



## Clouds

*Robin Jones Gunn*

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This bestselling former Palisades release is book five in the new Glenbrooke series by award-winning author Robin Jones Gunn. Shelly Graham has moved home to Glenbrooke, where she's flooded with memories of her high school sweetheart, who took off for Europe after they broke up. But when Shelly travels to Germany, she suddenly runs into the former boyfriend who has filled her thoughts. Learning that Jonathan is engaged, Shelly hides her feelings for him. After returning home, however, she must face these feelings, especially after her path crosses Jonathan's yet again. Only this time, if they can find the strength to be honest, they just might discover what God has in store. **She remembers their childhood with longing their parting with regret...**

Coming home wasn't supposed to feel this way. After five years as a flight attendant, Shelly is home again, in a house alive with happy memories. Yet she feels strangely lost. Without direction. Alone.

Where is Jonathan Renfield when she needs him? Jonathan, her best friend nearly all her life, her first and only love. Shelly hadn't meant to hurt him when she left him behind to chase her dreams. And she misses him more than she's ever admitted. When they unexpectedly meet in Germany, Shelly manages to hide her feelings from Jonathan—and his fiancée. But she can no longer hide them from herself. Will she ever be ready to tell Jonathan the truth? Will she have the chance?

Not until a business trip takes her to charming Glenbrooke, Oregon does Shelly finally understand: only the truth can set her free. But is it too late for her and Jonathan?

## Clouds Details

Date : Published November 21st 2012 by Multnomah Books (first published January 1st 1997)

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Author : Robin Jones Gunn

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## From Reader Review Clouds for online ebook

### **Amy says**

Second read.

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### **Donna Kale says**

I couldn't find all of these! Good read!

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### **Samantha Boothroyd says**

Sooo good!!! :) Love this book!! A very sweet story.. Definitely has it's sad parts, but it's beautiful.. Robin has such a way of crafting stories. Loving it!

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### **Lena Morrison says**

I usually like Robin Jones Gunn books, but this was a slight exception. I didn't dislike it, by any means. I just didn't like it all that much. It's not even Robin that bothers me. It's the usual romance plot. It's always the same. Also, I skim-read many of the portions in this book because I felt they were unrelated to the story. I normally enjoy that about Robin's writing, but I'm honestly more in a mood for something fast-paced. So really the main problem was my mood. Anyways, the story was nice, and the romance was sweet, but very cliché.

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### **CarolynB says**

I so love this book—the whole series. This is book five of the series, and they just get better and better. It's so much fun to see how all of the characters in each of these books are linked together. Besides good stories, they also are mini travelogues. This one took the reader to Belgium. And they also bring the Lord in so sweetly that one can't help but praise Him. I'm hooked.

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### **Karen says**

The main character, Shelly, followed her own path after high school, leaving behind her childhood friend/high school sweetheart, breaking his heart. Jonathan and Shelly end up meeting again 5 years later in Germany, where he announces his engagement to another woman. Shelly goes through a lot of changes in her personal life and, more importantly, in her spiritual life during this time. With upheaval in her job & living arrangements, she begins stressing about becoming a spinster (at 23!) and starts looking back on her

life. After trying to figure it all out on her own, she begins to develop a real relationship with Christ, learning what is really important in life and learning to trust God to take care of her. He's got it all under control and we have to have faith in Him to work everything out.

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

God's plan will unfold in His timing. We shouldn't worry about the details. He will take care of us if we trust Him and follow His lead.

I'm facing a lot of changes in my own life right now and I needed this reminder to trust in Him to work everything out. You know what they say - We plan, God laughs! God has perfect timing and we all need to recognize that He's pulling the strings and it'll all be okay. The scripture above has been directed at me a few times recently. I've heard 3 sermons about this very thing just in the past week. And now this book. I think God's trying to tell me something... I get it! I'm supposed to relax and let God work it out. Now I'm excited to see what He has in store for me! So bring it on God, I'm ready!

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### **TheModestMillennial says**

Choppy, scattered, and a bit forced, I feel like I only started reading this book because I have a desperate need for completion. I am at a point that I simply have to finish the Glenbrooke series because of that compulsion alone. Robin does have good characters, but these stories seem to drag and then finish all in a hurry with blunt speeches and cute cliches. I do enjoy the wholesome storylines and that the characters always grow in their faith, but pretty much all of the heroines seem to have the same struggles and finally arrive at the same conclusions. Overall, it was a good time-killer book, but not one I'll pick up again.

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### **Elizabeth says**

My favorite of this series...so far.

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### **Mallory says**

This book was like a perfect storm for me. It hit so many emotional points and I can't even explain how perfect it was for where I'm at in life right now. Her situations weren't exactly the same, but I could certainly relate to Shelly on many different levels. Gunn is at her best when her characters are in the messy reality that is life. Shelly's trip perfectly encapsulates how travel can be both an escape, allowing for insights that one can't reach at home, but also how often it fails to live up to personal expectations. Ultimately, things don't happen when we think they ought to or when we want them to occur, but in God's perfect timing. When all the pieces lock into place, it's marvelous to see.

