



The Guardian's Honor

Marta Perry

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Coast Guard officer Adam Bodine finally finds his long-vanished great-uncle. But the secretive elderly man has adopted some new kin...single mother Cathy Norwood and her disabled little boy. Adam is grateful when Cathy convinces his relative to reunite with the Bodines. Until he learns *why* she's so eager. Though his heartstrings are tugged by their plight, he knows he doesn't deserve them in his life—not with his past. Unless one big extended family can teach Lieutenant Bodine something about love and honor.

The Guardian's Honor Details

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From Reader Review The Guardian's Honor for online ebook

Phyllis Swain says

Long lost uncle comes back home to family in South Carolina.

April Suter says

Short little novel about Adam finding his long-lost great-uncle with a step-daughter. Pieces of the Bodine family comes together as you learn why the great-uncle left the family and never contacted them. Meanwhile Cathy tries to learn how to trust the new family with her special needs son James.

216 pages

Pam says

Christian romance. Light reading by one of my favorite authors, Marta Perry. This one is a contemporary story. Many of hers are Amish but this one isn't. Adam tracks down his long lost great uncle. Cathy is his step-granddaughter. Jamie is Cathy's disabled son.

Dani "The REAL Cullens_Girl since 2002" says

Sigh. I read the book cover to cover. Although a short read, I probably could've read it in one sitting. However it did take a day to finish because I found myself constantly putting the book down to walk away. For me, I just don't see the inspiration in this book. Cathy Norwood was not a loveable character by any stretch of the imagination. She was negative pretty much through the whole book. I did not see a believable love developing between her and the love interest Adam at all. The book was a depressing read and the only reason I finished was because I fell in love with the supporting characters Jaime (Cathy's little boy) and Miz Callie. I might read other Marta Perry books to learn more about the Bodine family, but definitely not without reading other reviews first. Because of this interest I rated the book two-stars instead of the one-star I really feel it deserves.

Kate says

Ahh . . . Ned Bodine has finally been found! I really liked the whole mystery/genealogical search for Ned in the past 2 books of the series, so it was nice to see that come to a conclusion.

I also enjoyed getting to 'know' Adam, Georgia's oldest brother. I thought both he and Cathy (Ned's adopted granddaughter) were very well-rounded characters.

I was a little sad about Jamie's character. I have a friend who has a son with Spina Bifida, and Jamie's circumstances were FAR removed from what little M is going through. I suppose there can be varying levels

of SB, but Jamie's case seemed far too mild to actually represent the disease. Ahh well . . . can't win 'em all!

Jessica says

Really really enjoyed it; couldn't put it down. :)

Karen says

Wrapped up too quickly again. Adam Bodine is trying to forget an incident in Miami, while looking for his long lost great uncle Ned. Cathy Norwood, son Jaime with Spina Bifida, needs funds for an operation. Is her step-grandfather, the great uncle to Adam?

Cathy says

A pleasant conclusion to the Bodine family trilogy. I enjoyed the beach scenes, the little boy in the tidal pools, and Miz Callie, as always. A good gift from a good friend. "The Guardian's Honor" was said to be one of the better romances in a box of books, and I agree.

Although these Love Inspired romances frequently have single-parent situations, and I suspect that's wish-fulfillment literature for single-parent readers, I am finding that I do enjoy reading the books with children. I appreciate their antics and their point of view, in keeping situations from becoming too serious or melodramatic. Jamie's medical issues in this one do naturally add to the crisis involved.

I thought the descriptions and the character descriptions were well done, particularly Cathy's motivations for some of her secretive actions. The plot was a little predictable, but I found that I didn't even mind because it was so well told. I do think that Adam's secret could have led him down much darker paths than could be wrapped up in so short a book.

SPOILER - I was proud of one character for refusing a marriage proposal.

A different friend of mine would state that it's not very clear what the characters believe in this book, and that's true. But the characterization of this family has been building throughout this series, as far as what beliefs and values they hold together. Of course, an individual in the family could disagree, but Adam's issue seems to be more emotional than philosophical.

Favorite quotes: (All Miz Callie quotes)

"I've never been overly impressed with the wisdom of most people."

"It's always dangerous to have specific dreams for your children and grandchildren. Life so often takes them in another direction. I find I have to count on the good Lord to get them to the place where they belong."

"If there's one thing I've learned as I've gotten older, it's that the best way to look at the past is to sift through it for those bright moments. They'll come up, shining like a bit of beach glass in the sand, and you can just

let the rest slip away."

Jennifer Robb says

This book contains the conclusion to the search for Ned Bodine and what happened to him. Other plot points include a child with spina bifida who needs an operation to be able to walk, but whose mother cannot afford the bill for it; a coast guard member with a PTSD-like issue related to a past on-duty confrontation involving a child from Cuba; and a romance for Adam Bodine.

I'm not quite sure what to make of Cathy Norwood. I think part of her issue is self-esteem--she feels like she let down her grandparents by dropping out of school and getting married to a man who left her when the baby they produced wasn't "perfect". She's an overprotective mother, and while protecting your child is admirable, I sometimes wondered if she was projecting reactions onto other people based on her own expectations. She seems very negative and very suspicious much of the time. She doesn't seem to trust the good in others or that they may be honorable and do the right thing. And while I can't fault her for hoping that there might be some money available to help her son and grandfather, that seems to be her main focus--rather than being glad he's reconnecting with family she wants to know what's in it for them--even to the point where she plans a secret trip to view the probated will to see if Ned was left anything. I honestly can't see Adam falling in love with her.

Jamie, Cathy's son, on the other hand is an open, loving child who seems to bring out the best in his grandfather. (Though he does have his moments of not wanting to do things etc. so he's not portrayed as a "perfect" child in that sense either.) I can see Adam (and everyone else) falling in love with this little boy.

Both Cathy and Adam show some personal growth within the plot. I am proud of Cathy for refusing the first proposal for reasons other than fear and the other negatives she began the novel with.

Paula Hrbacek says

In this third book about the Bodine family, long lost Uncle Ned is found and brought back to Charleston to be reunited with this family. His stepgranddaughter, Cathy has a son with spinal bifida, who needs an operation. Cathy can't afford the operation because she dropped out of college. She dropped out to marry the wrong man, who left her when her son was born with problems. These choices have left a rift between her and her grandfather. They come to Charleston with more than one kind of baggage.

Adam has baggage too. As an officer in the Coast Guard, he had a tragic accident at sea. It has left him shaken and unsure of himself.

The story flows nicely, but again, with only surface information about the settings and people. Adam's problem isn't really bad enough to warrant his confusion, in my opinion. There are many facets to the characters' motivations and personas that could have been dug into more deeply.

But, it was a pleasant read, a nicely plotted story, with the ever popular happy ending.

I also recommend *Stars Shine After Dark*, for romance with something to think about woven into the plot.

