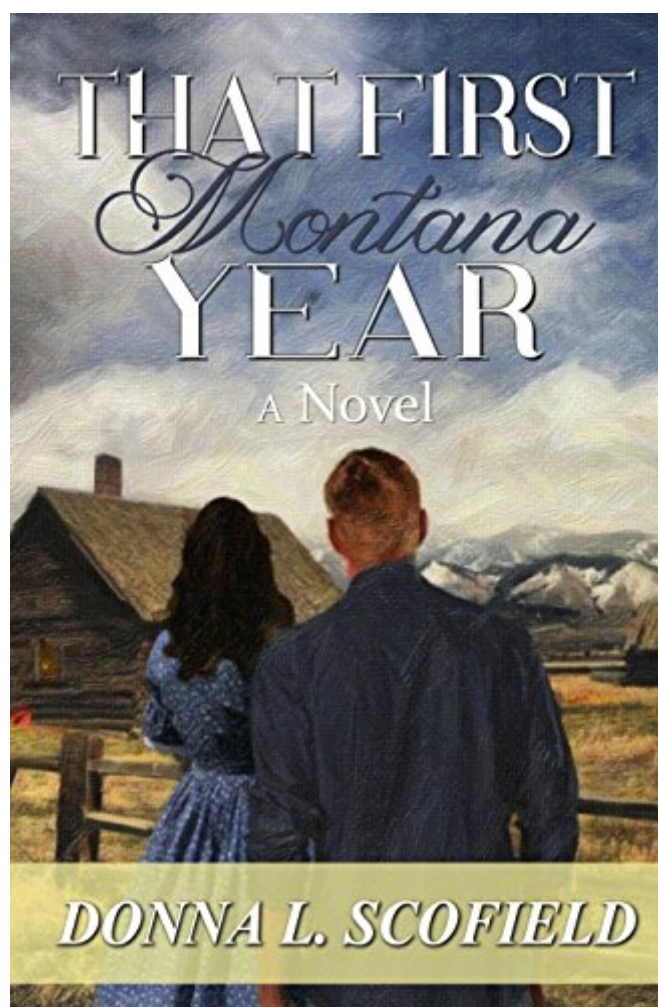


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# That First Montana Year



## Synopsis

When Bâ™Anne (Beatrice Anne) marries Will, she knows he is a reluctant groom. But she's a minister's daughter and pregnant. To save embarrassment for the families, and hoping a fresh start will help them become the sweethearts they were before, Bâ™Anne agrees to leave everyone and everything she knows and go with Will to the Montana Territory. They hope Will's uncle Hiram, whom he has never met, will guide them in their homesteading. Uncle Hiram welcomes Will, but treats Bâ™Anne coolly until he realizes she isn't a frivolous and furbelows girl. Although Will seems to care for Bâ™Anne, she loses her confidence when she discovers a letter from Will's former sweetheart. Will's secrecy threatens to build a wall between them. Spring arrives, and with it the promise of renewal. But is Bâ™Anne's hope for a fresh start enough to sustain the young couple through the years of hard living under that big Montana sky?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Donna Scofield loves historical research, and that passion strengthens every line of her new

release, *That First Montana Year*. In fact, in my opinion, it's the hallmark of this book. What transpires when a young couple get off to a wrong start in 1881? Will and Anne face ridicule, shame, disappointment over an unplanned pregnancy and yet nurse a flickering hope. Scofield opens a reader's imagination with detailed descriptions of travel and daily life for these early Montana settlers. The details simply garnish the delightful tale of Will and Anne as they face the harshness of Montana and the enemies called Fear and Bitterness. Difficulties and judgmental spirits either blend a couple or force them apart. One page slid into another because I couldn't put down this simple but frank story—two days, and I read the entire 250+ pages. You'll feel the same way. I'm sure of it. No matter the century, people grapple with universal problems. We are no different than the young couple on the raw frontier. Time doesn't change the need for vulnerability, truth, and faith. Kudos to Scofield for a grand novel well worth your reading pleasure.

This is newly added to my list of favorites. It is well written from a first person point of view. As a long time high school teacher, I was impressed with how well the author captures the newly married teens in this novel. The story line flows well and is a story of developing faith that no longer is merely that of the parents but becomes the narrator's guiding faith as well.

*That First Montana Year* is a sweet historical romance of two young people who were urged by family to marry because they were expecting a child. They moved to Montana to homestead with no other family nearby other than a sweet and helpful uncle. The characters are well developed and Donna L. Scofield has done a masterful job of telling their story in the first person, not easy to pull off as well as she did. The reader is pulled into the story and is easily able to feel like they are right there with this young couple as they experience the daily duties of establishing a farm and trying to build a marriage. I enjoyed this story immensely.

I liked this book very much. It was nice to read the growth of B'Ann and Will throughout the book. It read almost like a diary, but that's what made it good: it read like B'Ann was talking to me. My favorite character was Uncle Hiram and how he softened. I would not change a thing in this book. One little tidbit: this might be touted as a Christian book, but I think I would classify it as Historical Romance instead, although there were a few Biblical references and/or verses.

Oh, I really hated for the book to end! Such a sweet, feel-good story. A young couple gets pregnant, married, & takes a wagon full of homey goods to far away Montana. The trials, successes, worries,

& triumphs; the family they find, the friend's they make...a wonderful year in their lives!

This is a realistic, happy and sad, hard, sometimes harsh book about life the way it really was. NOT the way it is in the movies and on TV. Often it is heartbreaking to even read and you feel you can't go on... But like them, you do. And we all survive!

They anticipated the wedding, she's pregnant and not sure he really loves her. They are forced to marry and travel to Montana to homestead near his Uncle. A hard year but the birth of twins and time prove their marriage was no mistake.

This is an enjoyable read. Everyone needs an Uncle Hiram. God and faith are strong components of this story. It's a good look at old-time immigration and how eager the immigrants were to become real Americans.

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