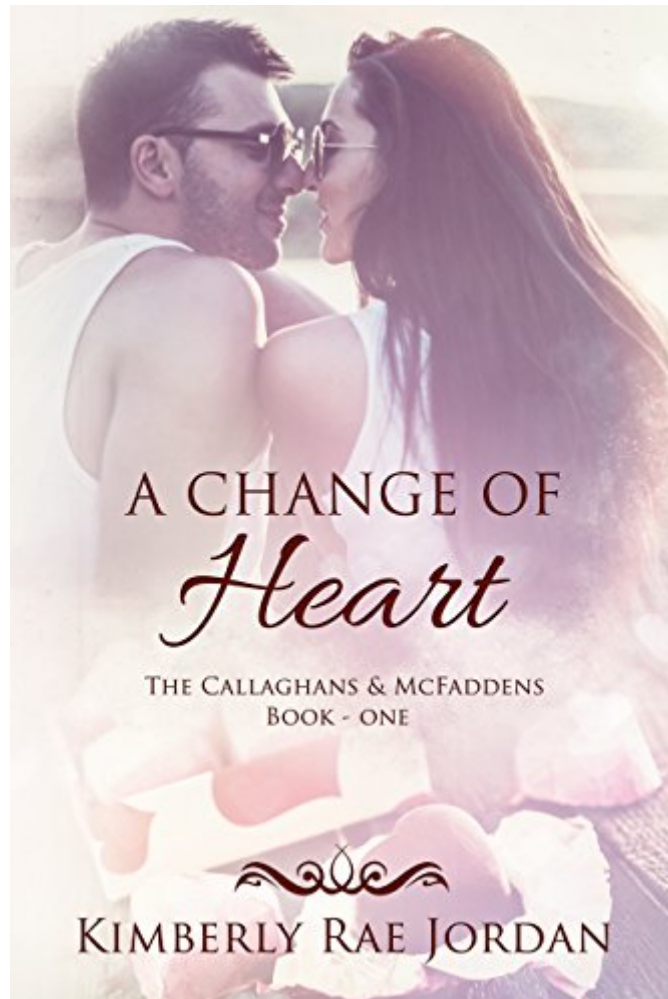


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A Change Of Heart: A Christian Romance (The Callaghans & McFaddens Book 1)



Synopsis

This Christian romance novel of 80,000 words is the second book in The Callaghans & McFaddens series from author Kimberly Rae Jordan. A HANDFUL OF FLOWERS (ASIN: B01APAIXM6) is the prequel to this series. NOTE: This book is also part of the boxed set, WHISPERS OF LOVE (ASIN: B01DMH1FME) which released June 2016. Makayla McFadden has been part of her family's business since it started. At sixteen, she'd helped her dad by answering phones and doing the filing when she wasn't in school, and now she's the office manager for C&M Builders. As the company has grown, they've had to hire new people, but the core of the company has always stayed the same. When her father announces his plan to retire, Makayla knows change is coming. Hiring from outside the family will disrupt the way they've run their business, and she's not happy about it. Upon learning that his father and step-mother plan to move to a new city with his younger sister, Ethan Collins knows he needs to move there as well. The day he gets a call from his first choice for a job, he figures God has answered his prayers. But then he meets Makayla McFadden and realizes that she doesn't want him there. After they offer him a job on a three month probationary basis, Ethan knows he not only has to convince them he can do the job, he has to somehow convince Makayla that he is a good fit for her family's company. When he finds himself falling for Makayla, Ethan tries to fight it since he refuses to do anything that might jeopardize his job and his sister's future. But when the heart can't be denied, will Ethan take the risk for love? Or will Makayla be reluctant to embrace change on a personal level and leave him without love or a job? Stayed tuned for the next Christian romance - HIS HEALING LOVE - in The Callaghans & McFaddens series coming January 2017. If you enjoy heartwarming Christian romance with a focus on love, faith and family, be sure to check out these other books and series by Kimberly Rae Jordan. Other Christian romance series by Kimberly Rae Jordan: Black Thorpe Security The McKinleys Home to Collingsworth Those Karlsson Boys Other Christian romance books by Kimberly Rae Jordan: Faith, Hope & Love Marrying Kate

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Customer Reviews

Ethan relocates to stay near his baby sister, Sierra; Makayla is initially resistant when her dad hires him, but soon comes around. (Though reviews are inherently subjective, I prefer to provide some organization to my opinions through the use of a personal rubric. The following notes may contain spoilers.)

Plot and Setting: 5 -- Plot has many unique elements, no major holes, and a sense of focus. I liked the interesting element of Ethan being basically a parent to his sister, and how this both helps and hinders the romantic element. I also appreciated that while the large family opens up the possibility of a lengthy series, this story is entirely self-contained. Setting is clear, believable, and consistent. Enough mention of specific dates worked into the story to make it easy to follow.

Characters: 4.5 -- Relatable, realistic, interesting, dynamic characters. I could easily picture and understand Ethan's mixture of confidence and bewilderment, and how he is both drawn to the large group gatherings and overwhelmed by them. Similarly with Makayla's over-thinking and feeling things so strongly. Very interesting. Some minor characters have depth, while others may be slightly stereotyped or simplified. I could see the personalities of most of Makayla's family members, but then there's Ethan's father, who is no more than an angry stereotype. Definite strong points in the relationships between characters, especially sibling bonds.

Mechanics and Writing: 4 -- A handful of typos, punctuation issues, or word errors, but nothing that seriously hinders understanding. Good use of POV (Ethan and Makayla). Generally skillful writing.

Redeeming Value: 4.5 -- Partially focused uplifting themes or lessons.

Originally posted on Tales to Tide You Over This is an odd book and not just because it's an inspirational Christian romance. The writer in me found the writing rough at times and there are a lot of mundane details that are unnecessary. In a lesser story, these would have undermined my enjoyment, but in this one, the excessive details, especially the mundane moments, built a real-people picture of families, good and bad, and how the people around you can be part of the problem or the solution. Ethan and Makayla couldn't be more different. Ethan is the only son of a widower who remarried after years of neglecting his child and had a daughter only to neglect her as well while his wife seems to have as little interest in Sierra. Makayla is one of a Brady Bunch family with a large collection of brothers and sisters who pretty much all care deeply for each other. They spend time together both while working at the family business and after hours, and they are very much involved in each other's lives. While a romance is ostensibly about a man and a woman finding love, *A Change of Heart* is so much more than that. It's about defining family as the people you love rather than requiring a biological imperative. It's about learning to depend on others after a lifetime of having to stand alone. It's about making the sacrifices necessary to ensure the wellbeing of those you love even when (especially when) doing so takes you far from your comfort zone. The story is relatively low-key until it isn't but the stressors are very realistic and easy to identify with. Makayla doesn't like change. It's strange, disorienting, and undermines her safe space.

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