



Hurricane Season

Lauren K. Denton

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Written in Lauren Denton's signature Southern style, *Hurricane Season* tells the story of one couple's unconventional journey to a full life and the relationships that must be mended along the way.

Betsy and Ty Franklin, owners of Franklin Dairy Farm in southern Alabama, have decided to put life's disappointments behind them. At least in theory. Ty manages their herd of dairy cows, while Betsy busies herself with the farm's day-to-day operations and tries to forget the longing for motherhood set deep in her heart. But when Betsy's free-spirited younger sister Jenna drops her young daughters off at the farm to attend a two-week art retreat in Florida, Betsy's carefully constructed wall of self-protection begins to crumble.

As those two weeks stretch much farther into the hot Alabama summer, Betsy and Ty learn to navigate the new additions in their world and revel in a home that's suddenly filled with the sound of laughter and life. Meanwhile, record heat promises to usher in the most active hurricane season in decades.

Four hundred miles away, Jenna is fighting her own battles. She'd once been free to travel and pursue a career in photography, but all that changed with the appearance of two pink lines on a plastic stick and a boyfriend who hit the road. At Halcyon art retreat, she finally has the time and energy to focus on her photography. As the summer continues, she wonders how her rediscovered passion can fit in with the life she's made back home with her two children.

When Hurricane Ingrid aims her steady eye at the Alabama coast, Jenna must make a decision that could affect both her and her children's futures, and Betsy and Ty find themselves protecting their beloved farm as well as their own hearts.

Hurricane Season Details

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From Reader Review Hurricane Season for online ebook

Marialyce says

3 pleasant stars

Sometimes you just have to read a book where there is no murder, no lying, no mayhem, and no death and this was just such a book.

A storm is approaching and it looks to be a bad one, a hurricane in fact. Things will be lost, possessions, homes, and maybe even lives. It is surely the time to remember what is important and what one can bring forward in their lives.

Betsy Franklin and her sister, Jenna have had a bit of a distant relationship. Jenna is a single mother of two young girls and when she gets an opportunity to attend a camp for artists, she takes up the challenge. She decides to drop her girls into the hands of her sister, Betsy, and her husband, Ty, at their farm. Betsy and her husband, have been trying unsuccessfully to have a child. Their relationship is strained and the addition of these two girls might add fuel to a fire that is slowly burning.

This novel does a very nice job of exploring the concept of following your dreams. Does that mean though that one can forget about what awaits them especially where children are involved? I enjoyed this novel that focused on caring, that of a mother for her child, a sister for another sister, a husband for a wife, and the goal of always remembering there are second chances out there for those who are willing to go find them.

Thank you to Lauren Denton, Thomas Nelson Publishers, and NetGalley for an advanced copy of this novel.

Kate Olson says

Oh, how I adored this book.

*

It's such a richly layered, but soft, story of family with an amazing sense of place. Denton brings the Gulf Coast region of Alabama to vivid life in this book ~ an area I definitely have a soft spot for. Betsy and Ty's marriage and life on their Alabama dairy farm, along with their struggle to conceive, are given such tender treatment that even though nothing about their life is easy, it made me instantly want to be THERE. In their house, on their farm, in their family. The other main part of the book is about Betsy's sister and her pursuit of her photography dreams.....at the cost of her two daughters, whom she leaves with Betsy and Ty. This relationship is also written with such compassion that despite the tensions that exist, it's an enviable example of sisterly support. Beyond that, all I can really say is that I wanted to hug this book the entire time I was reading it and never wanted it to end.

*

I highly recommend this book for fans of chaste domestic fiction ~ it reminded me on a few levels of PERENNIALS by Julie Cantrell, which I also very much enjoyed.

Yvonne says

Betsy and Ty Franklin do not have children of their own, although they desperately want them. For now, they devote their time to their farm. They are more than a little stunned when Betsy's sister Jenna drops her two daughters at their farm. Jenna receives a great career opportunity, but it means she has to be away from her children for a little while. Unfortunately, for Betsy, it re-awakens her desire for children of her own.

Jenna's plans take longer than she expected when her career takes her to all new heights. She must leave her children for an extended stay, which threatens to tear apart Betsy's marriage.

When Hurricane Ingrid turns toward Betsy and Ty's farm, Jenna has to decide between her career and her family.

This is the first time I've read anything by this author, but it won't be my last. The narrator of this audio book made it very easy listening. It had the feel of someone telling a charming story, which left you with a feel good feeling. I'll be looking for more books by this author.

Shalini says

Storms have this beautiful dual quality, they bring about destruction and they also show the strength in all those who weather them. So also are the storms of life, they change life drastically, but sometimes they also pave the way to start life afresh.

