is a historical romance story set during the Civil War. The story starts off with Sanderson returning to Arkansas after attending West Point

and pledging to marry his childhood sweetheart, Charlotte, when the war is over. However, Sanderson returns home nearly dead from pneumonia and they are married after Charlotte nurses him back to health. After returning to his regiment, Sanderson goes missing and is presumed dead, so Charlotte heads north to find him. In true romance fashion, a happy ending comes after many trials and tribulations.

Many of the settings and surrounding descriptions are very detailed and believable. And Sara Barnard made a few of the characters extremely sweet and likable, especially little Cotton who was a little orphan Indian boy. However, the dialogue between the two main characters was just over the top and too saccharine sweet for me, as well as seeming unnatural (most of the dialogue sounded like Scarlett O'Hara from the movie, *Gone With the Wind*).

Tiffany Williams did an excellent job narrating. She has a smooth voice that is easy to listen to. She really made the characters come to life for me, despite the troublesome dialogue. Well done!

Simply put, I'd recommend this book for anyone who is a fan of *Gone With the Wind*.

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