



Betsy's Return

Wanda E. Brunstetter

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Relive the glory of a Pennsylvania canal town through the eyes of those who ministered to the needs of the workers. Betsy Nelson reluctantly returns to her childhood home to care for her failing father, a faithful minister who served the town for years. William Covington, a confirmed bachelor, comes to town to become the new pastor and set aside the luxuries of this birth for service to God. Can Betsy and William find common ground on which to work together for the better of the townspeople?

Betsy's Return Details

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Author : Wanda E. Brunstetter

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From Reader Review Betsy's Return for online ebook

Brenda says

(note this review may contain spoilers) It's the summer of 1896 and Betsy Nelson has just received a telegram stating her father, who is the pastor of the community church along the Lehigh Canal in Walnutport Pa. has just had a heart attack and will have to resign his position in the church. Betsy immediately decides to leave her home in New York to take care of him.

When she gets home she immediately meets the man who will replace her father. William Covington comes from a wealthy family in New York but he looks forward to the chance to head to Pa. He had recently been left at the alter by his fiancee with only a note telling him that the ministry couldn't keep her in the life she was accustomed to. He vows then and there never to fall in love again.

When some members of the congregation decide that the preacher needs a new wife, things start to get interesting.

Betsy has resigned herself to the fact that she is 31 considered an old maid and will probably never marry. She really just wants to fit in and find a place to belong.

This is a very fast paced story. I really couldn't put it down once I started reading it, I actually read it in one sitting. Mrs. Brunstetter has a way of telling a story that makes you feel like you know the people personally. The characters are so realistic that you are left hoping there is more because you just don't want the story to end.

Even though this is the second in the Brides of Lehigh Canal series it is a totally stand alone book. I didn't read the first one and had no problem jumping right into this story

Sheila Samuelson says

Another great book in this series by Wanda!! I'm glad everything worked out for Betsy in the end :)

Deborah says

Betsy has become an old maid before she even realized it. After her plans to be a missionary were dashed, she stays in New York continuing what she believes is the Lord's work. After receiving news that her father was not in the best health, she returns to her childhood home in Lehigh Canal, Pennsylvania. Determined to care for her father till he gets better, she does everything in her power to help him.

William Covington felt the call of God to preach despite the well-to-do family he comes from. When the opportunity comes to preach in a canal town, he follows God's leading and direction and ends up in Lehigh Canal. Will Betsy be able to accept William as the town's new pastor in place of her father? Or will the old bitterness she used to harbor rear it's ugly head and ruin the way she relates to William?

Again, in very simple language, Brunstetter brings us a romance that is easy to read, fun, and entertaining. While the likelihood of falling in love so easily may seem unlikely, love comes in all forms, sizes, shapes, and ways in real life. And this historical portrayal is sweet and simple, a wonderful read for anyone who wants to travel back in time when things were simpler.

Camille says

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If you read my blog regularly you'll know that I reviewed the first book in the series yesterday. [Click here](#) to read that review before reading this one if you haven't done so already.

I didn't love the first book in the series but I did like Betsy's Return a lot more. I'm glad that I gave Wanda E. Brunstetter another chance.

Betsy's Return continues the story of Kelly's Chance except the main character is Betsy, one who was rather minor in the first novel.

Betsy had left for several years and had been working in New York City with the Salvation Army when she receives news that her father has fallen terribly ill and she makes the decision that she must return home to care for him.

Betsy's father has been the minister of the town for years but is forced to retire due to his quickly failing health, therefore a new minister must be found to take over the congregation. While Betsy understands she is also a bit sad to see her father replaced since he has done this job for so many years and loves it dearly.

Betsy is a bit surprised to find that the new minister, William Covington, is quite young and attractive, and also unmarried. However, embarrassed by her past actions when she threw herself at Kelly's now-husband, Mike, she has little interest in trying to pursue anything with Mike.

Furthermore, every other young woman or their parents are throwing their availability at Mike trying to match him up and get him married off.

Mike, however, having been left at the alter is jilted by love and has no interest in being married. He has decided instead that he would rather be a lifelong bachelor.

Betsy and William are pulled together as they both desire to minister to the town and do good works. Will they both stay single? Will they find their way together? Will Betsy return to New York City once she is done caring for her father? Will William marry someone else? What does God have in store for them? Read Betsy's Return to find out.

