



## A Bride for Donnigan

*Janette Oke*

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A new look for this Janette Oke novel. Responding to an advertisement, Kathleen O'Malley crosses the ocean to America to become a new bride. Responding to an Advertisement, She Crossed an Ocean to Meet a Total Stranger and Became a Mail-Order Bride... Kathleen O'Malley stood on the deck of the Barreth Lily and watched the land she'd called home for more than a dozen years slip from her view. She had thought she would be glad to see the last of it, but she was not. Emotions in turmoil, her whole being yearned to slip from the ship and return to what she knew. Even though Kathleen had not been happy with her situation, it was all she had ever known. As the shoreline faded into the morning mist, her only certainty was that she was bound for America to marry a man whose name she did not even know and whose face she had never seen. On the other side of the Atlantic, Donnigan Harrison anxiously awaits Kathleen's arrival on a prairie farm far from her port of arrival in Boston. He has known the wonder of a dream fulfilled--a snug frame cabin, the sturdy log barn and outbuildings, a fine herd of livestock, and crops in the field that made his eyes sparkle. Yet Donnigan felt a loneliness on the western frontier that pierced his very soul. With so limited opportunities for finding a wife, the notion of ordering a wife that once seemed unthinkable had come to make some sense. Now that the time has come, Donnigan feels like a small boy waiting for Christmas. But Donnigan's anticipation is overshadowed with terrifying uncertainties--What have I done?

## A Bride for Donnigan Details

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Author : Janette Oke

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## **From Reader Review A Bride for Donnigan for online ebook**

### **Coral says**

I felt the book was uneven. The first three quarters had to do with the couples relationship with each other. Then they suddenly have a bunch of kids in a time covering ten years over just a couple of chapters. Then suddenly the focus is on he dad finding God. It just didn't flow right for me. I felt like the book should have ended before the kid part. The author could have written an entirely different book that would focus on the finding God part.

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### **Mimi 'Pans' Herondale says**

This book sucked. That is all I have to say, goodbye.

No really, I absolutely hate this book. I mean, what is the point of it? She is stupid, is not strong at all, so weak, and I am so disappointed in myself that I read it twice. Why did I do that? Probably because I was bored and had nothing to do.

Ok, and then the fact that she wanted an Irish man and then got an American one and was disappointed (????????) WHAT THE HELL!

There is nothing bad about American guys, main-character-girl-I-have-forgotten-your-name. Yes, I actually have no idea what her name is.

And then the whole plot is ridiculous. The whole thing is ridiculous. the characters are ridiculous. and the EVERYTHING is just plain crap.

The end. goodbye. I have so much more to say about this book, but all of it is negative so I am just going to stop right there.

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### **Samar says**

this book was in many ways a revelation, i started reading expecting another everyday romance and in a sense that's all i got for the first few chapters, but as we got later and deeper in the book i started to see the characters grow as the years passed, they became more real and Donnigan's quest to find god and raise his children the right way, his worry that his shortcomings might affect his children's future, not the one here on earth but the future we all share after this life, it touched me deeply, i admit i cried a bit at his worry that he couldn't find the right way to pray, he searched and searched in the bible, and was so worried when his children asked him how to do it, it was so amazing when he discovered the simplicity of praying, it's just talking to god, telling him when you do bad, and asking for forgiveness, so many times in life i find people who try to complicate religion, to ritualize it and fit it into a mold, when i have always thought that religion is simply one's relationship with god, how you choose to conduct that relationship is your business alone, i guess what i loved about this book is that it highlighted that, religion does not need to come from a preacher's or a (in my case) shiekh's mouth, it's simply a communion with god, who is there for everyone whether you

are literate or not, young or old, sinner or saint, even those who don't believe in him, he is always there waiting for them, giving them little signs so they can see him, so if you're reading this because you want to know if you should read it, then I tell you if you like what I'm talking about up there ^ then this is definitely your book.

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### **Faith says**

I always enjoy mail-order bride stories, but this one has a special addition to the storyline that makes it stand out among the others in my opinion.

Kathleen and Donnigan were lovely characters and I absolutely adored their story. Instead of finding complete happiness once they fell in love (like so many other stories) this couple wasn't entirely content until they discovered and met The One who was missing from their lives. :)

This isn't so much for a younger audience in my opinion (they are married so a few things are mentioned there but it's handled very well and didn't bother me).

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### **F says**

This is my sixth Janette Oke book to read. This book, hands down, is the best Oke book thus far.

Characterization is developed to the point that you can feel the nervousness both of the main characters (Donnigan and Kathleen) experience as they made the decision to sign up and follow through with the idea of the mail order bride. You can feel the anxiety Kathleen experienced with the haystack fire and also with the loss of Taryn. Donnigan's search for God's plan of salvation was thought-provoking as we take the presence of churches / Bibles / pastors as a way of life. Interspersed throughout the book were bits of humor and wit. "A Bride for Donnigan" is an all round great book.

