



With This Ring?: A Novella Collection of Proposals Gone Awry

Karen Witemeyer (Preface) , Mary Connealy , Regina Jennings , Melissa Jagears

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Sometimes Love is Found in the Most Unexpected Places!

Love isn't always a fairy tale, and it doesn't always go as planned. Sometimes the best stories, though, are the ones that are the most unexpected. Join Karen Witemeyer, Mary Connealy, Regina Jennings, and Melissa Jagears for novellas that celebrate the power of love to triumph . . . even when circumstances go awry!

The Husband Maneuver

When ranch foreman Daniel Barrett seems ready to leave her life forever, Marietta Hawkins decides to grab the reins on their relationship. But to have any hope of maneuvering him into a proposal, she has to act fast or risk losing him completely.

Her Dearly Unintended

Josiah Huckabee just wanted to make sure Katie Ellen Watson was safe, but when the only bridge to her farm is washed out, the two find themselves alone. Alone, that is, until a menacing stranger appears. Maybe by pretending to be newlyweds, they'll save their reputations--but can pretending to be in love turn into the real thing?

Runaway Bride

Hired to help Carrie Halsey escape from a dangerous man intent on making her his wife, Big John Conroy never expected the job to interrupt his solitary Texas Ranger life. But now that he's promised to keep Carrie safe, he discovers he may just want to make a few more promises.

Engaging the Competition

Harrison Gray and tomboy Charlotte Andrews have been rivals for years. With Charlotte intended for someone else, it seems they'll never settle their differences until an accident changes things completely. When Charlotte breaks Harrison's glasses--without which he's nearly blind--she must help with his teaching position, and working together forces these former adversaries to reconsider everything.

With This Ring?: A Novella Collection of Proposals Gone Awry Details

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Author : Karen Witemeyer (Preface) , Mary Connealy , Regina Jennings , Melissa Jagears

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From Reader Review With This Ring?: A Novella Collection of Proposals Gone Awry for online ebook

Michele Benchouk says

I love these authors, and the way they tie these novellas into previous storylines from other novels was wonderful. Couldn't put this one down.

Aerykah says

Witemeyer, Jennings, Connealy, & Jagears.

When I saw those four names on the cover of a novella collection, I knew I was in for a great time! And I wasn't disappointed! :D

As I thought over what words I could use to describe this collection, these came to mind: light, witty, spunky, funny... thoroughly enjoyable!

These novellas are quick, fun reads that just fly by! Yet, they don't feel overly rushed like some novellas do. I really enjoyed reading about some characters who I recognized from other books by these authors-- and I look forward to seeing some of them in other books!

I believe I must say that Karen's novella was my favorite. I had been wanting so badly to read more about Daniel Barrett! And I must say I am quite happy with how his story turned out. :)

I highly recommend this collection of novellas to anyone who is a fan of these authors (and fans of authors such as Tracie Peterson, Robin Lee Hatcher, and Tamera Alexander), enjoys historic fiction, "historic comedy" (as I call it), or just any kind of good, clean, Christian fiction! :D

I received a copy of this book free from the publisher for a blog tour. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own.

A special 'Thank You!' to author Melissa Jagears, who contacted me to see if I wanted to be a part of this. :)

Emilee says

I loved this collection of novellas! I think this genre is probably my all time favorite. I was so pleased that each and everyone of these stories were entertaining, charming and sweet! I had read all of these authors previously. I don't think I could choose a favorite, they were all great and I was sad for this book to end. But I will definitely be looking for more by these authors.

Hannah says

Excuse me while I gush a bit. I thought this was going to be four novellas from some of my favorite authors. I had no clue that each story is connected to other series/books that I loved! It's officially my second five-star rating of the year.

Karen Witemeyer's comes first. For those of you who loved her latest, "A Worthy Pursuit," this is the tale of "Dead-Eye Dan" Daniel Barrett of one-time dime-novel notoriety and his boss's daughter Marietta. She is thoroughly smitten with him and is certain that she'll lose him forever if he leaves for his new ranch without her winning his heart. If you've read the book, you have a pretty good inkling of what he thinks of her, but there's a reason he can't speak of it. This short story tells their tale and is interspersed with hilarious excerpts from the Dead-Eye Dan dime novel.

