



Love Blooms in Winter

Lori Copeland

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He wasn't what she expected, but he was everything she hoped for.

North Dakota, 1892—Mae Wilkey's sweet next-door neighbor, Pauline, is suffering from old age and dementia and desperately needs family to come help her. But Pauline can't recall having kin remaining. Mae searches through her desk and finds a name—Tom Curtis, who may just be the answer to their prayers.

Tom can't remember an old aunt named Pauline, but if she thinks he's a long-lost nephew, he very well may be. After two desperate letters from Mae, he decides to pay a visit. An engagement, a runaway train, and a town of quirky, loveable people make for more of an adventure than Tom is expecting. But it is amazing what can bloom in winter when God is in charge of things.

Love Blooms in Winter Details

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From Reader Review Love Blooms in Winter for online ebook

Margaret Chind says

This book was in my pile and I wanted to read it, but when I first picked it up, it was because something else was left somewhere and I wanted to bide my time. Now that was half a mistake. One I meant to read this one, but not quite yet, but once I picked it up it was impossible to put down! The characters jumped off the pages and into my heart and did not let go until the last page, and even now as I have completed reading it I want more. I'm fairly certain with the words "The Dakota Diaries" on the front that this is just the beginning of a wonderful series and I cannot wait. I'm quite certain that Lil and Jester are in for some fun in the future...

Mae assumed her life was settled until Tom came along and she realized things were not quite what she thought them to be both in her neighbor Pauline's life and her own. It is all one more example of how God can change our plans drastically before we realize or expect it. I know that in my life I was set, we had just bought a house, we were seven months into expecting our first child and the last thing I expected was for my husband to come home one day from his incredible job and tell me that he had good news and bad news. Good news he was going to get to take several weeks off to spend with me and the baby. Bad news, his division was closing and he was laid off. Shock! But then he was home with me the last two months of my pregnancy, and the first two months of our daughters new life and then he got a new and better job. We moved to a better house, better area, better co workers. Everything is better, but different. Yes it is away from my parents and everything that I had planned and settled my life into, but God definitely knew what he was doing.

Thanks to Wynn Wynn Media, Harvest House Publishers, NetGalley, FIRST Wild Card Tours and the Christian Fiction Blog Alliance for providing me with a copy for review both on loan electronically and in the mail.

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FIRST Chapter: <http://creativemadnessmama.com/blog/2...>

Marlene says

This book has an interesting cast of characters, which I really enjoyed. The hero and heroine were the normal ones of the bunch, but that's just fine. And I really love the cover of this book! I keep going back to look at it. The train engine is beautiful, and the man pictured just looks so kind! The woman pictured on the cover looks almost exactly like the most beautiful woman I know. What a fresh, vibrant face! And the wintery atmosphere is just so pretty! I don't usually mention covers, but I just really loved this one. Now for my review...

Love Blooms in Winter (2012, Harvest House Publishers), #1 in *The Dakota Diaries*, by Lori Copeland is a standalone Christian romance set in 1892 in the fictional town of Dwadlo, North Dakota. I selected it because I always enjoy Lori Copeland's Christian novels.

4 stars

The Heroine:

Mae Wilkey, 27, has quite a bit of responsibility. She's the local postmistress and is the only caregiver for her younger brother, who is a young man with a special need - perhaps he'd be called "simple" in that time period. Additionally, Mae's nearest neighbor Pauline has no family and is struggling with what appears to be Alzheimer's. So Mae checks on her frequently and ends up being a caretaker for Pauline as well. But Pauline's dementia is getting worse, and Mae is concerned about her ability to live alone. So Mae looks in Pauline's address book, trying to find a relative, however distant, who can make decisions about Pauline's care. She finds only one person who is a possible candidate: Tom Curtis.

The Hero:

Tom Curtis from Chicago has a management position with the Chicago and North West Railway. When he receives Mae's letter, he assumes his friends are pulling a prank on him and ignores it. When she writes again, he decides to make the trip to try and determine whether Pauline is a relation of his.

What I liked:

*I learned a few new things about railroading.

*There are some thoughtful study questions at the end. I don't participate in reading groups, but I always enjoy reading study questions and contemplating them on my own.

*The secondary characters are fabulous! I absolutely loved Lil. "Ain't nothing wrong with my chickenhood." What a fun character. :-)

What I didn't like:

*Mae is instantly convinced that Tom Curtis is Pauline's relative because she can conceive of no other reason for him to be in Pauline's address book. And she's rather stubborn about it. (Unfortunately, Pauline's memory is faulty, and she cannot remember who Tom is.) Personally, I have a hard time being patient with people who jump to conclusions, so perhaps it's just that this character trait didn't sit well with me. Every main character should have a flaw, after all. However, Mae is very responsible and dependable, as well as sweet, so she's still likeable.

*I would have preferred the story without Jake Mallory, "Dwadlo's up-and-coming attorney," who has been lazily courting Mae for six years. "Mae was starting to wonder whether he loved her or her brother's cooking."

*The first half of the book was just a tad bit on the slow side for me. It's a good story, but it wasn't gripping enough to keep this tired mom of six awake. I was engrossed in the second half, however. :-)

None of these are necessarily flaws in the book, but are more a matter of my preference.

I will definitely continue to read more books by Lori Copeland. At the time of this review, she is 75 years old. She released a book this year and has another coming out in 2017. I think that's pretty awesome. Copeland has been publishing books since 1982, though it appears she didn't start publishing Christian/Amish

books until the late 1990's. I have several of her non-Amish Christian books in my towering to-read pile next to my bed. :-)

I recommend this book to fans of historical Christian romances set in America. I'd also recommend her book *Outlaw's Bride* .

