



## Send Down the Rain

*Charles Martin*

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## Send Down the Rain Charles Martin

Allie's second husband is killed tragically when his 18-wheeler crashes into the rocks near their home in Cape San Blas—the tanker was full of fuel and the explosion could be seen on overhead satellites. She'd already lost the beloved waterfront restaurant her parents started and now losing her husband, no matter how unfulfilling their marriage was, might just push her over the edge.

Joseph's time in Vietnam left him with scars that never seemed to heal. No matter how he's tried to love or what he's tried to do since then, he can't pull himself out of the wreckage of his former life. His trust and security shaken, he isolates himself in a cabin. But every morning, he faithfully pours two cups of coffee, drinking his while he sits with the second, and then pouring out the full cup.

It's no small coincidence that Joseph found a mother and her two young children lost in the woods near his cabin. Or that when he helps them return to family in Florida, he's near enough to see that explosion. Near enough to know it's close to home. Near enough to know that his childhood sweetheart needs him.

The years have built so much distance between them, but it's the secrets that may be their final undoing. *Send Down the Rain* reminds us of the beauty of truth . . . and the power of love to wash away the past.

## Send Down the Rain Details

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# From Reader Review Send Down the Rain for online ebook

## Pamela says

*"I think we all died a little over there. War has a way of killing you whether you die or not."*

Charles Martin is a master storyteller. So sincere. And so genuine. He picks some challenging topics to write about.

In this novel - *Send Down the Rain* - Martin has written a multifaceted storyline that is essentially set in North Carolina. The main character, and narrator, is a Vietnam Veteran dealing with PTSD in need of pre and post-war forgiveness. He's become a recluse, with a storied and colorful past.

*"Strange how one man's absence can leave such carnage in its wake."*

When his life suddenly intersects with a young women on the run from an abusive partner, and another woman on the brink of self-destruction, the demons of his past (and present) must be faced head on. If not, evil wins. And he just can't let that happen.

*"I open up and try to love, and find nothing but dead chunks of flesh and shrapnel where my heart used to be."*

Now, in all honesty, despite Charles Martin being my favorite author, I realize he's not the most popular among the secular crowd. He's also not the most literary nuanced. And he sometimes forces a "Happily Ever-After" when a more realistic, less perfect ending would ring truer. But Charles always - ALWAYS - is aboveboard, honest, filled with integrity, and has his fingers on the pulse of humankind's frailties. He simply communicates from a sincere and spirit-filled heart.

Author or Accountant, Preacher or Lawyer . . . the aforementioned upright qualities are hard to come by. For that reason, and a whole host of others, Charles Martin remains my favorite author - five star book or otherwise.

FOUR \*\*\*\*\* Passionately Readable, Sincere and From the Heart, Rain of Redemption \*\*\*\*\* STARS

I won this book in a random drawing via Goodreads; I received it from the publisher.

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## Karen says

Wow, what a tale! Masterful storytelling, with realistic characters, drama, and action made this a powerful read. A story that leaves a lasting impression.

Told in part with flash backs through the main character's point of view, the author brings the reader along for an amazing series of events in Joseph 'Jo-Jo' Brooks' life. There are some gritty moments, including war scenes, and violence, key to understanding what has shaped his life and made him who he has become today. His acts of generosity, honor and compassion, demonstrate a sacrificial love for others, though he is a troubled soul fighting his own personal battles; a savior-like character seeking his own redemption. This

really was his story, from childhood to the present, and his battle to heal, inside and out, including damaged relationships with his brother and childhood sweetheart. The destructive force of hate versus the healing power of love and forgiveness were clearly demonstrated in his life.

Difficult topics such as addiction, abuse, divorce, abandonment, and PTSD are included.

Recomend to adult readers who enjoy a story with realistic drama, including the Vietnam War era. A solid 5 star read!

(I received a complimentary e-book from Thomas Nelson through NetGalley. All views expressed are completely my own.)

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## **Judy says**

Charles Martin has crafted a beautiful story of sacrifice, forgiveness, love and redemption. He is becoming one of my favorite authors very quickly. I've only read this one and The Mountain Between Us, but both have been exceptional reads for me.