Is this actually a 5-star novel? Not really. So far, though, it's my favorite in this series.

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### **Faith M:) says**

I loved this book!!! Robin Jones Gunn has such an amazing gift of writing. I've felt so connected to her characters!!! As books 5 & 6 are my favorites that I have read of the Glenbrooke series (I haven't read them all yet lol), I really enjoyed that Mer and Shelly are sisters!!! I want to live with them in the woods XD

The way that Shelly becomes SO connected to the Lord in this book was amazing!!! The Lord becomes her best friend! She constantly prays, and reads the Bible!!! At one part in the book, she picked up the Psalms and read until her eyes couldn't stay open anymore:) ❤️?❤️?❤️?

The trip to Germany was amazing:) The details were so intricate!!! I felt all of Shelly's emotions!!! Will definitely be re-reading this in the future!!!

This is a clean book:)

Give this a go!!! You will love it!!!

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### **Destiny Ann says**

I FINISHED IT! Boy, that took a while. ?

So over all, once we got past the 130 page mark, stuff started to pick up. All the parts before that were rather slow, so I think that is why it took me so long to read. I really did like book, but at first I didn't think it would of ended the way it did. But I like the way it ended. Happy. Though, most of Mrs. Gunn's books end happy. Lol anyway I give this book 4.5/5 stars.

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### **Laura says**

Reading a Robin Jones Gunn book is like catching up with old friends, and this one is no exception. Shelly and Jonathan were childhood best friends who fell in love in high school. After graduation, an argument leaves them to find their own ways, apart from each other. Now, five years later, Shelly moves back to her parents' house and old memories come flooding back. When a chance encounter halfway around the world brings them back in contact, is this a sign they are meant to be?

I love the little town of Glenbrooke and how the cast of characters from the series intersect in each story. As a reader who loves to find out what happens after "the end" of a story, it's nice to see old characters pop up in a new story, letting readers know how they are doing.

The best part of a RJJ novel is the soft layering of spiritual truths. Many Christian fiction books come across preachy, but with Clouds, readers discover more about God right along with the character. Shelly's story is authentic and well-developed as she finds the best love of all, Jesus, in a new way. She and Jonathan are sweet characters, and I love the development of Shelly's relationship with her sister, Meredith.

Fans of RJJ will love this book. If you haven't read her books, the Glenbrooke series is the place to start!

I was given this book in exchange for my review. My thoughts and opinions are my own.

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### **Andrea Cox says**

Clouds signify many different things to different people. Some folks may consider them a nuisance to a day of catching some sunshine on a sandy beach. Others may view them as beautiful mountains of hope. Still others might look up at an overcast sky and see a comforting blanket that reminds them of marshmallows bobbing up and down in their mom's homemade hot cocoa.

In Clouds, flight attendant Shelly Graham thinks "no human could mar their perfection." (page 50) They offer her a subtle reminder of God's perfect love as her life crumbles into an enormous pile of tattered dreams. Her dream job is threatened by airline cutbacks. Her little sister gets to live in Shelly's dream cabin. When she bumps into her childhood best friend and true love, reality splashes ice cold water on her dream future: Jonathan's engaged to be married! Just as the clouds in the sky adapt to God's weather plans, can Shelly adapt to the crushing news pouring all around her? Will a journey into her family's history spark an inner expedition to a Love stronger and steadier than the one she lost?

Clouds by Robin Jones Gunn ([www.RobinGunn.com](http://www.RobinGunn.com)) offers an innocence that is so often lost in today's modern world. Even though this fifth installment in The Glenbrooke Series is a contemporary tale, it still manages to take us back to a slower paced, more meaningful time when families were close-knit and pleasantly, if somewhat irritatingly, meddlesome and everyone hopes for a happily-ever-after. This is by far the sweetest, most heartfelt story I've read all year, and I look forward to reading more of The Glenbrooke Series by Robin Jones Gunn. This novel provides a fresh perspective on God's way of working things out according to His divine plan.

Robin beautifully combined location and history and character to weave a truly touching masterpiece. I was quickly endeared to Shelly and her treasure box of long-forgotten memories. My emotions were on the line nearly as much as Shelly's as I experienced the highs and lows of adventure and lost love right along with her.

Here are two quotes from Clouds that struck my heart as particularly meaningful:

"Sometimes to find the key that will unlock the future, we have to see what keys we buried in the past."  
(page 37)

"What has been is in the past. What is forms the present. What will be remains to be seen." (page 134)

What keys from your past will clear the clouds from your future?

Thank you to WaterBrook Multnomah for giving me a free copy of this novel for this review.

You may read a free preview of Clouds here: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/91174486/Cl...>

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### **Cyndy says**

One of my favorites from this series. Great story.

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### **Ruth says**

Robin Jones Gunn is one of the first authors I read and found out I love to read. Reading one of her books always makes me feel like coming home.

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