



## When Breaks the Dawn

*Janette Oke*

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Elizabeth Delaney and her husband, Wynn, a mountie, must rely on their faith to see them through hardships, when Wynn is sent to a new posting.

## When Breaks the Dawn Details

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Author : Janette Oke

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## From Reader Review When Breaks the Dawn for online ebook

### **Alexis Villery says**

I used to read Janette Oke a lot when I was younger so I decided to pick up this book in a moment of nostalgia. In a nutshell, this book is about the trial and tribulations of Elizabeth and Wynn while they endure the hardships of the rugged west.

You don't have to have read the first two books in the series but it might be helpful. Some characters are mentioned in passing that will be unfamiliar if you haven't read the previous two books but it doesn't affect the present storyline much. Some books are a historical fiction with religious overtones; this particular book is a Christian novel that is historical fiction (if the difference makes sense). It's a simple/quick read and you find yourself really caring about the characters--all of them. There is heartache and sorrow along with joy and triumph.

There is one small thing that really bugged me though. Elizabeth really struggled and she made mistakes but it frustrated me a bit that Wynn was so good. Wynn made all the right decisions and was the pillar for Elizabeth to lean on. He didn't argue, yell, or do anything crazy. He had the appropriate emotions at the appropriate times. He always remembered to trust in God and pray. It wasn't just a matter of a perfect/imperfect characters but it almost came across as "the man knows best," which rubbed me the wrong way. This didn't ruin the book for me in anyway and it was still a good book, but I'm not sure if I will finish the series because my irritation would only grow.

Any detail will give something away so I will keep from spoiling this for someone else.

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### **Leslie says**

This was a really slow read...the 215 pages covered about 4 years. Little bit here, little bit there. Elizabeth was kind of annoying and whiny and it was just kind of a depressing read. I'll read the rest of the series to see how it ends. Tell me it gets better!

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### **Karen says**

I liked the first book, but the next two were too God in my face, and there was absolutely no romance mentioned! I mean really, I'm no prude, but even God wants people to have kids. At least talk about it a bit. It's such a white elephant in the room how it is so ignored until so late in this series.

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### **Natalie says**

I liked the first one but the second book in this series fell flat for me because there was no real courtship between the two main characters - it just sort of happened.

The third book basically details Elizabeth's longing for a child. Now granted I know that this series is set in an earlier time period, but I would still like to see some female empowerment. She mopes a LOT, saying things like "God had blessed so many women with babies, but not me" or "I needed a child to make my life complete" or "I had a hard time being happy for my pregnant friends since I didn't have that joy of my own." She just seemed whiny to me.

I also find it hard to believe that she wouldn't miss city life, at least a little bit. Especially since she is alone so much of the time.

Wynn seemed very flat as a character - he really wasn't even around very much.

I really liked where this series was going in the beginning but Elizabeth's subordination to her husband really grates on me after a while.

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### **Kellyn Roth says**

Originally posted on Reveries Reviews.

The third book in the Canadian West series did not disappoint! True, it was a little draggy at points, but I still enjoy Elizabeth and Wynn and all the people at Beaver Creek. I think I'm just about done with this series; I'll probably read the next book and then stop.

SPOILERS! I guess I'm just disappointed that Elizabeth and Wynn didn't have a child ... and in all likelihood won't, from what I can tell. END OF SPOILERS!

~Kellyn Roth

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### **Karen says**

I enjoyed this third installment of the Canadian West series. Elizabeth & Wynn are people with a deep faith in God, living in a remote area of Canada in the late 1800's, among an Indian settlement of people who don't know God yet. Even though the main characters are the educated, Christian "white people", they face all the same struggles and more as their beloved neighbors. I love that the author illustrates how one can learn from people who live differently than you, love people who believe differently than you, but not compromise your beliefs. I also like that she doesn't just paint the story of Elizabeth's faith as all roses & sunshine-- but tells of the times she feels down, is made at God and doubts-- something not all Christian fiction does well.

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### **Terri says**

Eh. It was fine, but the plot felt largely the same as the previous book. Elizabeth and Wynn are oddly uncommunicative - if something is bothering Elizabeth she just hides it, and Wynn is super quiet and doesn't ask. It makes it hard to connect to the characters. Elizabeth wasn't able to have a baby and she doesn't talk to

Wynn about it like ... ever. Until she abruptly freaks out on him one night and he just lets her freak out and leaves her alone for hours until she calms down. I get that people got married earlier and younger in those days and they didn't have these drawn out relationships that we do now, but they live in the middle of nowhere and have plenty of time to talk. But they don't.

I dunno, I got bored with this one. The books lack the charm of the show (I know IM SORRY) and I'm just not attached to these characters.

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### **Annalisa says**

This book picks up right where it left off with the wagon train full of supplies and Ian and Nimmie returning from their trip after the terrible burning of the store in Book 2. Elizabeth and Wynn continue to suffer with the pain of not having a child of their own and Elizabeth makes a trip back to Calgary to visit a doctor. Elizabeth and Nimmie receive permission from the Chief to begin a school but it is small in attendance. Elizabeth and Wynn take in a child Susie for a time but she must move with her family to the larger village after a time. Then they are given an infant (Samuel) by an Indian after his wife dies but he returns a year later to claim the child again. The book ends with Wynn receiving new orders. This book covers a much larger time period than book two canvassing several years rather than just one.