This story is about two brothers, Joseph and Bobby, whose father left their family when they were under ten years old. Their mother raised them as best she could. Joseph went off to Vietnam while Bobby ended up becoming a Senator. There is a secret buried deep in their past that no one knows. The background of the Vietnam War and Joseph's service there were heartbreaking and left innumerable scars on Joseph. He suffers from PTSD and has dealt with both abuse and addiction. This is also about Joseph and Allie who were inseparable growing up, but multiple things have kept them apart.

Martin's writing will steal your heart. The story has been said to be a re-imagining of the tale of The Prodigal Son. I highly recommend this book!

Many thanks to Charles Martin and Thomas Nelson - FICTION through Netgalley for an advance copy of this book.

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## **Nora St Laurent says**

Send Down the Rain is one of this authors' best. I was hooked to this story from the first start, "Witnesses say the phone call occurred around seven p.m. and the exchange was heated." This story is engaging, heart-felt filled with twists, turns and surprises.

I was captivated by the richness of the characters development, depth of human emotions, all of which quickly swept me into the novel and. I couldn't put it down. This author is an exceptional story teller. I recommend this for book club. The author includes 13 discussion questions.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received a complimentary copy of this book from Tyndale Publisher. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising"

Nora St. Laurent

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The Book Club Network blog [www.psalm516.blogspot.com](http://www.psalm516.blogspot.com)  
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## **Jennifer ~ TarHeelReader says**

### **5 sentimental stars to Send Down the Rain! ?? ?? ?? ?? ??**

This book!!! This is my first read by Charles Martin, but I own many on his backlist. I have read wonderful reviews of his books, and I could not wait to read Send Down the Rain!

Allie loses her second husband when his truck crashes and explodes. Not only has she lost him, but she has also lost her beloved family-owned, seaside restaurant.

Joseph was a soldier in Vietnam, and eventually, he isolates himself in a cabin, far away from family and friends. His life is haunted by his memories, and he walks around emotionally wounded every day.

One day, Joseph finds a mother and her two children lost near his cabin. He personally takes them back to Florida to their family. And then timing and fate come into play, and Joseph and Allie's stories join. The rest, dear reader, is to be discovered at the heart of this sensitive, romantic story.

Where Charles Martin excels is allowing the reader to feel the emotion of his characters. Send Down the Rain is powerfully written and filled with a balance of gritty and charming moments, covering the darkest secrets of a family, PTSD, and life after war. It is also about loyalty and the sacrifices one makes for love. Fans of second-chance love stories with a side of family dynamics will love this one!

Thank you to Thomas Nelson for the ARC. Send Down the Rain is now available!

My reviews can also be found on my blog: [www.jennifertarheelreader.com](http://www.jennifertarheelreader.com)

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## **Beth says**

Send Down the Rain is an excellent novel of healing and second chances. Described that way, it may seem like the story is trite or typical, but I assure you, it's definitely not. The back cover copy may make you think that this story is about Allie, and it is in a way. But it's really about Joseph, a Vietnam veteran, a soldier whose government denies his very existence. Plagued by memories and dreams of his time in a country that he wasn't supposed to be in, doing things that would shatter the staunchest heart, Joseph is alone. By being alone, he can keep himself from both harming others and moving on and healing - happiness and closure he feels he doesn't deserve for being the one who got to come home.

Joseph is such a strong character. His voice is so clear and distinct. When I would put the book down, I'd blink with the realization that he wasn't actually a real person. He's strong, in that he will protect others even if it means death for himself, yet vulnerable and unsure about how he will respond to the most mundane,

day-to-day situations. Afraid of his response to life in general, he has stayed away from Allie, his first love, until a chance occurrence sends him home because he knows she needs help, and if it's in his power to do so, Joseph feels compelled to help others.

The plot seems straightforward at first, but there are actually a lot of twists and turns that make it hard to put the book down. Truly there is a bit of everything in this story - love, friendship, sacrifice, and what it means to be a family. Martin chooses to tell some aspects of the story out of sequence, which almost fits the way Joseph's character chooses to acknowledge certain events, many significant turning points in his life. Allie seems to be the one constant in his life, despite many years of separation and misunderstanding. Many times I think if he'd just spoken instead of watched in silence, things might have turned out different for him.

If anything keeps this from being 5 stars is that some of it seemed almost a little far-fetched. I know it's fiction, but there were a few things that did feel like they could have only happened in a novel. In a story that felt otherwise realistic and altogether real, those things stood out to me. Other readers may not feel that way though, and it's definitely not enough to keep me from recommending this story. It does deal candidly and realistically with PTSD as an after effect of Joseph's several tours in Vietnam. It manifests itself in ways that are both dangerous to others and heartbreaking to Joseph, so if you're not in the mood to read about that, probably wait to pick this up.

