



The Right Wife

Beverly Barton

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In a sweeping and vibrant novel set in the post-war South, New York Times bestselling author Beverly Barton follows one young woman's journey to love and independence...

1885. All of Margaret Campbell's hopes for the future lie in Tuscumbia, Alabama. Since the death of her sharecropper father, eighteen-year-old Maggie has no resources and few allies, aside from the relatives who've agreed to take her in. With luck, she might yet make an upright gentleman of her brother, and a real lady of her rebellious little sister. And perhaps, once her siblings are settled, she'll find a decent, hardworking man to marry. But those plans are jeopardized the moment she meets Aaron Stone.

Effortlessly charming, Aaron is building an empire in the South. Maggie knows he wants the right kind of wife to overcome the shadows surrounding his birth—someone like the well-connected widow he's been courting. Someone a million miles from a penniless, outspoken sharecropper's daughter. But neither jealousy, family secrets, nor long-held prejudices will keep Maggie from following her heart.

The Right Wife Details

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From Reader Review *The Right Wife* for online ebook

Lynn Spencer says

I haven't encountered too many romances set in the post-Civil War South. And I can fairly say that I haven't come across too many romances like *The Right Wife* either. Readers should be aware that this book has its uncomfortable moments involving race, together with some uncomfortably rapey moments and religious stereotyping. There is something about it that really stands out, though. It's that vivid but difficult to completely categorize quality I like to call WTF-ery.

With her sharecropper father now dead, 18-year-old Maggie Campbell now must find a way to provide for herself and her two younger siblings. When her aunt and uncle volunteer to take them, Maggie agrees and as the book opens, she is leaving Tennessee for Tuscumbia, Alabama. At the train station, the family is drawn into a nasty incident as someone attacks their mixed-race maid (yes, poor sharecroppers traveling with a servant - let's suspend disbelief starting with page 1!) and Aaron Stone rides to the rescue.

Naturally, Maggie is left all atwitter about her brief encounter with the virile stranger. And naturally, Aaron and his friend Thayer are headed to Tuscumbia themselves. So, what's the conflict? Well, we're going to have so many to pick from. First of all, Aaron has a somewhat mysterious and perhaps even shady past. Maggie, on the other hand, is going to live with an aunt who is very religious and whose son is the local minister. This isn't an inspirational, so don't be surprised when aunt and son turn out to be narrowminded, hypocritical prudes. Oh, and if the religious stereotyping isn't enough, be warned that the author does use the offensive racial language typical of the book's setting at various points in the story.

This is a partial review. You can find the complete text at All About Romance:
<http://likesbooks.com/cgi-bin/bookRev...>

Kris - My Novelesque Life says

3 STARS

(I received an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review)."

"1885. All of Margaret Campbell's hopes for the future lie in Tuscumbia, Alabama. Since the death of her sharecropper father, eighteen-year-old Maggie has no resources and few allies, aside from the relatives who've agreed to take her in. With luck, she might yet make an upright gentleman of her brother, and a real lady of her rebellious little sister. And perhaps, once her siblings are settled, she'll find a decent, hardworking man to marry. But those plans are jeopardized the moment she meets Aaron Stone.

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I wanted to really like this novel as I love Barton's romantic suspense but I found this novel to be a little

tedious and not very realistic. Aaron is torn between lust for Maggie or gaining respectability from marrying a prominent widow. So he decides to sleep with one and woo the other and see if he can have both. Maggie needs to earn money to put her brother and sister through school now that their parents are dead. But her passion for Aaron has her doing nothing but ruin her reputation. Towards the middle of the novel I was reading just to finish the book. It was easy to read but it made you roll your eyes a lot at the characters and their decisions.

Talking Books says

After losing her Pa, eighteen year old Margaret Campbell moves her family to Tuscumbia, to her Uncle and Aunts - The Gower's with the hopes of providing a more decent life for her siblings, Micah and Jude. On their journey they come across Aaron Stone. Aaron is looking for a respectable wife, one that could provide him respectability and a good standing opinion in the community. Maggie and Aaron meet on the train at the start of the Campbell's journey and attraction is evident, much to the dismay of Aaron. A chain of events ensue that challenges their friendship and attraction that have them both questioning their feelings for each other.