Hurricane Season by Lauren Denton is one such book which shows strength of family relationships in the face of storms of life. Two sisters, Betsy and Jenna both different in their outlook, but yet similar in many ways, Betsy who is childless, is asked to look after her nieces while Jenna attends a photography camp. Betsy and her husband Ty, after going through a lot of tests for fertility issues, are struggling to find a balance in their childless relationship, and with the two girls thrown into the equation, suddenly find themselves managing both the farm and the girls in the face of nature's Hurricane.

My first book by Lauren Denton, the chapters are written in all the 3 three main characters' point of view, and it is refreshing to see life through their eyes. The emotions of self-discovery, healing, acceptance, and love for each other is what sustains life and relationships, and this is shown beautifully by Lauren. It is nice to see how the bond between the sisters which was strong growing up, frayed as life moves on, yet somehow manages to reaffirm itself as the chapters flow.

I loved the way the author has used the Hurricane Ingrid as the backdrop for life and its lessons, where each of the characters find their own path to peace and happiness. The chapters flow seamlessly and style of writing makes this an easy read. I just felt that the ending is a wee bit rushed. But the emotions of hope and dreams of a happy future are what remains even after the book ends.

I received an ARC from NetGalley and publisher Thomas Nelson, and this is my honest and unbiased opinion.

Sarah says

Hurricane Season by Lauren Denton is stunning! Slowly moving at first, but Ms. Denton was setting up the backstory for us. Told from several points of view, we get to read and feel the emotions of Jenna, Ty and Betsy. When it comes to character plot and characters, I related to Ty and Betsy, especially as they learn to

communicate as a couple about things that are hard within marriage and children. While they experience heartache and sadness, I found them to be a relief in a good way.

The story picks up the minute a hurricane is about to make landfall. And of course, I wanted to rush to the end to find out what was going to happen. However, rapidly the story turns and twists as the characters transform, which I enjoyed, while tears rolled down my cheeks. Make sure to grab tissues as you go through the growing pains with these characters.

Overall, the story is a beautiful book of how we all respond to storms in our life. Lauren has crafted a masterpiece drawing her readers into an engaging story and one you won't soon forget. I give this book 5/5 stars. A favorable review was not required for a complimentary copy.

Kendall says

Hurricane Season by Lauren K. Denton was a bit of a difficult read for me.

I found the pacing to be extremely slow and I felt like there wasn't much happening throughout the majority of the novel. I was left with wanting more from our two main characters and it just fell pretty flat for me.

The writing is beautiful and complex but I found myself skimming through a lot of the story because it just felt pretty boring to me. I was waiting for that big change or transformation between our sisters Betsy and Jenna.. and it never came. I found myself unable to connect well with the characters and it was hard for me to get overall invested in this one.

Overall, this one was just ok.

Thank you so much to Netgalley and Thomas Nelson for the advanced arc in exchange for my honest review.

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Publication date: 4/3/18

Jenea Whittington says

Hurricane Season is a story that centers around two sisters and their struggles from motherhood, marriage and a sisters bond.

Betsy is the oldest of the sisters, she is married to a great man named Ty, and they spend their days working together on their dairy farm. Even through all their business, they have wanted children, but with all the tests and treatments, hasn't brought them a baby. Over time, it has put a strain on their marriage, and they just walk through each day in a fog. Jenna is the free spirited sister, the mother of two little girls who she is raising by herself, and she gave up her dreams of being a professional photographer. An opportunity comes open for her try again at her dream, and she takes, leaving her kids with Betsy and Ty for a couple of weeks.

The story is told in alternating POV's from Betsy, Ty and Jenna. I enjoyed getting to more more about them, their feelings and fears. I myself was a teenage mother, so at first I would be able to relate to Jenna, but I had a hard time understanding some of her feelings and actions when it came to her girls. Betsy on the other hand, ended up being the one I most related to. Her struggle to conceive, caring for her nieces while her sister is away in spite of her own sorrow of infertility. Ty her husband, was a good man, and he clearly loved

her and he is dealing with infertility just the same. Betsy and Ty needed to learn to communicate better, but sometimes life gets in the way of what we know we should do, and it is sad when it does. So much heartache. Each of these sisters have to work through their own issues, to be able to find some happiness and there is a strength in each of them, they just had to find it.

The pace of this was fairly slow, but when the hurricane is set to make landfall, the story does pick up the pace, but is a little bit of a rush to get to the end. But, even with that I was alright, a lot happened, and quickly. And this wasn't necessarily about the hurricane, as much of it was about the family itself, and the character growth in each of them was wonderful and something I thoroughly enjoyed. It wasn't an easy journey for any of them though, there was plenty of heart ache, tears and heart warming moments along the way too.