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### **Virginia says**

2.5 stars - This was okay. The first section, where the two halves of the couple choose to participate in a mail-order bride program & meet & have to learn to work out their differences was great. I cared about the characters. The problem came when they should have been falling in love but instead had children and then there was basically no more discussion of how they felt for each other, or growth in their tenuous relationship. I guess it was supposed to be understood at that point that they loved each other, but I didn't feel it. Their conflict is the quintessential "misunderstanding" where both parties seem to think not talking to each other is the key to a healthy relationship. And then they had seven children in the space of a couple chapters and their whole lives were just skimmed over so we could see how many children they had. I didn't like that. The finding religion section was exceptionally heavy-handed. I found it unlikely you would have two people starting with zero knowledge of Christianity (What is a Bible? What is prayer?), especially given the time period. I don't think the second half of the book worked, so by the time they "figure out" how to get saved, I don't even care.

I was surprised how much the author glossed over all the seriously emotional bits. Multiple losses of pregnancies, losses of spouses, significant changes of heart--none of it was given the emotional depth required, so nothing seemed to be very important. This could have been twice as long had she just delved

into the characters' emotions a bit more. I also found it odd that Donnigan would get so gung-ho over trying to raise his children for heaven when he had absolutely no knowledge of this--why would he even care if he had no knowledge of God to begin with?

My one picky criticism: Donnigan believes Kathleen is younger than 21, but marries her anyway because there is nothing else to do. A few months later, he worries that she could get pregnant but he thinks she's too small and frail to carry a pregnancy. So...he admits he thinks she could be as young as 15 but he actively consummates their marriage anyway, all the while worrying that she shouldn't get pregnant? It didn't paint him in the best light. "She's just a child and she shouldn't get pregnant, but I can't figure out how not to get her pregnant and still have sex with her, so we'll just keep having sex that is never mentioned. That will work."

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### **Katherine says**

What I really like about this book is the fact that it doesn't end when the people get engaged/married. The majority of the book takes place after the wedding. I like seeing the relationship grow and deepen and hearing about the homemaking and all the children.

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### **N. Brown says**

I remembered this book from when I was in junior high. This series is very encouraging in your walk with God and it has a great love story! Its one of my favorites of the women of the west series.

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### **Anna Marie says**

I'm reading thru my own collection, here at home. Personally, I've never cared for Janette Oke, except for two books: this one, and 'A Girl named Damaris'.

In this one, we meet Kathleen: an Irish version of Cinderella living with the stepmother and half siblings in London, mistreated and ostracized. The day comes that stepmother is re-marrying, and Kathleen isn't welcome in the new family. So she signs up as a mail-order bride to an unknown farmer/rancher in the Americas.

It's a good story... what I like about it best is that they come at finding Messiah without the help of a church or pastor or 'mentor' - He calls them, Himself.

But there is NO chemistry between the characters. It's not gonna give you a 'zing', if you're looking for a book that makes you feel romantic. And the second half of the book is too fast - each chapter adding a child in which Janette TELLS you its personality, instead of SHOWING you thru her writing. It goes from medium-dry on emotion to completely dry.

Upon reading it after years of it sitting dormant on the shelf...? I have to admit, it left a lot to be desired in MOST ways. I still like it for the same reasons as before, but it's just not the five star that I remember it being fifteen years ago.

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### **Mummy Cat Claire says**

This book was strange for me. It started off really good. The story was believable and the author really developed the story for the main characters, Kathleen. She was essentially an orphan being raised by her mean Step-Mother. Her plot was bad enough for her to consider signing up to take the voyage west and marry a man she has never met. On the other hand, the farmer she marries was a little embarrassed to order a bride. He was very lonely and longed for help and companionship. But lets be honest he is a man, so we know there was more to the story, but the author didn't go there.

Upon meeting each other, the author continued to develop the story and introduced the characters well. I kept asking myself, how did people do this? I cannot imagine having to marry a stranger. How would that work? The story started to change when they had children. It was still an interesting book and things were happening but then Donnigan, the farmer, started asking around about God and religion.

The last 30 pages, I ended up skimming. It became so encompassed with God and why this was that way and what does it all mean? The story that the book started with just ended and it became all about the family looking for Religion. Then the book just ends. Very strange.

Overall, this is not one of the better books from author, Janette Oke. I usually like her and although she is a Christian author she doesn't harp on things and she includes it in the story so that the characters have depth and I understand them. This was not the case in this book. I was disappointed.

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### **Leona Carstairs says**

I'm almost embarrassed to admit I've read this but anyways its absolute and total garbage.

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### **Audra says**

This was the second time I read this novel; I went to it for a "light read" amidst a family visit and spring cleaning. Somehow I remembered the details differently, though the story was still charming. A shout out to my reformed friends: the writing is distinctly Arminian, but I \*love\* the message that the gospel can be self-revealing through the power of Scripture alone (i.e., no mediator but Jesus; no pastor, deacon, Sunday School teacher needed), and that childlike faith is rewarded. And it's profound that God reaches these people on their little farm, on the prairie, where they are isolated from other people. That must tell us something about how much God wants to redeem His children, that He finds them and takes them for Himself!