The Right Wife started well but fell flat in many scenes. The support characters were more of a stand out within the story than the two main characters of Maggie and Aaron, who at times were a drawn out read. The story of Maggie and Aaron was a love triangle that had you questioning the character's motives and reasoning's all throughout the story. Each of the characters had their own challenges with a few twists and Thayer's character was a good support person to both Aaron and Maggie. The story had some romance, action, outrageous circumstances and a few happily ever afters.

3 Stars

*ARC Received from the Publisher/Netgalley for an honest review

Elizabeth says

I had a hard time with this book. I wanted to like it, but I found the main characters to be unappealing. The author checked all the boxes for a historical romance - lovers with obstacles between them, backstories full of hardship, secondary characters that also have a chance at love, children, etc. Where it really falls short however, is in the main characters. Aaron and Maggie are both too honest with themselves and not able to apply that to decision-making. All of their encounters (after their first meetings) led to sex with Aaron explicitly saying each time that he was going to marry someone else (even knowing he had ruined Maggie, who he supposedly loves). For her part, Maggie claims that she just wants what is best for her siblings, yet she constantly runs off with Aaron instead of taking care of her family.

In the end, I just didn't find this book that enjoyable. While the historical period is brought up from time to time, it isn't a big part of the story, and this storyline would have been more believable in a more contemporary setting.

I received an e-galley from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review,

Patty McKenna Van Hulle says

Beverly Barton

A titan hot temper heroine meets a rich hero with a self imposed mountain on his shoulder! Can the tigress demolish his mountain & capture his heart?

Since her sharecropper daddy died, Maggie Campbell, a feisty redhead with a temper to match, her half boy half man brother, Micah, & her hellion of a sister, Judith, are on their way to Tuscumbia to live with her deceased mom's brother & his family. She promised her dad on his death bed, that she would see to Micah getting an education & turning her sister into a lady. Living with Uncle Chester will be hard because his wife is very religious & her son Cousin Wesley is a pristine & proper minister. Plus with Micah's stubbornness, Judith's mouth & her temper, it will be a trail on her last nerve. All aboard the train to their new life, but this grumpy man thinks their Daisy stole his watch & is manhandling them all, but all Campbell stick together!

Aaron Stone is a rich man with a huge chip on his shoulder, about being born out of wedlock. He will marry a woman who can move him up in society & he has decided that widowed Eunice Arnold is the right ticket. Aaron is on his home to ask Eunice to marry him & lift this dark stain of his birth.

On his way back to Tuscumbia, he sees a young titan tigress kick a man in the shin, her younger brother jump on his back & a mini hellion biting this man hand, all because they are trying to protect a young black woman. Maggie tries to settle this lying man, but her temper snaps & everyone joined in, but this huge, golden hair god offers to help. Aaron introduces myself & offers his help, but this ragamuffin has the nerve to refuses him. Maggie doesn't need this man messing up her plans, but Judith opens her mouth & off to the races she goes, with question after question. They go their way, he goes to his BF Thayer Coleman's private car & never will they see one another. Until the train stops & Judith falls out her window, while she hangs out to grab the fried chicken box from Aaron & falls into his arms.

Once they arrive at Tuscumbia, Cousin Wesley, a man who really enjoys his food, comes to collect them, Judith runs to thank Aaron, sees handsome Thayer, falls deeply in love, Maggie chases her down, a mad man shoots Aaron, falls into Maggie's arms bleeding, Cousin Wesley is moaning about what his mama going to say & Judith is just staring up into her future hubby's eyes. So as y'all can see Tuscumbia will never be the same! With the electric sensual vibe going from Maggie to Aaron, they light the Southern states on fire! Now we have a stubborn hero who thinks he has to marry up, creepy Cousin Wesley everywhere, Maggie just trying to do right for her family, Thayer using jealous to kick Aaron into action, widow Eunice goody two shoes, in love Judith, lots of stolen moments of kisses, caresses galore, clothes flying & since it's the south, misplaced racism & anger to stir up this pot of decadent desire & spicy passions! When will Aaron see that Maggie is his other half? Can Maggie love Aaron enough to walk away? Will she marry the food loving Cousin Wesley or just bake him a pie? When Eunice sees her competition, how will she make Maggie's life miserable? But most importantly, how will Judith get her Thayer in 10 or so years?