Second comes Regina Jennings's. It's connected to the Ozark Mountain series and focuses on Josiah Huckabee, now all grown up and no longer quite so much a daredevil. I've devoured both books in the series and have promptly shared them with my sister, so it was a delight to find these familiar scenes again and meet the spunky Katie Ellen, who is quite sure she has something to prove to the world, and will be outdone neither by the mysterious guest nor by Josiah's eagerness to protect her.

Third is Mary Connealy's. This is connected to two series, Trouble in Texas and Kincaid Brides. Big John Conroy infuriates a villain who had planned on marrying Audra Kincaid's younger sister by stealing the lady in question right out of town, and the two (John and Carrie) flee into the night with Carrie's young brother in tow. While I often have felt that Connealy's strength is not in the novella form, this one was actually quite good, and I enjoyed the tale.

Last, definitely not least, comes Melissa Jagears's. Charlotte, better known as Charlie, has to save her parents' failing ranch after her father dies, her mother loses her grip on reality, and a ruthless neighbor sabotages her ranch in an attempt to get her land. She is ready to make a deal with the devil's family to save her home for her mother...until Harrison Gray rides back into her life just ahead of a tornado. His glasses get broken, and she ends up helping him teach until the new pair comes in...but can they understand each other in time? This story is connected to the upcoming Teaville Moral Society books, and introduces Lydia King—heroine of the first book, according to the synopsis. I definitely will be looking forward to August, when I can find out what happens to Lydia, and if she finds her Mr. Darcy!

Many thanks for my copy, provided by Melissa Jagears and Bethany House in exchange for my influence in promoting it. That is an exchange I am very happy to make!

Melanie says

A cute novella collection! I enjoyed them all, but some did seem a bit too short (possibly because I just wanted the story to continue ;)).

I think my favorite novella was Regina Jennings' -- I absolutely loved it!! The last one was also very cute.

All in all, I do recommend this book if you like historical romance with some humor.

Side note: my NetGalley copy had some glitches where pages would disappear and then later appear, so it was somewhat tough to read and did hamper my enjoyment to some degree. :(

I received a complimentary eBook copy via NetGalley for my honest review. As always, all thoughts and opinions expressed are my own.

Courtney Clark says

Sometimes you just need a lighter story with a guaranteed happy ending. This collection offers 4 such ones, with the added bonus of western comedy.

The Husband Maneuver by Karen Witemeyer

This story was such fun! It's been a while since I've read anything by Karen, so this was a pleasant reminder of her humorous and skillful style. I liked that the main characters already had a history together. Daniel had his reason for not acting on his feelings for Etta, and once it was revealed, you would agree it was a very honorable reason! Which made me like him even more. This was one of my top 2 favorites in the collection!

Her Dearly Unintended by Regina Jennings

This was a western situation comedy with a bit of depth. Full of layers of legitimate, believable misunderstandings concerning both friendship and love, it told a coming-of-age (and maturity) story. With sass! I particularly liked the setting in the Missouri Ozarks because it is quite close to home for me!

Runaway Bride by Mary Connealy

This one is my other favorite from this collection. Hilarious at times, it has Mary's signature humor (if you're a fan of Connealy, I promise you'll like it). I loved seeing familiar characters from the Trouble in TX and Kincaid Brides series, though new readers might be a little overwhelmed from 1 of the short passages introducing them! My favorite part was how John and Carrie's relationship progressed. Their almost instant chemistry and subsequent fast-moving relationship was still believable. And, their mutual shyness-then-love story was so sweetly told by Mary. I only wish this one was a little longer because I could've read more about these crazy characters and their friends!

Engaging the Competition by Melissa Jagears

This was overall a cute story with an unexpected and pleasant take on the genre — especially with the reversal of roles for the male and female lead. She was the rancher and tough cowgirl and he was the studious school teacher. The hero has the unique impediment of extremely poor eyesight. I was anxious to see where Melissa would take that from the story setup. It proved to be an effective plot device that propelled the characters together and taught a lesson in “being enough”: your pride shouldn't cause you to prove yourself to others if it, in turn, belittles them.

Thank you to Bethany House Publishers for providing a complimentary review copy in exchange for my honest review.

Melissa says

I won't rate the book or talk about my own story, but I thought I'd tell you about my favorite things about the other 3 stories in this collection:

Karen's story, *The Husband Maneuver*, has a fun dime novel excerpt at the beginning of each chapter that is used very creatively at the end.