Hurricane Season might have been a slow burn, but is packed an inspirational story of family and love, and being a country girl myself, how I could not adore the Southern Alabama setting. Just beautiful.

#Tnzfiction #NetGalley

Catherine says

It's true what they say. There's no place like home. And reading a Lauren Denton book feels like coming home. With characters you'll want as friends, a setting you can step into, and a poignant story of sisters and family ties and all the messiness of a wonderful life, Denton has penned another tale that will settle in deep and stay awhile, long after the last page is turned.

Sherri Thacker says

This is my 2nd book by Lauren Denton (The Hideaway) which I absolutely loved. This one was just ok. It was slow moving and I felt myself skimming parts of the story. I received a complimentary copy of this book from Thomas Nelson through NetGalley. Opinions expressed in this review are completely my own.

Monica says

For me, this book was a bit of a struggle. The writing is well done and the plot is solid. I just didn't feel much of a connection to the characters and the pace was slow. I kept anticipating a big reveal or tragedy or transformation... There was growth within our main characters: two sisters who had grown apart through their adult years. The emotional distance between them was only compounded by the literal physical distance in miles as they lead extremely different lives.

So if you are looking for genuine and realistic fiction, this is a commendable novel. I tend to gravitate towards energetic action stories, even if the story is more rational and less fantasy.

Thanks to NetGalley and publishers for an advance reader's copy in exchange for this honest review.

Laura Rash says

Lauren Denton has done it again! She manages to immerse you in a family, a lifestyle, a storm & life changing events and make it all so descriptive you become absorbed immediately. The characters are so relatable & the storm adds a bit of an excited frenzy. And it also happens to have a beautiful cover that you can't stop looking at!

Thanks to LD for this early signed copy:)

DJ Sakata says

Favorite Quotes:

... the battered gray school bus from Bankston Detention pulled up out front, and twenty teenage boys shuffled off, hormones and pent-up energy swirling around them like almost visible steam.

She smoothed her hands across the blanket, straightened the corners, and imagined the room holding two little girls after holding nothing but dreams and damaged furniture.

Jenna always hated icebreakers like this. They reminded her of the week in college when she lost her mind and thought she might actually want to join a sorority. Five grueling days of prim parties, saccharine conversation, and ridiculous icebreakers where one by one, girls explained through tears how their future happiness depended on having a certain arrangement of Greek letters tied to her name.

It's what I do when these storms come in. I bake till the power goes off, then I eat. It keeps me calm. And fifteen pounds over my goal, but calories consumed during acts of God don't count.

My Review:

Lauren Denton has gifted us with a stealthily crafted and slowly developing yet highly satisfying story with most of the action and progression of the narrative occurring within the major characters' inner musings, memories, regrets, and observations. Their exteriors were quiet and politely guarded, while their interiors were fraught with a myriad of concerns, tension, heartbreaking disappointments, and unspoken aspirations. The writing was emotive and Ms. Denton took me into the story with her highly descriptive and lushly detailed scenes; I felt the pressure of the humid heat of the gathering storm as well as the crack of heat lightning, and I coveted their refreshing and lip-smacking lemonade and sweet tea. The characters were multi-layered and complex, surprisingly gentle and sweet, and cleverly observant. I enjoyed hitchhiking in their headspace although I now seem to be contending with an unusual impulse to dig in the dirt and plant something just to watch it grow.

Sarah Joint says

Whenever Lauren K. Denton puts out another book, I'm there. I find her books to be great comfort reads, the kind of book you can relax into. They are strikingly atmospheric, she has a gift for making you

feel like you're right there with the characters. In this book, we are both on a secluded artist's retreat with a single mother who is a budding photographer, and on a dairy farm with a husband and wife who clearly love each other but have let their difficulties conceiving come between them. The latter may not sound like a great setting, but it's actually warm and fun to read about. I found it to be even more engaging than the first.

Jenna has been slinging coffee at a local shop for quite some time now. It's not the best job, but she enjoys her co-workers and it supports her little family. She has two little girls who think the world of her, and no help from their father. She long ago abandoned her dream of being a serious photographer, but has started dabbling again in her spare time. When a good friend extends an invitation to an incredibly exclusive retreat for artists, it's almost laughable at first. How can she leave her children for two weeks, leave her job? But there is the money she's been saving for a vacation... and this is a once in a lifetime opportunity. She's soon phoning her sister, pleading with her to take care of her kids while she's away.

Betsy can't say no to her sister. Her husband **Ty** isn't as enthused about having two little visitors for a couple of weeks at first, but soon warms to the charming kids. Throwing two more people into their busy lives on the farm still adds some tension. Unbeknownst to little sister Jenna, Betsy and Ty had been trying to have a child of their own, but things didn't work out. Close to turning 30 with little hope of the thing she wants most, Betsy has been pushing Ty away. As two weeks stretch into even longer and the girls begin to wonder if their mother is coming back for them anytime soon, Betsy and Ty have to protect their farm from a hurricane and it becomes clear that this summer will make or break their marriage.