This is my 1st Beverly Barton romance & she can write a ROFL & passions flying tale with a cast of kooky, quirky & deeply passionate & loving Southern folks. Maggie is a heroine given an impossible mission, but she does everything with 110% of her heart, soul & head. Aaron is a hero with a self imposed mountain on his shoulder, but his relationship with Maggie showed him that love can & will, if you accept it, explode his mountain away. Young Judith is my favorite member of this crazy cast, with her never ending questions, her never quiet brain & her deeply insane love of Thayer. I would love to read her story of snatching up Thayer,

because there is not a doubt in my mind she will. America's Civil War ripped families & states apart, but devastated our country's heart & soul. Ms. Barton wrote all the dirty & ugly aftermath into this story, but did with her whole heart. The passions between Maggie & Aaron rocked this story, singed my Kindle & could light Alabama cotton fields on fire. I give Ms. Barton my top score of 5 fingers up & 10 toes.

NetGalley ARC given for my honest review.

GONZA says

Strange book, but not bad. My main problem is that I spent the whole story to deeply hate the main character, whom should be the hero to be precise. Maggie has always seemed to me a bit too easy to fall prey to her passions, so I'm fond of a lot more secondary characters compared to the couple protagonist of the novel.

Libro strano, ma non brutto, il mio problema fondamentale é che ho passato tutta la storia ad odiare profondamente il personaggio principale, quello che dovrebbe essere l'eroe per capirsi. Maggie mi é sempre sembrata un po' troppo preda delle sue passioni e quindi mi sono affezionata molto di più ai personaggi secondari che non alla coppia protagonista del romanzo.

THANKS TO NETGALLEY AND KENSINGTON BOOKS FOR THE PREVIEW!

Amy Alvis says

Maggie Campbell must move her younger brother and sister to Tuscumbia, Alabama to start their life over. Her mother and father have passed away and her uncle is the only hope of a future. She made promises to her father and the only way to keep those is to get herself settled with a good paying job.

Unfortunately for Maggie, upon arrival to Tuscumbia she is involved with an incident that had her Aaron Stone. Aaron doesn't have the best reputation and Maggie need hers to be spotless if her siblings are to make something of themselves.

Aaron and Maggie can't seem to stay away from each other and are both determined to get what they want out of life. Aaron needs to marry a "lady" so that he can get over his stigma of being a bastard and Maggie needs to be able to fulfill her promise to her father which means her reputation needs to be spotless.

Can they both get what they need without forsaking the love they feel for each other?

I was not impressed with the writing in this story at all. Barton is a well-known author and I was disappointed that this story did not live up to my expectations. This is being published after the death of the author, so maybe it didn't get all of the re-write that it would have if she was still with us.

There are other aspects of the story that I was not thrilled with, but don't want to write any spoilers. I did like the premise of the story, but the execution of it was not good at all. I honestly don't know if I will read anything else by this author or not after reading this...

Thanks go to eKensington for a copy of the book in exchange of an honest review.

Belinda says

This is my first book by this author. It had a beautiful cover which made me pick it out to read. I liked the descriptions of the area of the post civil war. It kept me entertained, but it wasn't my top ten. The hero is Aaron Stone who is trying to build an empire seeking the "right wife". He is courting a woman who would give him the right connections in the upper class. When Aaron meets Margaret Campbell, he instantly thinks she would make a great mistress. But Margaret being seduced by the attractive man give in to the passion. Who will know? Well, I'm thinking she was a bit overcome with lust myself. Aaron has lust problems himself, trying not give into them. Both were a bit shallow.

I did like the premise, but not the whole banana. Thanks Net Galley for letting me review this book.

WhiskeyintheJar/Kyrarkyker says

I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review. Thanks to the publisher and NetGalley.

Flibberation!*

Here we have the Campbell clan, starring Maggie with guest appearances by Micah and Judith. Their parents just died so they are traveling to go live with their aunt and uncle. At the train station they meet a tall, handsome, charming stranger named Aaron.

KAPOW! BOOM! ZLONK!** (That's Maggie and Aaron falling into insta-lustlove)
But wait, what's this my dearies? They don't immediately ride off into the sunset?

Flibberation!

