



## Out of the Storm

*Jody Hedlund*

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Having grown up in a lighthouse, loneliness is all Isabelle Thornton has ever known--and all, she assumes, she ever will know. But when her lightkeeper father rescues a young man from the lake, her sheltered world is turned upside down.

Bestselling author Jody Hedlund's *Out of the Storm* is her first ever novella and introduces readers to Beacons of Hope, a new series set in the 1800s amid the romance, history, and danger surrounding the Great Lakes lighthouses of Michigan.

## Out of the Storm Details

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Author : Jody Hedlund

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## From Reader Review Out of the Storm for online ebook

### Tweety says

I picked this up yesterday in a waiting room, I figured it would be short and light enough for the atmosphere and a good introduction to this author.

I'm glad I picked it up, this author's writing has a cheerful/ hopeful outlook for the characters which I liked. I love books with tortured/disabled characters, especially when the author has them grow and learn to deal with their past/future.

In this case, the heroine is a very sweet girl with a secret. Her strongly protective father runs the lighthouse here and when some men wash ashore she nurses the only survivor, a flirtatious gentleman called Henry.

Being a novella we all know where that goes and overall I liked it. Most of all I liked the characters determination to be there for each other despite the difficulties of a disability.

What I didn't like was that her father felt a bit over acted to me. I know Henry was a flirt and it's good he was watching out for his daughter around this stranger. But it seemed ridiculous that he would start a fist fight with a wounded man. But, what do I know, maybe all dads would have a fit if they saw a flirt kissing their daughter.

Second, I really didn't care for Henry. He was a spoiled boy and his only saving grace was.. wait, what was it? Ah, yes. His love for the heroine. Even by the end I still didn't think he was husband material, but I guess he had gotten himself together enough for her.

So all in all it was okay. I'd read something else by this author, as I would like to see how her characters grow with more time/more pages.

**G** A brief bout of fisticuffs and some kissing, nothing else. Oh, and mention of digging a bullet out of someone.

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### Shannah Mauney says

This novella was such a tease! I read it in less than an hour and loved it. I fell in love with the characters. Isabelle is a kind, caring, innocent young woman. Henry is an incessant flirt, with a good heart. The story is excellently executed, even in the short amount of pages. Even in such a short story, the author provides an excellent message: don't let your circumstances define your life and who you are. Let the Lord of love and mercy guide you and your life will always be full. I can't wait to read the installment, which is a full length novel, in this series.

\*Thank you, Bethany House, for providing this copy as a special review opportunity.\*

<http://faithlovebooks.blogspot.com/20...>

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## **Amber Schamel says**

Jody is a talented writer that can spin an interesting story.

This one in particular was a rebellious love type of romance and therefore wasn't my cup of tea. But I'm looking forward to trying another of Jody's books.

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## **Andrea Cox says**

by Andrea Renee Cox

The negatives outweighed the positives in this book, for me.

Positives:

- \* I loved the shocking opening line. That pulled me into the story right away.
- \* There were many swoon-worthy lines, such as: "The bright beam hadn't been enough to save the ship from the whipping that had beat against her like a cat-o'-nine-tails."
- \* There was a sense of urgency early on that I really admired. It's pretty tough to capture that so quickly.
- \* One of the twists in the first half of the book was really intriguing. It surprised me more than most in recent books I've read.

Negatives:

- \* The faith thread fell way too flat for me. The characters were able to solve all their problems on their own, without having to turn to God and rely on Him for their strength and abilities. One tiny mention of turning to the "giver of life" wasn't enough to redeem this for me, because there was no follow-through on that one-sentence promise.
- \* If a bullet was in the man's thigh, I didn't understand why the woman had to shove his drawers all the way up to his rear. This came off as very immodest, especially for the time period, and particularly for a chaste woman.
- \* The leading man was an unlikable playboy for about 75% or so of the book. I only really liked him in the last three or four chapters. He was overly flirty, disrespectful, and blatantly disregarded the leading lady's father's rules. This is not the type of man I would recommend anyone to date, let alone marry, because he didn't respect her parent's boundaries. Therefore, I could not root for him in a fictional setting either.
- \* The romance was really sweet until it shifted into much-too-sensual kissing with bodies pressed up against each other. This also went against what the leading lady had stated earlier was her moral code or set of standards.

