



## Toward the Sunrise

*Elizabeth Camden*

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Julia Broeder is only six months shy of graduating from the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania when one small decision spirals out of control and results in her expulsion. Hoping to travel the world as a missionary doctor, her only choice is to return back home...or throw herself upon the mercy of Ashton Carlyle.

Formal and straight-laced, Ashton Carlyle is not pleased to see an expelled Julia arrive at his Manhattan office. His position as a junior attorney for the Vandermark family's world-famous shipping empire entails taking care of the Broeders, longtime employees of the Vandermark family. But Ashton has no intention now of using his employer's resources in defense of Julia's impulsive and reckless actions.

What Ashton did not expect was a scathing reprimand from none other than the Vandermark family patriarch or the bewildering resistance from Julia herself when he's forced to change his tune. At an impasse, Ashton and Julia never anticipated the revelations that arise or the adventure that awaits them.

In this novella, award-winning novelist Elizabeth Camden introduces readers to the world of the grand Hudson River Valley estate Dierenpark and the enigmatic Vandermark family. Includes an extended preview of *Until the Dawn*, Camden's full-length Dierenpark novel.

## Toward the Sunrise Details

Date : Published October 6th 2015 by Bethany House Publishers

ISBN :

Author : Elizabeth Camden

Format : Kindle Edition 131 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Romance, Christian Fiction, Novella, Christian, Historical Romance

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## From Reader Review Toward the Sunrise for online ebook

### Joleen says

I'm not big on Novellas. They bug me. You're supposed to pack a whole book into a hundred pages or less? Well this one was 131 pages, so it was, like, half the pages of a regular book, but with lots of content! Really good story without a lot of fluff that few people really care about, like birds flitting among the elm trees, or the red hue of the flowering arbutus along the path...stuff I always skip. After all...doesn't everyone toss the garnish off the dinner plate anyway?

This "book" is a prequel, to the next full book *Until the Dawn*. The main characters in this novella are only briefly mentioned in the book one. This, however, introduces the reader to a mansion called Dierenpark in New Holland, on the Hudson River. Characters include the groundskeeper, housekeeper, and a young lady named Sophie who does some cooking there and something else (which you find more about in *Until the Dawn*. But this novella is greatly about Julie and Ashton. Although they get off to a rocky start, you just know something will happen...and happen it does!

Here's where there are some spoilers, so if you don't want the story given away to some degree, you can skip it...

(view spoiler)

The rest of the story is about goats, getting to know each other, and getting her back to college. Oh, and of course, their budding romance.

Ms Camden is such a good writer, and I thoroughly enjoyed it!

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### Amanda Tero says

I read "Until the Dawn" when it released a few years ago, but hadn't found time to read the prequel novella until now. It would definitely work better to be introduced to Sophie in this novella before reading "Until the Dawn," and Camden does a fine job with setting up the stage and presenting questions that her novel answers. At the same time, I do believe that this could be read as a stand alone.

It was a sweet story and did not take too long to read. If you prefer not to read about goats birthing, it may not be your choice (I was raised owning goats, so it brought back memories for me).

The romance didn't seem too quick to be realistic, though the turning point did seem to happen suddenly and I was like, "Wait... they're kissing already?" And yes, quite a few kisses for a guy and girl who "weren't going to get married" because life circumstances wouldn't work out (something I personally have an issue with... don't just go kissing a guy you have an infatuation with, but anyway...).

As I seem to remember from Camden's other book I had read, the Christian theme really wasn't strong. I think God was mentioned once or twice, and though Julia desired to become a "medical missionary," it was because she wanted to see the world and feel good about doing good works. In my viewpoint, the Christian theme was pretty much nonexistent.

It was clean, though, and I don't remember any coarse comments or references.

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### **Kate says**

I enjoyed this novella. I had previously read 'Until the Dawn' and enjoyed seeing mentions of Quentin and the appearance of Sophie as a supporting character in Julia's story. I like how both Julia and Ashton overcame what was holding them each back and were able to go confidently into the future that God had for them.

