



## **Once A Wife**

*Patricia Keelyn*

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At seventeen, Sarah Colby had been scared and desperate.

Her marriage to Reece Colby was faltering. They were nearly destitute and their infant son, Drew, needed on-going medical care they couldn't afford. Sarah felt her world crumbling around her. Then her mother-in-law, Elizabeth, offered Sarah a solution. Elizabeth would make certain Drew got the medical attention he needed if Sarah would walk away from her husband and son. Believing she had no other option, Sarah accepted Elizabeth's offer—though leaving them was the hardest thing she'd ever done.

Now, twelve years later, Sarah's still questions that decision. So when she learns that Drew's in trouble, she knows it's time to break her agreement with Elizabeth. Drew needs the mother he's never known and Sarah needs to help her son. But how can she face Reece after deserting him? And what will happen when he finds out about Lyssa, the daughter he doesn't know he has?

## Once A Wife Details

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Author : Patricia Keelyn

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# **From Reader Review Once A Wife for online ebook**

## **Michelle King says**

Grab the tissues! You're going to need them for this one!

This is a story of young love, heartbreak, and second chances. Sarah was 17 when she married Reece and 18 when she gave birth to their son. Drew was diagnosed with Juvenile Diabetes and needed medical care they couldn't afford. Reece's wealthy family had cut him off for marrying young and marrying someone of mixed ethnicity whom they felt was beneath him. Reece's mother came to Sarah one day and payed her off saying that she would take care of Drew and ensure he got the care he needed if Sarah would leave her son. It was the hardest decision Sarah would ever have to make but she chose to leave thinking she really had no choice as she had to do what was best for her son. The story picks up 11 years later when Sarah hears that her son is having problems in school and with his health.

This is one of the most well written books I have read in quite some time. The author makes you feel everything the characters are going through. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll empathize, and you'll feel the love throughout this book. I highly recommend this book and look forward to more from this author.

I was given this book from ebook discovery in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Wendy Livingstone says**

I received this book from EBook Discovery in exchange for an honest review.

This is an emotional and sweet read. Sarah makes the hardest decision in her life regarding Reece her husband, and her baby son. But now she is back!

A well written story and I loved the characters. Look forward to reading more from this author in the future.

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## **Heather says**

When you're young, over your head, and cornered into a situation could the only way out be to leave your infant son and husband? Maybe, maybe not but Sarah's mother-in-law has presented her with an option. Leave them and they will be taken care of, her infant son will receive the lifetime medical care he will need and be taken care of. That option and the knowledge that she is pregnant with a 2nd child, she knows there is no way for her and Reece to make ends meet. Sarah does the one thing she thinks she has to do. She leaves.

Now eleven years later, her son is in trouble and needs her. Can she return? Can she become Drew's mom? And will Reece let her? What will Reece do when he finds out she has hidden his other child from him? Can either of them find it in their hearts to forgive themselves much less each other to make a home for their children?

The story is a little on the slow side but it's still a fabulous story. Sarah's got a great back story with her Native American heritage and her grandmother. This wise women has great things to say. Her and Millie

were probably my favorite character's because they spoke their minds and were very observant to their surroundings.

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### **Paula Legate says**

I really enjoyed this book. I could feel all the emotions, and really connected with both the heroine, and hero of the story.

Sarah, and Reece was 18 and in love. they married when Sarah found out she was pregnant. Her son needed medical care they couldn't afford. Her mother in law, paid her to leave her son. it was the hardest thing she could ever do. she knew if he left, he would have the care he needed.  
years later she gets a letter from the cook saying her son was getting into trouble. she came to the ranch. she was not allowed to tell him who she really was. mother and son connected that summer while she taught him. he was behind in school, and reece hired her to tutor Drew.  
great book, with powerful emotions.

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### **Timothy Hendricks says**

This book is a perfect example of why I as a man like Romance stories. It isn't just about the love of a man and a woman; but includes the love of a parent towards a child and vise versa and how strong that can be. Also the love for a parent or grandparent. It also includes how important animals can be to our lives. I loved this story between Reece Colby and Sarah Colby. The two children Drew and Lyssa are so much a part of this story as well as the two Grandmothers, Elizabeth and Tuwa. Elizabeth was kind of the culprit that caused the rift that took place in this family; but Tuwa always encouraged Sarah to be truthful and to seek forgiveness. Tuwa was a source of strength that Sarah needed to deal with the situation she found herself in with her husband and children.

I have found Patricia Keelyn to be an exceptional author and I am now reading the next book in this series.

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### **Derricka says**

#### **Can I give this book six stars?**

This book is worth a six star rating! A real page turner, I couldn't put it down! I absolutely loved it!

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### **Steve Bender says**

I got this book free from eBook Discovery in exchange for an honest review. I thought it was a terrific book. There is lots of interaction with kids and ted path to the expected happily ever after. I could hardly put it down and was delighted all through the book. Highly recommended.