Super enjoyable story for me, ideal for curling up on the couch and getting lost in the words. I found the characters to be fun to read and the situations certainly interesting enough to keep my attention. If you enjoyed *The Hideaway*, I think you'll like this one too. If you haven't read either, get on it!

I received a copy of this book from Net Galley and Thomas Nelson, thank you! My review is honest and unbiased.

Jennifer ~ TarHeelReader says

4 “the storm is coming” stars to Hurricane Season! ?? ?? ?? ??

Lauren Denton's sophomore novel, *Hurricane Season*, is told in three alternating voices: Jenna, the younger, flighty sister and single mother; Ty, the rugged dairy farmer and husband; and Betsy, the older, responsible sister to Jenna and wife to Ty.

Jenna is a budding artist-slash-coffee barista manager, and the opportunity of a lifetime comes her way one summer. The problem is, who will take care of her kids while she pursues it?

Betsy and her husband Ty have been struggling with infertility while also enjoying a quiet life on their farm. Of course Betsy agrees to take care of Jenna's girls for the summer, and all the while, a hurricane is brewing.

Jenna and Betsy's relationship is explored as each sister struggles to accomplish something different, something that feels far out-of-reach to each of them. Will these sisters find true happiness?

Hurricane Season is a character-driven novel with three true-to-life, relatable, loving main characters, flawless writing, and a quaint and engaging southern farm setting.

Thank you to Lauren Denton, Thomas Nelson, and Netgalley for the ARC. Hurricane Season is available now!

Madison says

4.5 stars. Storms can bring great destruction, but they can also bring a time for discovering what lasts, what holds together even through the harshest weather, and what comes out better for the rain. Hurricane Season is a book truly evocative of Southern summer and which captures the complications of family relationships, the desire to see dreams fulfilled, and the trials that test marriages and break hearts.

When Betsy receives a voice message from her sister, Jenna, asking if she can leave her two young girls with her while she attends a photography camp, Betsy knows it will test everything inside her. It will bring back the harsh memories of negative test results and the guest room that never became a nursery. It will strain further her relationship with her husband, something that was only now slowly returning to normal. But Betsy never says no to her sister and so two sweet, young girls descend on Betsy and Ty's farm and home. For Jenna it is a time to finally follow her dreams of photography. For Betsy and Ty it is a time of facing the past's hurt and faded dreams, while reconnecting as a couple. But as a hurricane looms, will this family survive everything the summer has in store for them?

Once again, Lauren K. Denton entwines a story of healing and discovery with a perfectly captured setting. The scenery is almost an extra character. The summery days, the firefly-filled nights, the howling wind, and lashing rain all perfectly reflect the mood and themes of the story.

There are a number of stories which feature in Hurricane Season - Betsy and Ty's story as a couple, their individual stories of healing and acceptance, and of course Jenna's story as she searches for her purpose and what this means when trying to mother two young children. Each story plays its part in this book and provides a layered and detailed plot, strong characters who are easy to love, and, of course, that gorgeous setting. I loved every minute spent on Ty and Betsy's dairy farm, loved the little descriptions of the regular work and the animals. The chapters from Jenna's perspective also take the reader on her journey of recovering her skills as a photographer and exploring the wilds of the untamed South. The chapters alternate between the perspectives of these three main characters.

I think I fell a little in love with Ty. He has an incredible work ethic. He is slow to speak, yet everything he says is considered and thoughtful. I loved his love, care, and protectiveness of Betsy. I loved that he loved her complications and saw it as his job as husband to be there for her and to figure out what she needed, even if she couldn't speak the words. Their relationship journey was wonderful to witness. They have faced something that has tested their bond, but together, with a few hiccups along the way, they put each other first.

This book, while published by a traditionally Christian inspirational publisher, fits somewhere between a Christian novel and general fiction. I believe readers of both categories will enjoy this delightful story. Betsy and Ty are Christians, attend church a few times in the novel and mention prayer, but faith does not dominate the storyline in any way. Instead, the growth of the characters and their journey of reconciliation, acceptance, and direction for the future is the focus of this book. The ending, I thought, was truly wonderful. I loved that it is hopeful, but doesn't brush over the fact that sometimes dreams change or might look a little different than first expected.

Hurricane Season is a beautiful novel of relationships, family, futures, farming, hope, love, and fireflies.

The publishers provided an advanced readers copy of this book for reviewing purposes. All opinions are my own.

Find more reviews, reading age guides, content advisory, and recommendations on my blog [Madison's Library](#).