While this book was admittedly better than Kelly's Chance, it still wasn't amazing. I got through it quickly because it's really short. And it's also very predictable from the beginning.

It's a pretty decent story and I don't regret reading it, but it wasn't a memorable book.

My biggest criticism is similar to Kelly's Chance in that a character again has a sudden change of heart with virtually no explanation. I hate when a struggle is resolved in about one sentence in a book, I'd rather see a gradual transformation of someone's heart than read a sentence saying something about it being a good thing that character X had a change of heart because now things will work out. It makes me wonder how and why character X had a change of heart, but I never find out more than that. I wish Wanda E. Brunstetter would

elaborate more so that her readers were left with fewer questions.

If you haven't read Kelly's Chance you can still read Betsy's Return, it by no means only makes sense if you've read the first book first. If you find a cheap or free copy it may be worth your time, but other than that I would give it only 3 out of 5 stars.

Jamie Kirby says

I really enjoyed this book, its just a sweet good read.

Kathy Allen says

Excellent story- must read

Patricia Bond says

Betsy's Return (Book 2 of Brides of Lehigh Canal) Wanda Brunstetter

It is the summer of 1896 and Betsy Nelson leaves her job with the Salvation Army in New York to return home to the small town of Walnutport on the Lehigh Canal in Pennsylvania.

Rev Nelson, the minister of the church in Walnutport, has suffered a heart attack and due to his failing health he is forced to resign as the pastor so Betsy has returned to care for him. It is hard for Betsy to see a new minister take the place of her father, but when she meets William Covington, the new minister she is surprised to see how handsome he is.

William Covington has come from wealthy family in Buffalo New York. It is William's desire to be a minister so he is hired to take Rev Nelson's place in hopes that he can serve the people of this canal town the way Rev Nelson has.

After being jilted by his fiancee and left at the altar will William be able to find love again, and will Betsy accept William taking her father's place.

This is a well written story of loss, learning to love again, forgiveness and accepting change.

I would highly recommend Betsy's Return and also the first book in the Brides of Lehigh Canal Kelly's Chance.

mindy wentz says

Light, enjoyable read

This is a great read for 13 and older. at least I think so. Good values, sweet love story without all the unnecessary (details) so many writers think we want to read about. I highly recommend it

Anna Rebecca says

Many of my friends go on and on about Wanda Brunstetter so when I saw this book I decided to give it a try. I enjoyed the book and didn't find anything truly terrible about the book, but, as with Karen Kingsbury, I simply don't understand why people wax poetic about Ms. Brunstetter's work.

Certainly I will say that Ms. Brunstetter's writing ability is fine. She uses well developed sentences and correct grammar. Her writing is neither too elementary nor too scholarly. She strikes a fine balance for an easy read book such as a romance.

Ms. Brunstetter's plotting was okay. However, I felt as if she forgot she was writing a romance and then added it in towards the end. Certainly she dropped a few paragraphs here and there that alluded to the fact that the two main characters had taken notice of each other but the actual acknowledgement of their feelings and the outcome seemed rushed and tacked on. It was as if the author realized she only had a chapter left and had to hurry up and wrap up her book.

I also found a couple of instances where something happened within the story and it seemed to serve no real purpose. It didn't add to the story nor did it develop the characters. It was almost as if someone forgot to edit. (I don't want to be specific about this as I don't wish to ruin the book for anyone.)

One thing that I really liked about this book was the Christian truths that each character displayed throughout the book. The author did a very good job of portraying a typical Christian's day to day thoughts, struggles, etc. The use of Christian themes was neither heavy handed nor was it so sparse as to be vague. This is clearly a Christian book, but the author does a good job of not getting too preachy.

I enjoyed the characters in the book as well. They were not the best developed characters I've ever been exposed to, but they were certainly better than some. Again, though, I found that with certain characters things were said and done by the character that seemed to serve no purpose or seemed at odds with what the reader knew of the character.

All things considered, this is a great weekend or beach book. It is an easy yet satisfying read despite some of the problems with plotting and logical character development, and it's certainly a safe read. That alone scores this book points with me. I like being able to pick up a book and know that I'm not going to be embarrassed or uncomfortable with what I read.

Martha says

Won on First Reads in May 2010.

This is the second book of the "Brides of Lehigh Canal" series, but it can easily be read as a stand-alone. I didn't realize that I had read the first book, Kelly's Chance, until a few paragraphs in the first chapter seemed very familiar, and I searched through my books and found that I had read it as part of an anthology last year.