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## **Kristi Hudecek-Ashwill says**

Sarah and Reece were married and had a child at a very young age. Drew, their child, is sick with diabetes from birth and needs medical care, which they cannot afford. Reece's mother offers Sarah a great sum of money to leave Reece and Drew in return for Drew getting medical care. Sarah feels as if she has no choice and takes the deal without telling Reece that she is pregnant with their second child.

Fast forward twelve years. Drew is in trouble at school and is failing sixth grade. He won't move onto seventh grade unless he goes to summer school. Well, he gets thrown out of summer school for misbehaving and now has no way of moving onto the next grade without a tutor.

Meanwhile, Sarah has been kept abreast of what's been going on with Drew from periodic, secret letters from Millie, the live-in cook. She decides to go see if there is something she can do to help Drew. Luckily, she is a teacher now and she has the means to help him.

Reece is not okay with Sarah showing up but realizes she is the answer to Drew's school problem. He agrees to let her tutor Drew under the condition that she does not tell him that she is his mother. Reece and Elizabeth (Reece's mother) have already told Drew that his mother is dead. Sarah agrees. She doesn't like the fact that she can't tell him who she really is but she is desperate to reach out to him and get to know him, even if it is under the guise of being just a tutor.

It isn't long before Reece and Sarah discover that they still have feelings for each other. But Reece is engaged and Sarah hasn't told him that he has another child.

This book is a rock n' roller. There is so much emotion between all of the characters, including Sarah's grandmother, Tuwa. The whole story blends together like a fine dinner. Each character has something going on that affects other characters and putting them together was masterfully done.

The characters, including the kids, are strong and well-developed. As I mentioned, there is a ton of emotion poured into the pages and situations arise that made me wonder if I'd been able to keep a handle on it as Sarah did. The plot never wavers and the ending was wonderful.

This is the second installment of the "Mother's Heart" series but is a stand-alone novel.

This book was an easy, easy five stars. I absolutely loved it and am anxious to read the next in the series.

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## **Ester says**

When she left her husband and child she didn't know if she would return to them latter or not. Eleven years later after hearing that her son was having difficulties. After much thought she returned to her ex's home. As she returns she finds that she has trouble letting the child know that he is her son. But she has another secret that she stills need to confess to her ex. Things could turn out alright if they could admit their mistakes. It is a good book.

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### **Margaret Watkins says**

I received this book for free from eBook Discovery. I voluntarily reviewed this book. This is my honest review.

Once a Wife is a beautifully written book, digging deep down into human reactions and emotions, from an over protective mother-in-law, to the heart of a mother who could not turn her back on her child when he needed her most. I felt angry at the injustice of Sarah being forced to face impossible odds, and wept with her when she met her son and husband again. I felt her fear in facing her mother-in-law and the feelings of low self-worth as she worked through her deception in not telling Reece about their daughter.

This story is one of triumph over tragedy and second chances, covering issues such as teenage pregnancy, as well as social and racial prejudice. It also brought out how much influence a mother can have on a family, either for good or bad. Sometimes as mothers we have to let our dreams for our children go and allow them to live their own lives without interference.

I feel that I have been enriched having read this book and that this story will stay with me for some time.

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### **Rachel K says**

3.5 stars

For the most part, I liked this one. I thought both of them made really stupid decisions and both needed a smack (or three) upside the head, but it was a decent read :)

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### **Cynthia says**

#### **Another Great Book**

Patricia has put together another great story about second chances. They both were young when they married and their first child. But he has medical issues and his mother bought her off. She didn't want to go. But she was pregnant again. 10 years later her son needs her, but will it be too late to fix everything.

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### **Bette Stanek says**

3.5, but I'll bump to 4 because Reece and Sarah had to suffer his mother. =P Reece and Sarah married way too early. He was eighteen, she was seventeen. They were from opposite sides of the track. When Reece first brought Sarah home and introduced her as his wife, he was disowned and kicked out of the house. Reece did the best he could, but it wasn't enough to provide the medical treatment their son, Drew needed. That's when Elizabeth, the aforementioned mother, offer Sarah a deal she couldn't refuse.

Did Sarah make the right choice? Fast forward eleven years and find out. This one is a quick and touching read. There will be times when you want to slap someone (different someones at different times) upside the head. There will be other times when you're melting. There'll be a few times you'll be laughing. There were a few times I thought Sarah was more than whiny, but overall, this is an engaging story.

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### **Ellen White says**

Sarah how desperate she must feel to walk away from husband and son, who needed medical care. To the mother in law with such an offer, didn't she want the happiness of her son's family. Circumstances come to break the silence, and with an unknown girl, who didn't know her father. A powerful story, of being young, and feeling what options did she have. A tear jerker, that will compel you to read to the end.

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### **Maf (Bookworm Wanders) says**

Super quick read, the two main characters could have saved themselves a world of trouble if they hadn't been so stupid and secretive and proud and I am still a bit uncomfortable with the word they used when referring to Native Americans (the heroine was half Native American)

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