



The Wedding Pearls

Carolyn Brown

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Tessa Wilson's life is all over the map. She may be clumsy, but this time she's stumbled into a pickle by choice, not by accident. She's agreed to take a month-long trip around Texas jammed into a '59 Cadillac with a drama-loving teenager, two elderly spitfires, and—oh, yes—her biological mama who gave her away at birth. And the ride gets even crazier when hot-as-sin cowboy Branch Thomas crosses into her lane. They don't call him the sexiest man in the Lone Star State for nothin'.

As the miles pass and sparks fly between Tessa and Branch, her grandmother starts dropping hints about family wedding traditions. And as Tessa discovers the power of her budding friendships and the unbreakable strength of her newfound family of strong Texas women, she wonders if she's also on the road to the biggest adventure of all: true love.

The Wedding Pearls Details

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From Reader Review The Wedding Pearls for online ebook

Suze Lavender says

Tessa has always wondered where her clumsiness comes from. She knows she's adopted and she never managed to keep up with her mother's gracefulness and ability to dance. Tessa has a travel agency together with her cousin. She usually books trips for other people, but this time she gets the chance to see something of the country herself. Tessa receives an invitation to travel with her birth mother, grandmother, grandmother's best friend, a suspended teenager and their lawyer Branch. She's never met the family before and instead of slowly getting to know them she's about to spend each hour of the day for an entire month with them, will this be a good plan?

While traveling with two crazy old ladies, a mother with tattoos and plenty of attitude and a teenager who got caught in high school drama with a high price Tessa slowly finds the fiery side of herself. Sparks fly between her and Branch and Tessa's grandmother would like her family's heirloom, beautiful wedding pearls, to finally have their chance to shine again. Tessa has a strong connection with her new family, but the trip isn't only about joy and happiness, it will be an emotional roller coaster she'll never forget. Will it change Tessa's life forever?

The Wedding Pearls is a fantastic original story. I loved every single page of this magical book. Tessa is a kindhearted woman with a lovely caring personality. While traveling with her new family she discovers she also has a fierce and protective side. Her childhood was filled with love and getting to know her biological family only makes that feeling stronger. Tessa adores the crazy side of the ladies she's on a trip with. They're fun, dynamic and their pizzazz knows no bounds. I fell in love with the two fabulous old friends from the beginning as well, reading about them put a huge smile on my face. Their adventures are truly terrific and I had a brilliant time reading about the trip and each destination.

Carolyn Brown has a wonderful heartwarming writing style. Her stories are true gems and each one has found a place in my heart. The Wedding Pearls is an amazing book. The road trip of a lifetime is filled with surprises, there's plenty of mischief, I loved the terrific banter, life lessons and deep wisdom and the ladies' abundance of creative plans made me laugh out loud. There's such a strong bond between the main characters, everything fits and the romance made my heart sing. I love it when a story impresses me so much that it will stay with me for many years and The Wedding Pearls definitely falls into that category. There aren't enough superlatives to describe this story. It's an absolute must-read.

Leslie says

A real tearjerker!

Heidi says

Five stars: A road trip book that will make you laugh and cry. Loved this one!

Tessa grabs her thick romance novel, hoping to spend the last hour of her workday without a mishap. Tessa

has been clumsy her whole life, and she blames it on her biological parents. Tessa has always known she was adopted, but she has never wanted to find her real mother. Everything changes when a handsome cowboy with green eyes strolls into her travel agency. Tessa is shocked when she learns that Branch is actually a lawyer. He arrives with a proposition for Tessa. Her biological mother and grandmother want to meet her at long last, and they would like for Tessa to accompany them on a month long road trip across Texas. At first, Tessa has no interest in going, but her adoptive mother persuades her to go. What follows is the trip of a lifetime as Tessa finds herself crowded into a shiny red, convertible 1959 Cadillac named Mollybedamned, along with her biological Mother Lola, her grandmother Frankie and her best friend, Ivy, Melody, Ivy's sixteen year old great niece, and Branch, the sexy cowboy who is their driver. What will Tessa discover on the road with her new found family?