I've only read two novels by Charles Martin thus far, and this one is my favorite, though *Long Way Gone* is very good and recommended as well. If you have any recommendation as to which of his books I should pick up next, let me know!

I received a complimentary copy of this novel from the publisher. I was not required to post a review, positive or otherwise. This review is my honest opinion.

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### **Jocelyn Green says**

Overall, I enjoyed *Send Down the Rain*. The first few chapters were a struggle for me, since I didn't know who the main character was until around chapter four. But once I gained my bearings in the story, I was hooked. Sometimes the writing style (lots of fragmentary sentences) was a bit distracting, and a few of the plot techniques reminded me of *Long Way Gone*, but Martin excels at making you care about what happens to the character. I appreciated his handling of the subject and theme. It could have been much darker, and I've read books that touched on similar topics which were, in fact, pretty hopeless. *Send Down the Rain* had all the redemption I could have hoped for. The metaphor of sacrifice and atonement was a powerful spiritual insight, even though it wasn't explicitly spelled out as a picture of Christ's atonement for us. The subtlety of it worked for me.

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### **Anna says**

Allie and Joseph are broken down from life's disappointments, trying to deal with the traumatic experiences of their pasts. Allie has just lost her second husband in a tragic traffic accident. Joseph carries the demons from his four tours of duty during the Vietnam War. Joseph has isolated himself in a remote cabin in the mountains of North Carolina, his only company his dog Roscoe. When he hears a scream on a cold snowy

night he discovers an illegal immigrant and her two children who are on the run from a dangerous drug lord. Upon rescuing them something opens up in Joseph, leading him back to his childhood home in coastal Florida, and the one and only woman he has ever loved, Allie. And so begins a beautiful journey of compassion, redemption and second chances.

Charles Martin is a master storyteller who draws you deep into the emotions and lives of his characters. I highly recommend this fabulous novel of grace and finding the courage to love completely.

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### **Dannii Elle says**

Whilst certainly of initial enjoyment, and discoursing on some hard-hitting topics, I can not see this maintaining a long-lasting appeal. I feel this may be due to a construct of the genre, rather than this particular book, however, as I read this assured in the character's protection, and with the safety net of the happily-ever-after I felt sure was going to be delivered, to cushion any intense emotional discomfort. This was solidly written, well-paced, and full of intriguing characters but I was not, unfortunately, the correct reader for this book.

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### **Emilee says**

Wow! This is a high-drama book. The results of war and decisions. It's something to think about. There is a lot going on in this story.

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### **Lisa says**

Send Down The Rain  
Charles Martin

MY RATING ??????????  
PUBLISHER Thomas Nelson  
PUBLISHED May 8, 2018

A masterful love story draped in sacrifice, secrets, suffering, solitude and healing.

#### **SUMMARY**

Allie's second husband is killed tragically when his 18-wheeler crashes into the rocks near their home in Cape San Blas, Florida. The tanker was full of fuel and the explosion could be seen a hundred miles away. Allie had already lost the beloved waterfront restaurant her parents started, and now losing her husband might just push her over the edge.

Joseph's time in Vietnam left him with scars that will never heal. No matter what he does he can't pull himself out of the wreckage of his former life. He is too far gone. He isolates himself in a remote and rustic cabin in North Carolina, and listens to a popular nighttime radio call-in show. After midnight one snowy evening Roscoe, Joseph's dog, hears a sound from the woods. Joseph and Roscoe rescue a mother and her two children lost in the woods. He further helps them make their way back to family in Florida. While in Florida he is near enough to witness the fiery crash of the 18-wheeler. He knows that his childhood

sweetheart may need him, but it's been a long time and the secrets of his life may be too hard for her to bear.

