



## Truelove & Homegrown Tomatoes

*Julie L. Cannon*

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Truelove and Homegrown Tomatoes is a down-home story celebrating the enormous healing power of the Southern garden. Imogene Lavender, her daughter, Jeanette, and her niece wage their individual battles with grief and find the answer to many of life's questions deep in the red-clay dirt of Euharlee, Georgia.

## Truelove & Homegrown Tomatoes Details

Date : Published July 22nd 2003 by Touchstone Books (first published 2001)

ISBN : 9780743245883

Author : Julie L. Cannon

Format : Paperback 288 pages

Genre : Fiction, American, Southern, Novels

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## **From Reader Review Truelove & Homegrown Tomatoes for online ebook**

### **Valerie says**

Okay. Not as good as the sequel, 'Mater Biscuit. Loutishie's personality comes out so much better in MB. But both books made me, a non-gardener except for herbs in containers, want to dig up a big vegetable garden and grow every last vegetable there is!

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### **Mimi says**

I really enjoyed this story ---

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### **Melanie says**

Love the title. No substitute for either.

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### **Catherine says**

Great book!

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### **Lauren says**

this book started off on a really bad emotional note for me, my grandfather just died last year and so I could see my grandmother's relationship with the lead character in this book. luckily my grandmother does not have the hellions guitar lead character does in her life. After almost 50 years of marriage her husband passes away and this story is about how she gets her life back on track. great read but very emotional.

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### **Roxana says**

This book was pretty good! It was an easy read and it was very heartfelt, however the ending was disappointing. The story seemed to end suddenly with no real satisfying resolution.

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### **Susan says**

A sweet story set in Euharlee, Georgia about recently widowed Imogene Lavender and her two daughters,

Jeannie and Lou. Imogene's love of gardening and tomato growing is the backdrop for life's ups and downs, with plenty of humor to giggle out loud.

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### **Elaine says**

First in the Homegrown series

Imogene loses her husband of 40 something years to cancer. While at first she just wants to give up, after some time, she turns to her beloved gardening. That's when her niece Lou who lives with her knows she's come back to life. As they're working together in the garden, Imo teaches Lou about gardening.

Imo's friend Martha and Martha's sister Wanda think she needs a man. She doesn't think so but boy is she lonely. She takes Wanda's advice and hangs out in the freezer section at the grocery store (cos that's where single men who don't cook are, right?) scoping out what appears to be eligible men. This part is kind of funny.

This novel takes time to warm up to a point of interest. It's not a boring start -- just slow.

She endures heartache after heartache but if anyone can bounce back, it's Imogene.

A story as sweet as the tomatoes she grows!

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### **Mary Lou says**

It was encouraging to read how one can survive losing a loved one, and then begin again and help those who are also struggling. Also got some good gardening advice!

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### **Teresa says**

Loved this first book in the Mater Biscuit series. I was afraid reading the second book first would spoil this one. But it was wonderful. Delightful characters that develop and grow through the book and become endearing through the second book, 'Mater Biscuit. Can't wait to read the third book in the series. This is a quick read, but you'll fall in love with the ladies and find yourself laughing to yourself as you turn the pages.

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### **Cindy says**

Sweet story of Imo Lavender, an older Southern lady raising 2 girls that she's taken in, Jeanette and Lou. This novel in some ways has the pace of the No 1 Ladies Detective series - there's not a large amount of action, this novel is more evocative of a place and the interaction among the main characters. Imo loses her husband of 48 years and eventually decides, with the help of her friends, that she might like some male companionship in her life. She dates several men and deals with the raising of her 2 girls. I love the title - referred to in the story as the only things that money cannot buy. Sweet as Southern tea.

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### **Sarah says**

Quick note, I would actually give this book at 3.5 star rating...

I really enjoyed this book. If I had to describe it in one word, I would call it "sweet." I was drawn to the title because, really, who doesn't adore and appreciate the wonder of true love and homegrown tomatoes?! I don't read a whole lot of books with a main character over the age of 60, so that was a change for me. At the same time, the 13 year old character was probably a bit too grown up and not entirely realistic for her age, but I enjoyed her, too, nonetheless. Slightly predictable, but still interesting, and it helped keep me entertained while laying around at home while I was sick. Interesting thoughts on love and especially loving after loss...

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### **Jill says**

This was just a bleh book. I thought I would like it because it would be a story of a woman dealing with her grief from the loss of her husband - coming to terms with life. It was so flat and mostly just depressing, though. The characters were stereotypes, and the main character and the secondary main character were remarkably clueless. You would have thought the story happened 60 years ago, or that the main character was 85 instead of 65. She was just always shocked and offended by things (gays! teenagers who want to have sex! 60 year old women making slightly crude jokes! Men using her first name! Bland tomatoes from the grocery store!). All this mixed with a liberal dose of almost-racism and too much religious enthusiasm. I only finished it because it was short and fast, and I hoped there would be something redeeming about it. I'm very glad I checked it out from the library instead of buying it. The gardening bits don't help.

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### **Annie says**

I was expecting this book to have more humor in it. In my opinion, there was hardly any at all. It was actually kind of depressing. The author describes Imo's pain so thoroughly that at times I felt it too. I couldn't imagine losing a husband after 48 years like she did then having to raise 2 teenagers while she herself is in her 60s. I think the characters complimented each other well but Lou's 13 yr old character wasn't very believable. I enjoyed reading from 2 different points of view but the story just didn't do much for me besides make me fear growing old and alone.

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### **Aubrey Anne says**

This is one of those books where I just so happened to pick it up at the right time in my life. It's a very relatable story. I enjoyed reading of Imo's long happy marriage, just as I entered into marriage myself. As I read of Imo's garden and canning, I was picking veggies from my garden and also canning them. Of course, there are a lot of differences between our lives, but Imo seemed like the type of lady that I would enjoy conversation with.

On top of all that, this book had some unexpected plot twists which I always enjoy. Some of them I did see

coming, but there were enough things that I hadn't expected to keep it interesting. I also enjoyed the recap at the end of the book to let you know where are the characters are "today."

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