What I Loved:

*I don't even know where to start with this one. I absolutely loved this book. It came at the perfect time, just when I needed a terrific, pick me up read. This is a book that will stick with me always. I adored the characters, the story and the journey. If you want a read with an epic road trip, a romance, new found friendships and sass, you must read this. I promise, it will make you laugh and cry. It is an amazing read. You can stop here and go get the book now.....

*Okay, obviously you are still reading the review, so I will tell you a bit about the characters who captured my heart. The story centers around Tessa, at almost thirty, she is seemingly content in her life. She is recovering from a broken engagement, but she is happy working at the travel agency she started with her cousin. She is clumsy, and attributes it to her genetic parents, whom she has never met. She is kind and sweet, and she has some spunk. Lola, Tessa's real mother, is quiet and nice. She is burdened by the guilt of putting her daughter up for adoption, so to make up for it, she knits baby hats. Frankie and Ivy are the scene stealers of the book, and I absolutely adored these old gals. These two are attached at the hip, life long friends from cradle to grave they claim. At eighty some years old, the two old ladies are determined to live life to the fullest and enjoy every second of it. They smoke, drink moonshine spiked Dr. Pepper, gamble and giggle. I loved their sass and spunk. You have to read this book to meet these two. Melody is a moody sixteen year old girl, forced to go on the trip because she was suspended from school for smoking pot in the bathroom. She starts out the book as an annoying teenager, but she grows and changes, and I loved seeing her transformation. Finally, add in Branch, one sexy cowboy, who is sweet and chivalrous, someone you would want to have on a road trip. I loved this cast of characters!

*This is a book all about relationships. First, there are the new found relationships that Tessa forms with her biological family. I loved watching Tessa fall in love with her family. Then there is the wonderful, lifelong friendship between Ivy and Frankie. This was the highlight of the book for me. For all you romance lovers, there is also a romance. I loved exploring the different types of relationships in this one.

*I love road trip books, and this has to be one of the best road trip books ever. Imagine six people stuffed into a vintage Cadillac touring the state of Texas. It has mayhem, snark, romance and all kinds of interesting stops, from yard sales to steakhouses. If you enjoy road trip books, this is one you have to read.

*The romance is sweet and subtle and it doesn't overtake the story. I loved that it took its time to develop as it starts out as a friendship. Even when it bursts into flame, it still flickers in the background. It was just right.

*The ending was bittersweet. I am not going to lie, it made me cry, and laugh at the same time. I loved the messages and the journey. This is a book that reminds you to grab life with both hands and live it to its fullest. I cannot recommend this one enough!

*I listened to the audiobook version of this book, and I thought that Brittany Pressley did an outstanding job. Her voices for Ivy, Frankie and Melody are wonderful. My one hesitation was that I don't think she quite managed to pull off Branch. Still if you can get your hands on an audio copy, do it.

And The Not So Much:

*I can't think of much that I didn't like about this one. I wished that the road trip could have gone on and on, I hated for it to come to close, especially when I knew what was at the end.

*I found myself wanting to know just a bit more about Lola. She remained a bit of a mystery. I wanted more

on her romance as well.

*I was curious about Clint, Tessa's cousin. I felt like there was backstory to him, his marriage and the travel agency, not an issue, just me being curious.

The Wedding Pearls is an absolute must read. I cannot recommend this one enough. Grab a copy for yourself, and one for a best friend or even your mother or both. This is a book that you need to read. It will make you laugh and cry. It is so sweet and wonderful and packed full of humor. I hope that when I grow up, I can be just like Ivy and Frankie. Please get yourself a copy of this and read it!

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own, and I was not compensated for this review.

Posted@Rainy Day Ramblings.

Dianne Bolza says

Extended Family Bonds

This story has a lot of emotions that you feel while reading it. It brought smiles,laughter and tears . I could imagine the trip like I was squashed in between them all.

Marsha Paul says

I loved this book! Please read it! You'll laugh and you'll cry and you'll fall in love with every character!

Vikki Vaught says

Wonderful plot, amazing characters, so glad I found this talented author. Happy reading!

♥ ♥Lynn ♥ ♥ says

Friends and family. I tell my kids all the time that these two things are to be treasured and held on to. Reading this book only highlights that point. This story follows the end of journey and the beginning of another. Wonderfully written!

Kim Yingling says

Loved It.