## REVIEW

It's always a pleasure to read a book written by Charles Martin. *Send Down the Rain* is no exception. It is a powerful and moving story with a troubled and flawed character whose generosity and sacrifices will earn your respect and admiration. It's a gritty and breathless ride with up and downs, exploring issues of family secrets, the struggles of Vietnam combat veterans, PTSD, abandonment and violence. Martin subtly introduces issues of faith, compassion and forgiveness. Much of the book takes place on Cape San Blas, Florida which is my home away from home, and one of Florida's best beaches, rocks and all! Charles Martin fans will love this one, as will anyone who appreciates love stories or family drama. Thanks to NetGalley, Thomas Nelson and Charles Martin for an advanced reading copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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## Melissa says

Martin's latest is another beautifully written winner. It is filled with emotion and a very realistic portrayal about the after-effects of the Vietnam War on Joseph. The story is told in a unique way with some surprising twists that keep the tale moving. Amazingly heartfelt statements about love, loss and the true meaning of friendship will resonate deeply with readers. Everything wraps up a bit too neatly overall, but this is a novel to savor and ponder.

Joseph Brooks survived multiple tours in Vietnam and now lives deep in the woods with his dog. He longs for the life he once strived for as a young man with the woman he loved back then. When he happens upon a woman and her children in the woods, he knows he must help them. Joseph takes them to meet up with family in Florida and, on his way back, he drives by his old hometown. He follows a smoke plume and finds that a tanker truck crashed against the rocks, incinerating the truck's owner. Joseph then discovers that the wife of the deceased trucker is none other than Allie, his long-lost best friend. As old friends reconnect and new friends forge alliances, the path toward a positive future is never smooth, but is always worthwhile

<https://www.rtbookreviews.com/book-re...>

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## Dorie says

This is the first book I've read by Mr. Martin but I had heard his storytelling was great. I was not disappointed.

Everyone has secrets but Joseph has more than anyone. He is a Vietnam veteran who didn't really want to fight the war but did his job. He did and saw things that he can't reconcile his mind and soul with. After four tours of duty he didn't know what to do with his life now. "As hard as I'd tried, I knew that the evil in me was still there, still bubbling beneath the surface . . . I had this funny feeling that killing myself wouldn't kill it. It'd just jump from me to someone else. I'd seen it happen . . . So I thought If I just go away, take it with me, it can't hurt anyone else". So that is what he did. He went up into the mountains and lived in a small cabin with his dog, Roscoe, and lived a solitary life, his only happiness it seemed was enjoying nature and his dog and a certain radio show hosted by Suzy, who reached out to war veterans.

No matter how hard he tries trouble just seems to find Joseph, "Jo Jo" as everyone calls him. He finds a



woman and her two children in the snow outside his cabin and rescues them. She was running from a man who had traumatized and brutalized her and her children, she was also an illegal immigrant. He helps Catalina and her kids find her brother in Florida and begin a new life with her family.

A long time ago Joseph had left his childhood sweetheart, Allie, behind when he went to war. Now he hears about the explosion of a huge tanker and knows that it is close to where Allie lives and in his heart he knows that he has to return to her. The truck explosion killed Allie's second husband, she feels responsible for the way she had treated him and the last words that she said to him. Joseph helps her to reconcile her feelings, rebuild her restaurant and get back on her feet.

Everyone he touches he seems to help heal. The only one he can't forgive or heal, is himself. This is a multi-layered story with many characters that were all well drawn. They were unique and yet identifiable, easy to relate to. Mr. Martin writes with such humanity, such emotion, that I got caught up in each individual story and was wondering how it would all come together.

When you learn of all that Joseph has been holding in his heart you will begin to understand the many ways that he suffered. This is his story but the PTSD in many veterans is also addressed here. It is about loyalty, love, shame, forgiveness. The ending is one I will not soon forget and I am still thinking about this story long after I've finished reading.

I received an ARC of this story through the publisher and Edelweiss.

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## **Marialyce says**

"So one important lesson of Vietnam is, the first casualty of an unwise and unjust war are the American troops called on to fight it. Their service should be honored." (Paula Begala)

Forty five years is a very long time to hold a secret. For Joseph, a Vietnam War veteran, he has been plagued not only by this secret but also by the years he has been separated from the woman he loved, Allie, his brother, a now famous Senator, and the home he once knew and loved. Can Joseph ever go back? He is so scared by what he did, what he saw, and what he became in fighting this war.

Joseph is a wonderful man who is tenderhearted and lives alone secluded in a cabin in the woods. He discovers a woman and her two young children lost and running from an evil drug cartel man. Joseph volunteers to see this family safely back to Florida where relatives and friends are migrant workers. Joseph witnesses the aftermath of a terrible accident, an accident that will reunite him with his lost love, Allie. She has, through the indiscretions of her husband lost everything, including her highly successful restaurant. Joseph pledges to help Allie rebuild and though the fires of their former love kindle, the secret Joseph carries will destroy what they once had.