3.5 stars

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### **Melissa says**

This one is really a 3.5 in that I had a believability problem with the heroine's character arc, but loved the hero and of course the writing was excellent.

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### **Toni Osborne says**

Book #0.5, in Until the Dawn series

I am not a huge fan of novellas but I will make exception here. It was just enough of a teaser to see the author style and enjoy her introduction to the series and her characters. By omitting the fluff that no one really cares about, the author has managed to propel an excellent storyline within 100 pages or so.

This page- turner for some but maybe not for others brings us to the end of the 19th century in Hudson River Valley and is a good start to the Until Dawn series. Although I wish "Toward the Sunrise" would have been a novel instead. The story offers an intriguing peek in the life of residents of the abandoned Vandermark historic estate. Julia Broeder is the main character she dreams becoming a medical missionary and with the help of Aston Carlyle she will achieve her dream .....and more. The plot is vivid, complex and is well paced. Considering the shortness of this novel the characterisation is quite enjoyable although missing substance. (Unfortunately, there is no time for development in a novella).

This is a sweet historical romance novella I enjoyed quite a bit. Maybe I was just in the right mood for this type of book.....

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## **Rebecca says**

"Sometimes ten seconds is all it takes to change the course of a life."

Julia Broeder's rash, albeit compassionate decision to save a life, has brought her to this point; waiting nervously outside the conference room at the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania, while twelve people determine the course of her future. Would she finish her final semester and sail towards her dream of medical missions, or would she be banished back to her former life on the grounds of a vast estate, with only goats as patients?

It seems that God will provide an unlikely ally; a young attorney who sees Julia through the eyes of his own boyhood dreams, as he encourages her to press forward, " This is your first test, there are going to be more, and it's going to be hard . . . . but I have never seen someone run toward a dream with as much passion as you."

A lovely story with a subtle hint of things to come.

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## **Cecilia says**

I had already downloaded this short book some time ago, but was prompted to read it now by an extremely critical guest review on SBTB, that outlined this novella's Orientalism and neglect of the true problems Far East was experiencing in the late XIX century. I am happy to say I didn't find *Toward the Sunrise* as racist and marred by Orientalism as the reviewer, but then I'm not American and don't have the critical approach to racism as Americans do. The aim of this novella is never to talk about the conditions of Malaya and its inhabitants, but merely to lay the foundations for *Until The Dawn* (the main novel of which *Toward the Sunrise* is but the premise) and of the Dierenpark estate, that has nothing to do with East Asia.

If anything, we can criticise *Toward the Sunrise* for its superficiality about almost everything: the two protagonists lack chemistry and their love story is thin at best. Even without knowing the existence of *Until the Dawn*, I sensed that Sophie van Rijn attracted more focus than the heroine, Julia. But then, if we have to accuse this romance of shallowness, a large part of romances would be found guilty.

I generally downplay the physical handsomess of romance characters in my mind, but for once I was ready to imagine Ashton Clayton as handsome as he's described. Actually, from his sense of fashion I initially suspected he may be gay, and that the hero would be Quentin Vandermark (the hero of *Until the Dawn*.) But it's good to imagine a guy with a sense of taste every now and then.

Even if *Toward the Sunrise* fails at being a passionate love story, it succeeded in its main purpose, which was to make me buy *Until the Dawn* (15% of it is offered at the end of the novella) because I had to know the secret of Dierenpark and loved the idea of Sophie and Quentin as H/h. And when I started reading *Until the Dawn*, *Toward the Sunrise* proved a great introduction to that universe. So please consider *Toward the Sunrise* but the introduction to *Until the Dawn* and don't expect much more.

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### **Hannah says**

I decided to read this before starting in on the book. It's a great little novella, with just enough teaser with the novel's characters to make me ready to run home, grab my copy of "Until the Dawn", and dive right in.

I loved both main characters and thought Ashton's father was a dear fellow. And the proposal was so good! I look forward to reading more of Sophie's weather station and what happens when Dierenpark's owners find out about it!