Regina's story, *Her Dearly Unintended*, shows you exactly what strange and unexpected things can happen when the Lord let's that creek rise!

Mary's story, *Runaway Bride*, interlaces an extended epilogue for some of her books with a marriage of convenience story with new characters that steal your heart right quick.

Amber Stokes says

This novella collection will make you LOL with the cute and ridiculous situations these couples find themselves in! These stories are a lot of fun, and I especially enjoyed the first two.

***The Husband Maneuver* by Karen Witemeyer:** 5 stars and pure Western romance bliss! Such a cute story about true romantic heroes, cleverly told by the talented Karen Witemeyer. I enjoyed the fiction-within-fiction excerpts from the dime novel *Dead-Eye Dan and the Outlaws of Devil's Canyon*, which start out each chapter. And the ending - the *proper* one - is priceless. This is such a sweet novella with some fun romantic tension between a girl with a very relatable crush and a guy with a protective streak as wide as Devil's Canyon. *swoon*

***Her Dearly Unintended* by Regina Jennings:** This was my second favorite story in the collection. It's a little odd and quirky, but pretty darn adorable! I really loved the sass between Josiah and Katie Ellen, and I appreciated the way Josiah matured and Katie Ellen opened up to some important life lessons.

***Runaway Bride* by Mary Connealy:** Fans of Mary's work will certainly enjoy this novella, especially since they'll recognize this vast cast of characters. This was probably my least favorite of the collection, but it was still a lot of fun. It's trademark Mary: lots of spunk and sass, and characters on the run, fighting enemies together, getting into arguments, speaking their minds, and denying inevitable attraction.

***Engaging the Competition* by Melissa Jagears:** The unique hero in this story stood out to me, with his weak eyesight and strength of mind. There's some good chemistry and sweet romance between the female rancher and male schoolteacher. I admit that the heroine wasn't my favorite (got on my nerves a bit), and the competitive theme felt a bit much at times, but still a nice novella to round out this enjoyable and heartwarming collection.

With thanks to NetGalley and Bethany House for providing me with an e-ARC of the book in exchange for my honest opinion.

Rachel McMillan says

Just to be clear ladies, if a man compares you to a spirited filly then find another man.

Other than that poor comparative choice in the first novella, I was impressed by what the four seasoned and bestselling authors did in such short spans of time: developing character, motive, humour, warmth and--of course-- the promised proposals (often quite quick and funny), with descriptive aplomb and inventive wordplay.

Historical Western Romance is not usually my go-to genre but I can easily recommend this to CBA readers who want a quick getaway, some adventures on the trail, and the promise of true love.

Elizabeth says

Oh my gosh, every story was awesome! Love Witemeyer and Connealy already but hadn't read anything by Melissa Jaegers. I'm a huge fan now!

Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says

I absolutely loved all these stories! They were each so interesting and unique with the angle of the plot, and all the stories have vibrant characters and settings. We get to revisit great characters from other books by Karen Witemeyer and Mary Connealy, but they are perfect as stand alone stories too. There is a fantastic element of humor throughout which kept me smiling as I read the predicaments the couples found themselves in. And the romance? So wonderful! I enjoyed all the novellas equally and highly recommend this collection!

(Thank you to Karen Witemeyer and Bethany House Publishing for a copy of the book in exchange for my honest review)

Alyssa says

Finally got to read With This Ring and it was exactly how I envisioned it. Filled with romance and hilarity.

Beth Erin says

Great collection! These authors each present an engaging novella with humor, romance, adventure, and faith. Each story is part of a larger series which you won't be able to resist checking out but they can also be read as standalones. Whether you've never heard of these authors or they are some of your favorites, this book is an enjoyable read and I'm happy to have it on my shelf for an entertaining pick-me-up anytime!

"The Husband Maneuver" by Karen Witemeyer

-David Ballen, age 55

1.0. v. switches between them

Set III 1892

80(-ish) pages

Older High School Teens- One Star

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### About this novella:

Spiritual Content- Thanking God (once or twice); An 'H' is capital when referring to God; A few mentions of God; A few mentions of a parson; A couple mentions of Heaven.