\* There was a moment when the leading lady said she would "let" the leading man take advantage of her (the indication was that they were speaking of pre-marital sex). They did not go that far. However, even her saying she would allow him to go that far went directly against her earlier-stated moral code or set of standards. It was really disappointing that she, a devoted Christian who prided herself in her chastity (including not even desiring to kiss a man, so she said), would be willing to give up one of her most basic principles (protecting her virginity until her wedding night). I am glad the leading man, the playboy, showed some restraint for once, but I found it completely odd that the more principled character would suddenly drop her own standards like that. It seemed to come out of the blue, which was possibly most shocking of all, because there was no warning in her thinking having dipped lower than normal or anything like that.

I enjoyed pieces of this story, but the negatives were just too glaring for me to retain that feeling throughout the entirety of its chapters. I hope others will find it more enjoyable than I did.

I was not compensated for this honest review.

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### **Rebekah Rodda says**

Surprised by how much I liked this. It is short and pacy and heart-warming.

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### **Hannah says**

A short, quick read. It's nice to get the back story on the wooden cross that makes its way through the Beacons of Hope series, but I never really felt like it got very deep. Just when Isabelle started really thinking beyond herself, it was over. It isn't necessary for reading the series, but makes a nice preface.

One major thing that I disagreed with is that Henry encouraged her repeatedly to disobey her father to spend time with her. If he'd set out to overcome her father's prejudice and prove himself worthy before trying to win her heart I think it would have been much better. Instead he sets to work flirting with Isabelle from the moment he gains consciousness. If he'd been a bad guy Isabelle could have been toast.

\*Lots of kissing: 18+

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### **Staci says**

Sweet novella! I so look forward to Love Unexpected!!

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### **Anna (Bobs Her Hair) says**

I'm thinking 3 stars...for an Inspirational.

"Out of the Storm" is an Inspirational historical romance, which may explain why the heroine reminded me of Snow White (just a little bit...so innocent and loving of nature.) I didn't think it was preachy. I do wish there wasn't so much emphasis on physical beauty, which was repeated. His handsome face. Her beautiful as an angel features.

More character development would have been appreciated. Manual labor is a character-builder for the over-privileged and immature hero, but I didn't see his transformation. It just happened. I was afraid the author would make this a 'money is the root of all evil' kind of story, but there isn't a lesson of this sort here.

What I appreciated the most is when the heroine is at her lowest point she finds hope beyond the need for the hero to make her life complete. Kudos to the author on this aspect!

The heroine's father needs some reworking. He's inconsistent and, at one point, irrational. Overall, I would try this author's work again if there's a story/characters that appeal to me.

*Kindle Freebie Novella Challenge/Group Read...Vicki (2 Stars) and Ian (He's backing slowly away.)*

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### **Carrie says**

I'm not sure what to think of all these novellas that Christian fiction puts forth for free to try to entice readers to buy a series. Part of me thinks that they are very counter intuitive. I see a lot of readers, including myself, become a little frustrated with the stories. They're not novellas but a full novel condensed into these few pages. This is why you feel cheated. It isn't a complete story that could be told in a short work. They're story lines that need the 80,000 or so words of a novel.

Yet this story was a cute little story. Needed more (of course). It passed the time while I sat with my son while he went to sleep as he was scared. It isn't making me rush out to order the series. It kept me entertained. I would have enjoyed a full story about the characters, thus the four stars.

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### **Beth says**

Sweet novella - it moved a bit too quickly for my taste, but that is to be expected. I much prefer her full-length novels & am really looking forward to the first book in the series!