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### **Jesseca Wheaton says**

A sweet, mail order bride story! I loved the realistic look at mail order brides, and of course the characters were amazing! :)

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## **Megan says**

This was my first book by Christian author Janette Oke, and possibly my last...

I picked this up on the recommendation of one of my local librarians, after I had checked out a series of Beverly Lewis books. I thought the premise of the story sounded interesting: two lonely people who live half a world apart are looking for friendship and love, so they both respond to an advertisement for mail-order brides. Sounds romantic, right?

The first half of the book was really nice. It moved very quickly, and I thought the author did a great job of developing the characters and setting up the story. However, somewhere in the middle the plot shifted, and the author got pretty heavy-handed with her religious views. Yes, I realize this is a Christian romance, but the abrupt change in the middle was very jarring, and I felt really disappointed by the turn of events. It was almost like reading two separate books.

Anyways...If any of you have read another Janette Oke book you think I might like better, please let me know.

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## **Linda Canida says**

### **A long journey to true love and a fulfilled life.**

I liked the fact that even in their fear of the unknown, both Kathleen and Donnigan took a leap of faith. From that difficult first year they continued to grow in their personal relationship as their family grew. They felt the conviction that they must learn about GOD in order to properly raise their children in preparation for the life to come after this temporary time on earth. They studied GOD's Word until it brought them to salvation. They still realized from the witness of their neighbor who had been raised in a faith filled home that it is by personal choice that we come to a point of confession and asking for forgiveness through the Holy Sacrifice of Jesus.

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## **Hanna says**

*A Bride for Donnigan* was one of my favorite Janette Oke standalone books. When Donnigan was unsure if he should order a bride or not, I was totally rooting for him to. The book made me like his name, even if Donnigan didn't like it. I wanted them to have a kid with that name!

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## **Rachel says**

I really love stories about mail-order brides, so I was excited to find this for \$1 at my library book sale. I ended up skipping most of the beginning of this book, as it DRAGGED on forever, and it was basically just leading up to the couple meeting. They finally meet half way through the book, and the few chapters of their new relationship were the best in the whole book. Then, the story shoots through like, I think 7-8 years, and they have a bunch of kids and try to find God. It didn't flow right at all, it basically drags, then moves at the

right pace, the shoots through to the end. I liked the idea of the story, and the few chapters I mentioned were great, but that's all that was good about this book. Honestly, the flow and lack of romance in a romantic book made me not want to read another book by this author.

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### **Rochelle says**

#### **This was kind of an odd one.**

It was quite short at 223 pages and paced very rapidly. It was like reading portions from three different books put together. The first part was very intriguing, and exactly what you'd expect from the title and description. The middle portion splayed out their lives at rapid fire, you would read a very small section, and then the next small section would be years later, and so on and so on. The last portion was interesting, all of the sudden the book shifted again and it became almost like a drawn out sermon but from the perspective of someone who knew very little of the bible, that being Donnigan himself.

I found it very hard to believe that (Kathleen) someone from England at that time would've never been to church, it was practically law to attend. I also found it hard to believe that Donnigan had never been to church, and had literally zero knowledge of what went on in one. Neither of them knew what a hymn was or an altar, and they didn't even know what a sermon was... Just very hard to believe for a story that took place in the 1800s. People from that time would have *at least* had *some* knowledge about church, let alone the bible.

**Condensation:** Odd and short.

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### **Debbie says**

"A Bride For Donnigan" is a Christian historical set in the American West during the pioneer time period. It's a part of the Women of the West series, but the books aren't connected to each other so you can read them in any order. These novels are quick reads.

The setting and historical detail created a nice yet still somewhat vague (as to exact time period) backdrop for the events. The story followed Kathleen's life from seventeen-years-old until she has a large family of her own. Kathleen and Donnigan have to overcome misunderstandings about what they think the other partner wants out of marriage and the sorrows of losing and raising children.

The Christian element was woven into the story, and it was the focus of the story near the end. Kathleen and Donnigan both realize there must be a God, but they don't know anything about him and there's no preacher available. They glean what they can from the Bible and, after some misunderstandings caused by various Christians not clearly answering their questions, finally come to understand how to make things right between themselves and God.

Married sex was implied (as babies were born). There was a very minor amount of "he cussed" style of bad language. Overall, I'd recommend this enjoyable novel.

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### **Brooke says**

I guess my review is different than most because I got a bit bored with the love story part and loved the end better when they started to search for religious meaning to their lives. For me that was the good part. I got more and more excited as they, without any outside help or direction, gradually discovered their own faith and salvation. The ending made me cry, it was so sweet and joyous and wonderful.

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