This was a great book. Even cried a few times while reading it. This is my 3rd Carolyn Brown book I have read in 2 weeks. Looking forward to my 4th

Sarah says

i don't review books as often as i used to but some require it, some for good reason's some for not so good. this one is a good reason.

it is not often that i cry during a book but this one made me cry. it was just so good. it was slow in the beginning and i was and still am trying to see how it connects to the book that is listed as the previous in the series, so it is totally stand alone. That being said- i am so very glad i kept listening to it. it was amazing. the characters are so very likable- all of them- well except Avery- but you need a bitchy person in every book- right?

the ending is amazing and i couldn't stop crying. so very beautiful. read it- love it- just like i did.

there is sex- but not a lot and not described. it is premarital sex- but well- they are very much older adults- not kids. i would let my teenagers read this- but i am not sure if they would like it a much as i did, more of a great summer read- or maybe a september...

thanx for reading!

Barbara Gillard says

Amazing!

Loved this book, one of the best books I've read this year. Would love to read a sequel of this amazing book centered around Melody with all the remaining cast of characters. I'm sure she would have a lot to share as an adult on how this trip changed the course of her life. Thank you Carolyn Brown for writing such a heartfelt book with a cast who was able to steal my heart. Everyone should have a chance to take a trip like Tessa did but leaving out the sadness.

Linda L says

This was kind of a cute story, but the writing left a lot to be desired. Also, it was totally totally predictable -- not a surprise in there. Have not read any of her other books and probably won't. I feel really mean because it was a sweet story, but the dialogue was AWFUL. No living person says the things those characters did. And the ending -- well, just too convenient. But - I kept reading and finished it, so what's up with that??

Teresa says

What a fun, crazy rollercoaster ride!

Tessa Wilson is adopted! She is a klutz. She wears as much food as she eats and falls over her own feet on a daily basis. She is clumsy with a capital C! She has always known she was adopted but has never had any desire to find her birth mom. She is happy and loved.

Tessa's birth mom has other plans. She wants to meet Tessa and get to know her and she wants Tessa to meet her birth family. They are getting ready to take a month long road trip and want Tessa to join them!

After much consideration and lengthy discussions with her parents, Tessa agrees and so the trip begins.

What a trip it is her birth mom, Lola, her grandmother, Frankie as well as Frankie's best friend since birth, Ivy and Ivy's niece, Melody head out bright and early one morning. They take Frankie's cheery red 1959 Cadillac named Mollybedamned.

Frankie and Ivy are my two favorite characters! They are a hoot. Frankie drinks nothing but Dr. Pepper, which she won't share, laced with moonshine which she will share. She and Ivy argue about everything and share crazy stories from their youth. Ivy has an oxygen tank, named Blister, that goes everywhere with her. She smokes like a fiend and drinks Dr Pepper and moonshine with Frankie.

Small town Texas, estate sales, antique shops, BBQ, casinos, two stepping and drive-in movies are all part of Frankie's agenda for the road trip. This is such a great book about families. It's about navigating all the ups and downs of life with them by our side!

Kay Tennant says

A different kind of family story

At first I was turned off by the language in this story, but by the time I decided to quit reading it I had already fallen in love with the characters. They are so real that I ended up feeling like I was a part of this mixed up family, and one overlooks faults in people they love. So, I ignored the language and went on a two-week trip around Texas with some very lovable characters and we all had a great time!

Pamela Hastings says

Excellent story

I have The Wedding Pearls a 5-star rating for being not only an enjoyable story, but also such a well written one. Each character is so well developed that I felt like I knew them. I am sure I will remember these as friends.

Jodie says

I will have to add this book to my favorites list! I really enjoyed getting to meet these wonderful characters and watch them become family. I especially loved Tessa's grandmother, Frankie and Frankie's best friend Ivy. I found myself laughing out loud at their antics many times. I especially loved that Carolyn Brown mentioned my all-time-favorite movie, Steel Magnolias! Before it was mentioned, I kept thinking about how the narrator, Brittany Pressley, sounded just like a character in that movie. She captured each character in this book perfectly. I am so happy I found Carolyn Brown. From every book of hers that I've read so far, she provides such a sweet escape from regular life. I'm looking forward to more of her books.