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### **Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says**

About this book:

*“After surviving a harsh first year in the far north, Elizabeth Delaney and her Royal Canadian Mountie husband, Wynn, are settling into the small community of Beaver Creek. Elizabeth is once more teaching school, and they seem to be gradually making a place for themselves among the Indians. And then the news arrives...”*

Series: Book #3 of the “Canadian West” series. (Book #1 review [Here!](#) and Book #2 review [Here!](#)) {There is a movie based on the first book of this series with the sa

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When Breaks the Dawn is the third novel in Janette Oke's Canadian West series. I found that this book was much improved over the second in the series and just as good as the first.

This installment starts out exactly where the second book left it, at the trader's and his wife's return to the settlement with much needed supplies. Unlike the other books however, this one covers several years instead of just one year.

Elizabeth has largely adjusted to living life in the frigid North and with her friend Nimmie starts a school for the children of the settlement. While it does not catch on quickly she finds a few willing students to learn all she has to teach. One of these in particular, a little girl named Susie, actually lives with Elizabeth and Wynn for awhile and gives them a taste on what it is like to have children.

Susie wouldn't be the only child they would take care of in the book however. They also adopt a baby from a man who's wife has died and spend a whole year with him, learning to love them as their own. Sadly, this does not last for very long.

In this book as well is a slight description of an action scene. Wynn must go out in the cold to track down a bootlegger and murderer. While we are not introduced to the scene firsthand, he relives it for Elizabeth when he arrives back home. I was actually surprised to find this in the novel as most of the books by Oke I have read have very little conflict between person and person rather than person and elements.

As far as plotlines go there isn't really a set plotline for this novel. It more just chronicles their life over about 3-4 years and how they survive. If I were to say the book had anything resembling a plot line, I would more say it had a theme; Elizabeth's infertility. A big part of the book is written about Elizabeth's feelings and actions at being unable to conceive a child. It was written with a lot of emotion and having never experienced those issues myself as of yet I can't say whether they were accurate descriptions of the emotions involving infertility, but they seemed genuine to me.

I found a lot of things improved in this book over the second one in the series. For starters, Elizabeth becomes her strong independent self again. There is no simpering and acting like a child whose husband has to guide her in every step. Also, Oke tones down the preachiness and instead reverts to her Christian values as they were in the first book, lead by example, not by sermon.

Oke's writing as always is very homey and clear. Her books are pleasant with nothing that would be considered offensive. This book, like the others in the series, is written from Elizabeth's perspective.

Oke's characters are very believable in this book. She tries to give the reader a glimpse at the struggle for Elizabeth between the Indian and English languages and shows her attempts at translation. She also makes her characters have faults rather than be perfect at all times. Since it is a Christian novel, the characters themselves actually reflect on their own sins.

Overall I did enjoy this book. It wasn't as good of a plot line as the first but it definitely improved on the second book. As a reader I enjoyed it and it's one of those books where if you don't want to, you don't have to think too hard about the message, you can just read for enjoyment.

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### **Hilary says**

Now settled in the remote village with her Mountie husband, Elizabeth's life is still full of changes. Her friends need help, she wants to start a school, and she desperately wants to start a family. The emotional turmoil and pain some of these cause may hit close to home for some, but the author doesn't dwell on sadness for too long - and Elizabeth's faith in God always brings hope.

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### **Maria Nane says**

Love it. Abia astept sa citesc continuarea.

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### **Carolyn Pina says**

This was Book 3 of a series of 4. I won't be reading Book 4. In this book, the Bible verses increased, as the story, itself, became boring.

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### **Nadine Keels says**

*The city had changed much since then, but I had changed more. The young, stylish schoolteacher from the East no longer existed. In her place was an older, wiser and, I hoped, more sensitive woman.*

Elizabeth and her Canadian Mountie husband, Wynn, are nearing their first wedding anniversary. They've been making a life for themselves at Beaver River, a village in the far Northwest, but they'll face a devastating disappointment in *When Breaks the Dawn* by author Janette Oke.

This novel felt like classic Janette Oke to me: homey but challenging frontier life, simply depicted. I've respect for Elizabeth's approach to the new teaching position (and even the motherly role) she gets to fill. Although she strives to educate and nurture the native children in her charge, she's not out to "make them white," so to speak, but instead she seeks to understand the village people's culture more.

Some of my favorite parts are when Elizabeth looks outside of herself and empathizes with other people's concerns, particularly her husband's. As with the previous novels in the series, I still feel that Elizabeth cries too often for her tears to stay interesting, but she's not a weak heroine. I got to realize right along with her how much she's changed, and following the course and distinct shift of her homesickness may be what I liked best about this read.

My enjoyable mission to finish the Canadian West series continues. On to Book Four.

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**Loretta Marchize says**

Another wonderful book in this series! I own all four of the first books and have been re-reading them (I first read them before I was on Goodreads) They are just as good as the first time! I did find them very anti-climatic because whatever surprises or hardships they faced I already knew how it all turned out.

Content: cheek kisses, hug (both with married couple), mentions of birth and child-bearing (little-to-none, not described), mentions of Indian witchcraft

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