Sexual Content- a cheek kiss, four barely-above-not-detailed kisses, and three semi-detailed; Touches, Heat & Embraces (semi-detailed); Blushes; Noticing & Nearness (semi-detailed); A bit of jealousy; Mentions of not consummating a marriage (but it's hinted they do it anyway); Nine mentions of a wedding night; A mention of a husband's rights; Mentions of thoughts of being alone & having children; Mentions of a cruel man acting like he's buying Carrie; Mentions of the cruel man wanting Carrie pure & untouched; Mentions of touches (up to semi-detailed); Mentions of kisses & kissing; Mentions of reputations; A Marriage of Convenience, Love, falling in love & the emotions.

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### About this novella:

*Their heated confrontation unfortunately takes place right as a bad storm is coming on and, in the melee of arguing and taking shelter, Harrison's glasses are knocked off his face and broken when Charlie's horse crushes them under a hoof. Harrison and Charlie may have their differences, but she can see from his panic that the loss of his glasses is a blow to him. She volunteers to help him at school until his new pair of special order glasses arrive despite knowing the one place she can't best Harrison is in the classroom."*

Negative Content- Minor cussing including: a 'blasted', a 'blast it', a 'dumb', a 'sucker', a 'what in blazes', eleven 'stupid's; Many mentions of bullies; Mentions of fighting; A couple mentions of shooting food animals & skinning them; A couple mentions of tobacco.

- Charlie Andrews, age 25
- Harrison Gray, age 24
- P.O.V. switches between them
- Set in 1901
- 80(-ish) pages

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My personal Rating- One Star

Well. That was disappointing. :(I was hoping there wouldn't be many kisses, but instead there was detailed kisses in almost every novella.

The first one, "*The Husband Maneuver*", had some cute parts and I remembered the characters from "*A Worthy Pursuit*", but there was just too many kisses, touches, temptations & feelings.

Novella number #2, "*Her Dearly Unintended*", just felt awkward. The stranger gave me creeps, and I'm still not believing he's who he says he is. Katie Ellen & Josiah's bickering got on my nerves fast and they weren't fooling anyone that they were married.

"*Runaway Bride*" was very confusing to me! Everything felt rushed and the romance came out of left field. Definitely not a fan of the marriage of convenience and all the hints.

The last one, "*Engaging the Competition*" was cleaner than the rest, but I was annoyed (yet again) at the main characters bickering and competing with each other. It was very over-the-top.

Link to review:

<http://booksforchristiangirls.blogspot...>

*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.

*I received this book for free from the publisher (Bethany House Publishers) for this honest review.

Brittany says

Although I love full-length novels, I must admit that I am also a fan of novellas. Sometimes it is so nice to read a shorter story, especially when it is well-written and feels complete. That is exactly what this collection contains. Each of these novellas was very nicely crafted, presenting stories that made me feel that I had peeked into the characters' lives and gotten to enjoy their special moments. All four of the stories contained interesting situations, detailed characters, and a satisfying resolution at the end.

The Husband Maneuver by Karen Witemeyer – What a fun story! I loved the way each chapter began with an excerpt from a dime novel titled *Dead-Eye Dan and the Outlaws of Devil's Canyon*. This was the book that the heroine of the story was reading and ties into the novella beautifully. Daniel and Marietta were great characters and the attraction was flowing through this story! It was wonderful from start to finish.

Her Dearly Unintended by Regina Jennings – This novella can stand alone from the Ozark Mountain Romance series that it is connected with. But if you have read books one and two of the series, you will be happy to see what happens with Katie Ellen and Josiah. This was such an enjoyable story, full of misunderstandings, mishaps, and a pretty amazing kiss! I loved the situation these two characters were trying to navigate through.

Runaway Bride by Mary Connealy – It was so much fun to see many characters that I had previously met in other books by this author show up in this story. The novella stands alone if you haven't read other books by Mary Connealy before, but I was very happy to find out that *Runaway Bride* was Big John Conroy's story! The romantic tension in this novella is palpable and I just absolutely loved the way the relationship progressed between Carrie and John. This was a very exciting and romantic story that I didn't want to see end.

Engaging the Competition by Melissa Jagears – What a unique and absolutely wonderful novella this was! The author did such a good job at creating two characters who have flaws, but are utterly likable, as well. Harrison and Charlotte (Charlie) have great chemistry, a problematic history, and I had to laugh at the fact that their first kiss wasn't all that great for them! I really enjoyed this story and loved watching these two characters grow so much from beginning to end.

This is a great novella collection that I definitely recommend to fans of historical fiction.

I received a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

You can read this review on my blog at:
<https://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.c...>