What follows is a very hard to get into story full of cardboard cut out figures and surface writing. I honestly thought this was the author's first book, characters were not flushed out at all. It should have been a sweeping story of a woman alone in 1885 (you won't really know the time period while you're reading though, because time period descriptive text is scarce) fighting to keep her family safe, escape the evil clutches of a mad reverend cousin, and find love. Instead, you get a heroine who LOVES the hero, wants to stay away from him, can't stay away from him, doesn't understand why he won't marry her and a hero who LOVES the heroine, sleeps with the heroine, and wants to marry another woman because he thinks it will erase his bastard lineage. Secondary characters include Micah, the brother-17yr old who Maggie babies because she doesn't want him to go to a whorehouse; Judith, the sister- 15yr old who vows to marry Aaron's friend Thayer (Seems like this would have been the sequel but with the author's death, we will probably never see it); Daisy, the servant- described as a blue eyed quadroon and basically spends the whole book being accosted by white men; and Wesley, the reverend cousin- crazy zealot who wants to marry Maggie. All are written without a lot of substance or motivations.

Flibberation!

There was a story to be told here, unfortunately the author failed in her execution of it. Historical romance

books of this time period and location are very scarce, so if you must escape the ballrooms, I suppose this could be an alternative. Just don't expect to be swept off your feet.

Flibber, ok, ok, I'll stop.

I will say though, I thought the cover was gorgeous.

*The author used this word(?), a lot, and I am now obsessed with it.

**These are also sounds from the tv series Batman.

Books Her says

Available June 5: The Right Wife

*****3.5/5 stars**

A profound post-Civil War romance, The Right Wife has a setting so strong and unique it's a must-read.

Recommended readers:

If you like historical southern literature

If you are a historical romance lover, but tired of the usual English Regency

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Gaele says

Post-Civil War Alabama sets the stage for this story from Beverly Barton that combines some disturbing moments and situations and tosses them all into a fairly plausible story. I say fairly, because some of the more disturbing events and situations almost feel contrived, as if the author wanted to show all of the bad, then try to redeem it with one young woman.

I don't usually have problems with a story that presents the less savory slices of life, IF the presentation doesn't fall into predictable or feel contrived. Unfortunately, throughout the story I could predict when the

next “stumbling block” would occur, predict Maggie’s overreaction with anger or fear, predict the outcome when she met the “mysterious” stranger.

There were several moments where I just had to roll my eyes. Left by her parents’ untimely deaths to take care of and raise her younger siblings, a poor white sharecropper’s daughter is traveling with her mulatto former slave.....we just start from there and go downhill.

A shooting, a rape, the condemnation of a very constrained and defined Christian household: there were far too many ideas and elements thrown together to give any sort of validity to the feel of the story, and reading after about 46% started to feel like a chore. Sadly there was no surprise for me, nothing to keep me intrigued, and the story quickly faded from memory.

I received an eBook copy of the title from the publisher via NetGalley for purpose of honest review. I was not compensated for this review. All conclusions are my own responsibility.

My Book Addiction and More MBA says

THE RIGHT WIFE by Beverly Barton is an exciting Historical Romance set in Post- War South in 1885. Fast paced, tale of family love, seduction and finding love. You can't help but love Maggie and her siblings. Margaret Campbell and her younger brother and sister are orphaned, leaving everything they know behind and moving to Tuscumbia, Alabama, with their aunt and uncle meet the seductive, handsome, Aaron Stone, what follows is an epic tale of a eighteen year old and life in post-war Alabama.

Family secrets, prejudices, long held friendships, injustices, jealousy, seduction, independence, and love find its way into the hearts of the citizens of Tuscumbia. Fast paced tale that will have you turning pages and grasping at straws as you hold your breath for Maggie and Aaron. Oh, you can't help but fall in love with little Jude, Maggie's ten-year old sister, who believes she is in love with an older man. And Daisy, who is sexual assaulted by someone with many prejudices including females. An enjoyable read and one that has many twists and turns. Be warned, some readers may find some of the wording offensive. Received for an honest review from the publisher and Net Galley.

Rating: 4

Heat Rating: Hot

Reviewed by: AprilR, courtesy of My Book Addiction and More

Swanangel15's Book Review says

All I can say is wow. It went from pillar to post with this book and I could not fully grasp how quickly the story escalated. When I thought it was over, another situation was slammed into my face that left me reeling. Let me explain.