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### **Anne says**

My first introduction to Jody Hedlund, of whom I have heard very good things, and I am very impressed! I loved the writing and I will certainly seek out some of her novels in the hopefully near future. The story was really great for a novella, except that it was a bit disappointing that it ended at only 58% (the rest being an excerpt of her next book). While I wasn't in love with the hero, I was happy about his character growth and his sincere feelings for the heroine. Isabelle Thornton was a very sweet, gentle heroine and I enjoyed getting to know her and watching her slowly melt under the hero's persevering advances. It was overall very

romantic, but maybe also a bit overly dramatic during certain scenes. Nevertheless it makes for a fun, entertaining and quick read and I look forward to the rest of the series!

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### **Paula Vince says**

I've sometimes avoided novellas in the past, partly because I believed a wonderful story with characters we care deeply for can't be achieved in such a short book. I thought novellas would have to be more bland and simplistic than longer books, just because of the shorter word count. This story blows that theory right out of the water. It took just an hour or two to read and I loved it.

There are just three main characters; Isabelle, Henry and Isabelle's father, Captain Thornton. Her father is the lighthouse keeper of a remote isle, and Henry is the only survivor of a shipwreck washed onto their shores. Isabelle is sweet but a bit melancholic at times, partly because of her lonesome lifestyle and partly because of something in her genetic make-up clouding her horizon. Henry is the privileged son of a wealthy family used to a life of ease and comfort, yet he doesn't come across as a spoiled, obnoxious, rich kid. As for Isabelle's dad... well, Henry likens him to a protective bear standing on hind legs, just waiting to be baited, but the captain has his reasons.

The romance sizzles off the pages at times. I loved it that I was cheering both younger characters on so hard, even though I felt as if I'd really just met them. I love the open-ended nature of some of the threads, so we can imagine some of our own bright possibilities. Most of all, I love how I stumbled upon this novella. Isabelle and Henry's story was alluded to in a novel with the same setting (*Love Unexpected* by Jody Hedlund) which made me curious. I'll have to remember this clever way of hooking us in.

So there you have it. Short book, small cast of characters, remote setting, dynamite. Perfect proof that a great story isn't bound by supposed limitations.

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### **Jennifer says**

1.5 stars.

I'm sorry to say that this novella didn't work for me. The h was too innocent and naive, the conclusions that she and her father had reached about her entire life didn't make much sense, and the love the MCs felt for each other felt rushed and therefore unconvincing. I wished I liked this one more, but I didn't. Hopefully, the full length works of this series will be better.

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### **Rachael says**

I've never been a fan of Novellas...but for being one, this is a sweet story.

I am ill and have a handicap so this story touched my heart. It's not easy to find a man who wants to spend his life with a woman who has a degenerative disorder.

This was a sweet story which of course moved a bit fast, but that's the joy of a novella if you like that sorta thing.

I also liked finding the cross story that follows through the lighthouse series. All in all, it was a sweet story with a personal touch for me, thus the four stars.

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### **Nancee says**

In this novella the author introduces the role of lighthouse keepers along the Great Lakes, Lake Huron in particular. A widowed man and his daughter are alone on a distant isle on the eastern coast of Michigan's lower peninsula. Lake Huron storms are harsh and have battered many ships through the years. This story develops around a seriously injured lone survivor of a shipwreck and his attraction to the lightkeeper's daughter.

Jody Hedlund has done an outstanding job of creating the pace for a new series of books surrounding lighthouses around the state of Michigan. Her research is impeccable, and the romantic involvement in this short book is tangible. Certainly there is no room for in-depth development; however, considering the brevity of this novella the author has piqued my interest in her newest series. Jody is known for creating well developed characters and a spine tingling story of danger and romance. A very strong theme recurring through this story is hope. I highly recommend this free novella as an introduction to further books in this series.

Disclaimer: I obtained a copy of this novella free through Amazon with no expectations for a review. All opinions expressed are my own, and no monetary compensation was received for this review.

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