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The Wedding Chapel



Synopsis

From a New York Times bestselling author of *The Wedding Dress* comes *The Wedding Chapel*. A lonely wedding chapel built as a tribute to lost love just might hold the long-awaited secret to hope and reconciliation. For sixty years, the wedding chapel has stood silent and empty. Retired football hall-of-famer Jimmy "Coach" Westbrook built the chapel by hand, stone by stone, for his beautiful and beloved Collette Greer, whom he lost so many years ago. The chapel is a sanctuary for his memories, a monument to true love, and a testament to his survival of the deepest pain and loss. Photographer Taylor Branson left her hometown of Heartsville Bend, Tennessee, to make a new life for herself in New York. She had lots to run away from, not least of all a family history of broken promises and broken dreams. Love catches Taylor off guard when she falls for Jack Forester, a successful advertising executive, and their whirlwind romance leads to an elopement—then to second guesses. Jack, in spite of his very real love for Taylor, is battling his own demons and struggles to show her his true self and the depths of his love for her. Taking a photography assignment in Heartsville Bend, Taylor is thrown back into a past of family secrets buried deep beneath the sands of time. When Taylor and Coach's journeys collide, they each rediscover the heartbeat of their own dreams as they learn that the love they long to hold is well worth the wait.

Book Information

File Size: 2348 KB

Print Length: 382 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Up to 5 simultaneous devices, per publisher limits

Publisher: Zondervan; Reprint edition (November 17, 2015)

Publication Date: November 17, 2015

Sold by: HarperCollins Publishing

Language: English

ASIN: B00UF72AE2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #14,671 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #133

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Customer Reviews

The Wedding Chapel Okay, so...this one called up some pretty decided opinions from me, so I'm going to do my review in a slightly different format than usual to be sure I accurately express my thoughts/feelings.

1. Readability. Score 2/5. I tried months ago to read this book and laid it down in the first chapter. I tried again a few weeks later, the week it was coming out, in order to get my review up in time. I made it four chapters in and got frustrated and put it down. Last week I read a friend's review and decided to give it another try, so I knew I'd have to keep reading if I was going to manage. Once I got halfway, the going was better, as I'd gotten interested in the characters. The grammar drove me batty. I honestly would have been able to read more easily if I'd had a print copy and a red pen so I could fix it along the way. Misplaced modifiers and passive verbs intruded a couple times as well. There were spelling errors on nearly every page in the last third of the e-galley copy. I hope that a lot of this would have been fixed before final publication, but after seeing how much made it into the final copy of Hauck's last title, I am doubtful that all of it was fixed.

2. Characters. Score 5/5. Honestly, it was the characters who got me to the last page. I wanted much more of Jack and Taylor and their attempts to make their marriage work. They're in love, but they come from broken families, and they are having a really hard time with communication and assumptions. I wanted them to fix things and have their happily-ever. Collette I didn't particularly like until the very end, and I found Jimmy likable but not compelling.

3. Plot. Score 3/5.

Rachel Hauck never disappoints. Not one little bit. This book is worth more stars than I'm allowed to give. Seriously. Eighty three year old former high school, hall of fame football coach, Jimmy Westbrook, once built a wedding chapel from stone for his beloved Colette Greer. But he went off to fight in Korea and she left, never to return. Now he's about to sell the chapel. Colette has made a life in New York, star of a soap opera for 60+ years. She should be happy, but she left her heart behind in Tennessee, with Jimmy. Taylor Branson moves from Heart's Bend, TN to live in New York as a photographer. She marries Jack but things just don't seem right to either one of them. Then she gets called to Heart's Bend to photograph the wedding chapel. There she discovers secrets, wounded hearts and wonders if life will ever be the same. Rachel Hauck has the ability to cause her

readers to become so invested in her characters that it is unreal. A page into the book, you're hooked. The heartaches and lives of these characters filled my heart and I ached for them. I love it when a book makes me feel this way. They jumped right off the page and into my heart, everyone of them. It's hard to pick up another book to read right after you finish one of Hauck's novels. You just want to hang onto these folks for a good long while, continuing to go over their trials, temptations and joys. As usual, Rachel Hauck has her own special way of bringing the spiritual message to light. She is not afraid to bring Christ into her books and this is a huge draw for me. I FEEL the presence of the Holy Spirit in her books! Rachel says in the afterword that she believes God created her to write books and she feels His presence during the process.

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