Read the rest of my review on my blog at:
<http://swanangel15home.blogspot.com/2...>

Hannah says

The Right Wife by Beverly Barton is the kind of story that confuses me. I liked it for the most part, but the main characters got on my nerves. The descriptives of the scenery were great it really brought to mind late 19th century post Civil War Alabama. The some of the events of the book are harsh reminders of how hard it was back then, and being Black didn't help at all and with the start of the KKK it got pretty scary at times. Also I am glad she didn't pussy foot around the race issue, that's how it was back then and that's what I expect to read if a book takes place in that time period. The main characters Miss Margaret Campbell and Aaron Stone got on my nerves, they reminded me of a married man and his mistress he just keeps stringing along. The little sister is a spoilt brat that is in need of a severe spanking. The only Campbell sibling I liked was the brother, Micah. All alone in the world the Campbell clan travels from Tennessee to Alabama to live with a cousin. Along the way their faithful servant a young beautiful Black woman, is accused of stealing a man watch and he wants to search her, well in those days that basically mean strip her down and have his way with her. Maggie Campbell will not have it she knows Daisy did nothing wrong and she won't let this rude racist man say otherwise. they draw a crowd including Aaron Stone. He is captivated by Maggie's beauty her rich red hair her eyes yada yada yada. Aaron knows he should stay away, but little Judith Campbell draws him in not once but twice, and the second time at their last stop he's shot. He wasn't the intended victim the shooter just had a really bad shot. Aaron's best friend, Thayer Coleman, who had been riding the train with him was the person he was aiming at, the man little Judith announced she was going to marry five minutes after meeting him. It's love at first sight for Maggie, but she knew exactly what kind of a man he is and she will fight tooth and nail to keep him away if only her little sister, Jude would stop calling him over and getting his attention. Then when he is shot and lays bleeding in her arms she is hopelessly and undeniably lost. She tries to be good and proper her family is now living with her cousin who married a widow with a son, the son is the towns Preacher. Aaron isn't helping find excuses to see her and even though he has plans of marrying another woman the right kind of woman to help secure his status in town and make him a respectful man, he still keeps stringing Maggie's affections along. After Daisy is found beaten and raped she is moved to Thayer's house where Aaron's friend and servant Phineas can help her, Phineas and Daisy had just started courting and already Phineas was ready to marry her. That day Aaron convinces Maggie to lie to her Aunt and say she spending the day with Daisy but what she really is doing is riding out to see Aaron's plantation. Upon arrival home however it is found out that Maggie and Aaron spent the day together, completely innocent nothing happened, the rumors went flying with the help of the shrew Aaron plans to marry. Maggie was kicked out of her cousin's house and her two siblings follow Thayer allows them to move into his house, since he is going to be spending all his time away. The rumors start to spread about Thayer and Maggie now, it doesn't bother her she is just worried about your younger siblings. Aaron has started avoiding her again spending more time with the widow he plans to marry, she hold out in her heart as long as they aren't engaged their is still hope for them. That goes on for a while Aaron's back and forth and every time he breaks her heart. It takes a serious situation for Aaron to realize no matter how bringing Maggie is the Right Wife for him.

RaiRaiKen says

I read only half of the novel after feeling disturbed, robbed of time, and energy. I find insta-love the

annoying kind of love. And--oh boy!--this book is riddled with insta-love, cheesy lines. (makes me wanna gag)

So our MCs fall madly in love at first sight, and throughout the first half of the novel they always feel hot, horny, and ready for each other 24/7. Seriously! It gets old by the third chapter, and gets a little irritating. The author forces down your throat how much the MCs love each other. She'll mention it in every way possible, every 3 or 5 paragraphs that Maggie and Aaron feel hot for each other, can't live a life without the other, they are meant to be! Their love is sickening!

Then there were times that I felt the novel was trying not to step on the pedophilia line. Thayer Coleman and Maggie's 10-year-old sister were going for a Lolita route. I don't want to elaborate, but these two characters were...hmm...I dunno...I just felt they were crossing some kind of line.

The only reason I gave this book 2 stars and not 1 is because of Cousin Wesley. He's a fat minister, lusting for his cousin Maggie (view spoiler), and has dark twisted thoughts. Me likely psychopathic characters.