If you haven't read Camden's writing before, this is a good way to sample it. You're in for a great treat with this author's vivid characters and historical detail.

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### **Staci says**

I'm not a fan of novellas, but picked up this one free as a lead in to Until the Dawn. It was a nice stage setting for the full length novel coming in December.

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### **Jamie says**

A fabulous introduction to her new series!

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### **Linda says**

I did my review for this book on Smart Bitches Trashy Books such a long time ago but I never bothered to add this here. Basically this book is orientalist trash that glamorizes colonialism and slavery so two white people can fall in love. I have some more articulate (and gentle lol) thoughts in this review here.

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### **Beth says**

Great writing, loved the hero, but the whole thing felt rushed to me, since it's a novella. Also, Julia kind of drove me crazy with how flippant she was being about getting back into school - it's only the opportunity of lifetime, no big deal, haha! It's not really necessary to read it in order to read Until the Dawn, but I still enjoyed it.

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### **??? ?????? says**

I can tell that we will get more of Sophie in the main book, but this one was cute .. we follow Julie a would-be doctor who got herself expelled while rescuing a dog from his cruel owner and she have to get the help of Lawyer Ashton to get her back to college

it was a cute story filled with goats and sweet talks .. but it wasn't that enjoyable to me

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### **Melanie says**

A little confusing at times, but still a good story. I'm curious about Sophie and what's going to happen in her story, so I might read the next book. :)

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

**{{This is a Goodreads Only Review! Meaning, this review will not be posted on 'Books for Christian Girls'. }}**

About this book:

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*Formal and straight-laced, Ashton Carlyle is not pleased to see an expelled Julia arrive at his Manhattan office. His position as a junior attorney for the Vandermark family’s world-famous shipping empire entails taking care of the Broeders, longtime employees of the Vandermark family. But Ashton has no intention now of using his employer’s resources in defense of Julia’s impulsive and reckless actions.*

*What Ashton did not expect was a scathing reprimand from none other than the Vandermark family patriarch or the bewildering resistance from Julia herself when he’s forced to change his tune. At an impasse, Ashton and Julia never anticipated the revelations that arise or the adventure that awaits them.”*

Series: Considered Book #.5 and connected to the author’s new book, “*Until the Dawn*”.

Spiritual Content- Mentions of prayers; A mention of a strong foundation of faith; Julie would be says she’d be useless being a missionary to teach the Bible, but being a medical missionary her life would be an example of Christian charity.

Negative Content- Minor cussing including: a ‘screwed up’ and a ‘stupid’; Helping a dog who is horribly mangled (border-line semi-detailed // detailed); Mentions of dog fights; Mentions of a dead body (barely-above-not-detailed); A mention of autopsies; A mention of seppuku and cutting open a belly; A mention of tobacco; A couple mentions of champagne.

Sexual Content- a cheek kiss, a barely-above-not-detailed kiss, two semi-detailed kisses; Touches & Embraces (barely-above-not-detailed); Noticing; Love, falling in love & the emotions.

\*Note: Many Mentions of goats giving birth (up to border-line semi-detailed // detailed).

- Julia Broder
- Ashton Carlyle

P.O.V. switches between them.  
Set in 1897-1898  
131(-ish) pages

## Pre Teens- One Star

### New Teens- One Star (and a half)

## Early High School Teens- Three Stars

## Older High School Teens- Four Stars

### My personal Rating- Four Stars

Wow! I don't think I've ever read a novella and wished it was a full length book. Ever. This was quite excellent, mostly #becauseChina . And hello? Y'all know my heart for China. I honestly would love this novella in paperback, I really would. The dog part grabbed at my heart strings in the beginning, so very sensitive dog lovers might have a hard time with those parts. I just loved all the references and mentions of China or the Far East. More Spiritual Content would have been really nice, though.

View reviews like this one Here:

<http://booksforchristiangirls.blogspot.com>

\*BFCG may (Read the review to see) recommend this book by this author. It does not mean I recommend all the books by this author.