



With a Little Luck: Wisconsin

Janet Dailey

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Every novel in this collection is your passport to a romantic tour of the United States through time-honored favorites by America's First Lady of romance fiction. Each of the fifty novels is set in a different state, researched by Janet and her husband, Bill. For the Daileys it was an odyssey of discovery. For you, it's the journey of a lifetime. Your tour of desire begins with this story set in Wisconsin.

Born and bred in small-town Wisconsin, Luck, the man with the blue, blue eyes, has always called his friend Eve "a little brown mouse." Eve knew he never looked at her the way he looked at other women but she always wonders if love will ever find her. Then, after so many years, she meets Luck McClure again . . .

With a Little Luck: Wisconsin Details

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From Reader Review With a Little Luck: Wisconsin for online ebook

Finn says

it was pretty bland. I kept waiting for something to happen. next thing I know I've reached the end of the book

Maura says

Luck McClure and his 8-year-old son Toby live a bachelor life since the death of his wife six years ago. On the anniversary of her death, Luck goes out and gets drunk and runs into Eve Rowland, who intrigues him with how she resembles an adorable little brown mouse. She views this as an insult, while he doesn't intend it as such, but she has some insecurities about how plain she is. They run into each other again, note the attraction and pleasantness between them and slowly get to know each other romantically. But Eve worries about whether she'll ever compete with the memory of Luck's wife given how beautiful she is and Luck struggles with his son pushing him to marry.

There isn't much going on in this story really. It's primarily about the main characters, Luck, Toby and Eve getting to know one another, becoming something of a family unit and Toby trying to matchmake between Luck and Eve. What little angst there is stems from Luck letting go of his wife's memory and Eve not really knowing what Luck's intentions are. It isn't much. In addition the ending felt extremely abrupt, following a marriage proposal after they've known each other for a few weeks. I found it interesting that the characters felt the inclination to marry right away, rather than to continue dating for a while. It's an interesting story.

Toby brings most of the entertainment value as an 8-year-old going on 50. He's VERY mature for his age. It also brings about a total difference in values between 1988 and present day. Toby prepares his father's hangover remedy, understands his father's need to go out with women and is allowed to stay on his own for short periods of time, is able to explore out in the woods on his own and has a very open and honest curiosity about sex, particularly when he walks in on Luck and Eve making out. I was 8 when this book was written and I can remember things being similar to this (not necessarily in preparing hangover remedies though...nor the honesty about sex), but definitely in the responsibility and the expectation of respect for adults. But in contrast, this book also presents a very different mindset about gender roles. Toby's primary motivation in wanting a mother is that he's tired of doing all the feminine household chores and is ready to have a mother in the house to do it for him. Especially after Luck tells him that a mother's role involves cooking, cleaning and various other housework, in addition to any job she might work during the day. RME and LOL. If this had been written today, this book would have gone up in flames. I found it entertaining though.

Jacqueline says

A lot of Janet Dailey's books don't hold up well. This one did though. It is a very sweet story of Luck, a widower with a young son, falling in love again. Eve is a quiet ordinary looking woman who falls in love with Luck and has a hard time believing that he really loves her.

The book is well written and the pacing is good. The young son Toby is very advanced for his age and I would have bought him just a little bit better if he had been 10 instead of 8 but he was still well written and funny in his grownupness. I read this book when it first came out in 1981 and have never forgotten it. There were certain lines of dialog that I have actively remembered for 30 years. There were a couple of bits where Luck and Toby are talking about what kind of women you marry and they discuss the fact that Luck doesn't want to marry a woman with staples in her stomach and later Toby confirms with his dad that Eve does not in fact have staples in her stomach. Wonderful imagery that I've never forgotten and it was just as vivid a visual this time around.

Diamond says

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