Loraine says

It's 1892 and Mae Wilkey's neighbor, Pauline, is 92, developing dementia, and needs a family member who can look after her. When Mae finds a slip of paper in Pauline's desk with a name and address on it, she is sure she has found a relative that she can contact. When Tom Curtis responds to the letters by showing up via the train company he works for, all sorts of mishaps and hilarity begin.

I loved the characters in this book as each is unique in their own special way from General Store owner/Pastor Dale who could only talk when he was preaching to poor Miss Pauline who was a firecracker on good days and so lost on the bad. Tom Curtis was the epitome of a caring, concerned, fun loving, hard working gentleman. What a contrast to Mae's long standing boyfriend Jake who was deep into his self-centeredness. Mae was a young woman just waiting to blossom under the right spirit. My favorite though had to be sweet Jeremy, Mae's, younger brother. He held a special place in Mae's heart as well as my own. Very good, plausible story line with small town feel that made this book a sweet, cozy historical romance read. Have to say my favorite scene was Jeremy's salvation which truly would touch the heart of anyone who knows Christ.

FAVORITE QUOTES: "He'd brought home the thought that a person either lived his belief or he needed to ask himself if his faith was lip service only."

"Time can only steal your body. It can't touch your soul, and you're a good soul."

"Contentment is good, but never rule out excitement."

"Memories are stored in the heart.....Nothing can take those away."

Kristen Tolly says

Great read during winter

Good book to read during the winter months. I couldn't put it down. excellent read for young adults and teens.

Sue says

A sweet love story

Cathy Daniel says

Very sweet and enjoyable. I read it fairly quickly. I had to deduct a star for the fact the main character allowed her long time boyfriend to treat her so poorly for so long. I HATED that and even though the author attempts to explain it and I could kinda understand it did not seem real and made her too wimpy for unknown reason where she was really very strong. The sneaking out of the house to avoid standing up to him was the kicker for me. Still a very good read and I will definitely look for more by this author.

Rachel says

This was a fun and sweet Christian historical romance. The writing style was fairly good, and the characters were well drawn. I thought the "long lost aunt or cousin" scenario was quite an amusing element of the plot, and I loved how the reality of that situation showed the depth of character in our hero. I will likely continue with the series.

Gerrie says

3.5 out of 5 stars

Teresa Griffis says

I loved this book! Lori Copeland is one of my favorite Christian fiction authors. Even though this is first in a series, it doesn't leave you hanging. But I do hope book 2 will continue their story and include the other characters from book 1. Thankfully I have book 2 so don't have to delay reading it.

Mae and Tom seem to clash, but opposites do attract. Both have responsibilities that tend to blind what's happening between them.

Mae has waited 6 long years for her suitor to pop the question. Not until another available bachelor comes to town do true feelings come forth.

Tom takes leave from his railroad job to seek answers about a possible elderly aunt who needs help only family can give. He doesn't expect what he finds in this small town.

Another reason I liked this book was the locomotive connection. My dad worked for the railroad for 42 years, and I would ride the train to visit my grandparents across the state.

Kami S says

Not really worth your time. It was really hard for me to get into this book, but I always like to finish. Very slow, not very romantic...not badly written, just a boring plot.

Charity says

This review is from: Love Blooms in Winter (The Dakota Diaries) (Paperback)

You all know how much I enjoy historical Christian fiction. It is my favorite genre of books to read. And one of the most well known authors in this genre is Lori Copeland. I don't think I have ever met someone who likes historical Christian fiction that has not heard of her before. So when I saw her new book, Love Blooms in Winter, I just knew it would be on my wish list:)

Like I said above, Lori Copeland is a well known name in Christian fiction. She did not disappoint with this book. It is somewhat humorous and yet, a lot of good lessons in here as well. Waiting on the Lord is well worth it and at times, you have to decide and take your chances.

The whole plot of the story is a young woman who takes care of an older lady, Pauline. Mae knows she is getting older and having trouble remembering things and she gets worried. When Mae goes looking for Pauline's relatives, all she can find is a piece of paper with a name and an address on it. So she writes this man, explaining everything that is going on. You also find out that Mae is almost engaged to a man in town but he will not propose to her. There is not a lot of excitement and there aren't many young single men. You get the idea:)

In the meantime, The young man she wrote, Tom, gets these letters but thinks at first they are a joke from his co-workers. When he finally decides to make a visit and see if he knows this older woman he also gets a raise in his job. So he has something to come back to. Well, as you can see, this gets pretty interesting:) I don't want to spoil it too much for those who have not read this book, but it gets pretty fun. There is a side plot too of Mae's best friend who happens to be a lady who raises pigs:D Boy does she get hysterical! One of my favorite parts is when Mae and Tom are in the general store and get playing around with the root beer. Guess who happens to walk in? You got it!

Needless to say, a fun quick read. This is a smaller book and good for the person who likes a faster read. Definitely worth the price though! Nothing questionable at all in this book! Give me more like it:) Looking forward to the next one in the series as well.

I received a complimentary copy of this book for my review purposes from Harvest House Publishing. I did not receive any monetary compensation. All thoughts are 100% mine.

bert-bobbi says

A nice cozy book.

Amy says

The story starts off with a woman waiting six years for her boyfriend to propose. The pace does not pick up from there. It's a sweet story and the characters are lovely and have endearing interactions. The dialogue is realistic. The setting is easy to visualize and simple. Rather a lot of strange accidents happen with no harm or

injury to anyone, even mental anguish is only serious enough to be curable with a hot meal. There was a happy ending coming along when the story ended abruptly.
Violent scenes-ish, no sex, no swearing.

Renee says

Review to come 1/19 for F.I.R.S.T

Cynthia Cleveland says

The questions at the back of the book give you a defining look at yourself and how you look at Gods commands for us. I love love stores they help you get past the hard times in your own life.