This story was told with much compassion and a fine look into the torment that many veterans have. The Vietnam War, any war really, has not only destroyed and maimed millions, it has also left those who have returned home with scars that mar their life and their soul. Mr Martin has written a book that not only makes you feel and like his characters, but also makes one ever so cognizant of the sacrifices these brave men and women gave for their country. From the Vietnam War, so many of these soldiers who did come home came back to the scorn and vitriol of a country they had sworn to defend. Dreams are destroyed by war, hopes are often dashed, but the human spirit is strong and sometimes all that has been lost can be found once again.

Thank you to Charles Martin for a very emotional touching novel, Thomas Nelson Publishing, and NetGalley for providing me with an advanced copy of this novel.

Publishing May 8, 2018

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## **Cheri says**

**!! NOW AVAILABLE !!**

***"It don't feel right, but it's not wrong.  
It's just hard to start again this far along.  
Brick by brick, the letting go,  
As you walk away from everything you know  
When you release resistance  
And you lean into the wind,  
Till the roof begins to crumble,  
And the rain comes pourin' in,  
And you sit there in the rubble,  
Till the rubble feels like home  
That's how you learn to live alone  
That's how you learn to live alone  
That's how you learn to live alone"***

*How You Learn to Live Alone* , Jonathan Jackson, Songwriters: Mary Gauthier / Gretchen Peters

One of the books I read near the end of last year was Charles Martin's *'The Mountain Between Us'* which I enjoyed, and I'd had other books of his on my radar after reading some glowing reviews of his books, so when the opportunity arose to read his *'Send Down the Rain'* I took it.

The prologue shares the beginning of this story, through the eyes of Joseph, who is nine; his brother Bobby was eleven, and the day their father leaves, taking most everything that was his.

When Bobby comes to share the news with Joseph, he brings a jug of milk and a package of Oreos. Comfort food. They ate their cookies, drinking out of the jug, sitting on the shore while the waves rolled up, stirring the breeze across their skin, trying to absorb the meaning of what had just happened.

***"I made a fist, crushing a cookie. Grinding it to powder. When the pieces spilled out between my fingers onto the beach, a physical and very real pain pierced my chest.***

***Fifty-three years later, it would stop."***

Once upon a time, Joseph and Allie were young, with visions for the future despite the war raging, updates on the news every night. When Joseph left for Vietnam, he gave Allie his '67 Corvette, with no strings. But years have passed since then, and the last time he was back home in Cape San Blas he walked in just in time to see his brother exchanging vows with Allie.

One night, he finds himself helping a young mother and her two young children get to Florida, where they have relatives who can help them. And as he is on his way back to his childhood home, he spies the

billowing smoke filling the air of a recent collision between an 18-wheeler with a full load of oil and a rock wall made out of boulders meant to resist the heavy winds and beating rains of hurricanes. Eventually, he will be told that the driver was the second husband of Allie.

This is a tender story, filled alternately with heartbreak and love, with forgiveness offered, and received. A story of broken hearts, healing, and of the destructive nature of hate and war, and the healing force of love, and the healing power of redemption: at its heart, it is a re-imagining of the tale of The Prodigal Son.

The stories of Vietnam are the background of this story, the story of Joseph's battles there, and the ones he faces upon his return, the ones he continues to fight on his own these many years later. There is another background story of undocumented immigrants. All of these are woven together with the themes of this story into a lovingly told story of a love and a life that were lost, and a path to a new life and love found.

Sometimes, as much as we want to let go of painful memories, we can't seem to bring ourselves to let them go. Sometimes we have reasons that others would understand, but there are times that pain becomes an integral part of ourselves, and we become reluctant to let them go. Afraid of what comes after the letting go – will we just be empty, or will we find a healthier way to fill those holes?

Martin's writing is somewhat unique in that he eschews profanity and doesn't dwell on sex, but in this story he tackles some other issues including addiction, physical abuse, and PTSD, but nothing is overly graphic. There are some war scenes that include war-related events, but even these are shown without an abundance of gruesome details. I believe he has a large Christian following, which appreciate the uplifting, inspiring messages of his stories, but I think this story would appeal to anyone.

Pub Date: 08 MAY 2018

Many thanks for the ARC provided by Thomas Nelson Fiction

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