Set in 1896 in the small town of Walnutport, Pennsylvania, Betsy's Return is a heartwarming story. Betsy

Nelson is a young woman who has returned home to care for her ailing father. William Covington is the young pastor who moves to town to take up the ministry in the local church. Betsy must come to terms with her father's illness and the changes brought about by her father's retirement as pastor. They must move out of the parsonage, the house where Betsy grew up, and they must accept that someone else will be filling the pulpit each week. William is just beginning his first pastorate, and he has to deal with well-intentioned matchmakers who are certain that a single minister must be in need of a wife, even though he is determined to remain a bachelor.

The characters were realistic and likeable. Well, most of them were likeable; I didn't care for William's housekeeper, but I don't think she was supposed to be a sympathetic character. The story was interesting and kept me reading; I finished the book in one afternoon. All in all, I really like this book, and I recommend it to anyone who likes to read inspirational historical romance.

RebekahAshleigh says

“Betsy’s Return” is the second book in the Brides of Lehigh Canal series. I did like the first book a little bit better, but book 2 was still great.

In “Betsy’s Return”, Betsy Nelson returns to her home along the Lehigh Canal in Pennsylvania, after her father has had a heart attack. Betsy’s father, the pastor of the small town church, has to resign because of his health. Meanwhile William Covington gets a job as pastor of the church where Betsy’s father used to be pastor of. The towns people are trying to matchmake for the nice, young preacher, but he has decided not to marry due to past heartache.

I enjoyed getting to know these characters and the storyline was enjoyable.

Camille says

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health, therefore a new minister must be found to take over the congregation. While Betsy understands she is also a bit sad to see her father replaced since he has done this job for so many years and loves it dearly.

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Clare says

As you can guess from the title, *Betsy returns* to the Lehigh Canal region in Pennsylvania to care for her ailing father, the former pastor of Walnutport. Soon after her arrival, she meets the replacement pastor, Reverend William Covington of Buffalo.

This is William's first position as pastor and his wealthy family would prefer that he minister to a wealthier community as well as one closer to home. But having been jilted at the altar by his fiance, William needs to escape and heal from his hurt and humiliation. As William vows never to let his heart be vulnerable, we, as readers, know that he and Betsy will eventually find each other in their loneliness.

Betsy was an interesting character. From lines in this book, I can tell that Betsy was pretty much a bitch in the first book in this trilogy. Her sharp comments, snobbery and ego seemed to have made her a lot of

enemies in the first book. Betsy seems unsure of her reception in Walnutport, as she now recognizes all she had done to hurt people. I always like it when characters develop and grow during a book or series, and although I haven't read the first book, I can appreciate Betsy's new maturity, even though it interferes with her romance.

"She had noticed how handsome the pastor was, and if she were still the old flirtatious Betsy, she might be tempted to let her interest in the man be known. But she had changed and would not throw herself at any man, no matter how much he might interest her. If God ever decided that she should have a husband, then He would have to cause that man to make the first move."

Betsy is struggling with her obligations to her father, feeling displaced since she is no longer the pastor's daughter, and finds herself tentatively intrigued by the new minister. William's grouchy housekeeper Mrs. Bevens resents the entire Lehigh Canal community and does her best to distance William from his church community and especially Betsy. Of course, Mrs. Bevens becomes the biggest obstacle to the relationship between William and Betsy, although Betsy is seen kissing another man. Of course, that man kissed Betsy first and she rejected his advances but Betsy's landlady Freda

"explained that she'd walked away after she'd seen them kissing, so she hadn't witnessed whatever had followed."

Puh-leeze. You mean to tell me that Freda wouldn't have stared at some big burly canal man kissing the former reverend's daughter? Not a credible scene.

I was so astonished that a character talks about making a salad for supper that I immediately searched for when Americans started serving salad. I was convinced that 1896 was too early, but I was wrong. That makes me think that the author really did research about canal life at that time.

This was a nice, sweet Christian romance. The plot moved along fairly quickly and the writing was easy and simplistic, with more than a few Scripture quotations thrown in. I do read Christian fiction, but this one seemed to have more than the usual amount of Bible quotes. Given that the hero was a minister and the heroine a minister's daughter, this did make sense.

Josephine says

I loved Betsy's growth as a person. It was an okay read.

Keshia Burchette says

I love this series! I normally don't like historical romance but this is just different.
