



## Ten Thousand Charms

*Allison Pittman*

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# Ten Thousand Charms

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## Ten Thousand Charms Allison Pittman Unfit for Love?

Pregnant—by a man who will never know or care. Gloria, born into a life of prostitution, sees only one solution: get rid of the child. But then she meets John William MacGegan, a miner, left with a newborn daughter and no one to care for her when his wife died during childbirth. So John and Gloria strike a deal. Gloria will care for Kate, and John will eventually raise her son. There is no offer of, nor seeking for, a hand in marriage. When John leaves the mines to seek his fortune in the new Oregon Territory , Gloria, Kate, and baby Danny must go with him. Yanked away from a life of prostitution, Gloria must finally face the pain that has always plagued her, and her longings for a home, a family, and a life free from shame. *Ten Thousand Charms* is a beautiful tale of an empty heart floundering...and falling straight into the arms of Christ.

### **Reader's Guide Included!**

## Ten Thousand Charms Details

Date : Published May 1st 2006 by Multnomah (first published March 24th 2005)

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Author : Allison Pittman

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Christian Romance

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## From Reader Review Ten Thousand Charms for online ebook

### Christa says

The premise of this book was so much like Francine Rivers *Redeeming Love* that I wanted to try it.

Gloria was born into prostitution, and finds herself pregnant with no where to go. She makes a deal with a madam to stay outside her brothel until the baby is born, and then work for her.

Her friend Sadie is a good at helping birth babies and helps her bring her son into the world. She is called to help a local couple birth their baby, but the mother dies. So the father, John, uses Gloria as a wet nurse. He is ready to leave the area, and offers to take Gloria with him. She agrees, as long as when the babies are weaned, he will raise her son so he won't be growing up in the same world she did.

There wasn't a lot of chemistry between John and Gloria. You could tell he was attracted to her, but that was about it. The spark just wasn't there.

I'd recommend just going and reading *Redeeming Love* and skip this one.

3.5 Stars.

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### Lorraine says

**SUMMARY:** Pregnant—by a man who will never know or care. Gloria, born into a life of prostitution, sees only one solution: get rid of the child. But then she meets John William MacGegan, a miner, left with a newborn daughter and no one to care for her when his wife died during childbirth. So John and Gloria strike a deal. Gloria will care for Kate, and John will eventually raise her son. There is no offer of, nor seeking for, a hand in marriage. When John leaves the mines to seek his fortune in the new Oregon Territory, Gloria, Kate, and baby Danny must go with him. Yanked away from a life of prostitution, Gloria must finally face the pain that has always plagued her, and her longings for a home, a family, and a life free from shame. *Ten Thousand Charms* is a beautiful tale of an empty heart floundering...and falling straight into the arms of Christ.

**REVIEW:** This is book 1 in the *Crossroads of Grace* series. Many readers may find the dominant theme in this book hard to read about as it focuses on prostitution during the development of the western US. But this has been a fact of life since Bible times with the temple prostitutes, and Jesus asked us to reach out to the least of these.

This is an engaging and well written story. Pittman has a great talent with words and detail and faith shines throughout the storyline as Grace is continually exposed to God's love through John, Maureen, and the church family. The chinks in her heart are opened one by one through each of them.

The main characters are gritty and real. Gloria struggles with leaving the only past she remembers behind and can't see any possibility that God can forgive her for the life she's led. John knows he's been forgiven for his past through the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ even though sometimes he falters. I loved how patient John was with Gloria as he realized she had no skills whatsoever beyond being a good mother to trek into the

wilderness with 2 babies. Maureen was such a sweet, loveable lady and served as such a wonderful surrogate mother and role model for Gloria. Strong in faith and rich in wisdom, Maureen was exactly who Gloria needed.

The abrupt ending was the only reason I gave this a 4 (really a 4.5) instead of a 5. I'm sure this was done purposely to coax the reader into book 2 in the series which it definitely achieved with me.

FAVORITE QUOTES: "We think our lives are in our hands...that we are in control of everything. But we're not. God is. And someday we'll have to answer to Him for every sin. Every wrong...And while I could never take bad all the wring that I did. I knew that God would forgive me for all of it. If I just asked Him to."

"Nothing on this earth every happens until God gives His hand to it...We can make all the plans we want to, can try to make people fit and fill our lives, but there's not a thing we can do outside his power."

"Funny how sometimes it is the people who love God the most that are the worst about lettin' Him do His work..."

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### **Hannah Avery says**

I really enjoyed this book!

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### **Janet Merrell says**

I had wanted to read this book for a long time, so was excited to find it on sale for my kindle. I enjoyed it overall. I liked Gloria and John William, and especially enjoyed Maureen. I didn't quite feel the connection with the characters that I expected, but am still happy I read it as I always enjoy this author.

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### **Bostonlotus says**

This was an amazing story of redemption, hope, and forgiveness. God's love touching a life and wiping away shame and doubt. As a Christian woman, I rarely find novels that tell a well-rounded story and share a meaningful message. Ms. Pittman succeeded in both, making the Word of God not only accessible but the gift that it truly is. Wonderfully done!!

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### **Rachel says**

I really enjoyed this Christian historical romance novel. It is written well and has well developed characters. In it, through a series of difficult circumstances, Gloria gradually finds faith in God, freedom from her past, and a future full of hope with a good man who loves her son as his own. I am looking forward to reading more of this series.

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### **Jill Johnston says**

Life on the frontier, real people, hard choices, and unrelentless grace.  
Definitely a recommended read for anyone looking for more than just a sweet Christian romance.

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### **Cassandra says**

3.5 stars

This book is compared to *Redeeming Love* by Francine Rivers. I can see the similarities but I think *Redeeming Love* is a better story. *Ten Thousand Charms* is an interesting story about a prostitute being needed as a mother and how she learns to accept true love.

I did have a question about the theology presented. One of the characters tells our heroine that "it's God and God alone that we sin against. You see? Not against each other. Not against our children" (299). Is this Biblical? I know she's referring to Psalm 51:4 but I'm not sure that one verse is enough to support an entire belief. If you don't sin against other people, why is forgiveness important?

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### **CarolynB says**

I thought this was an excellent story. It wasn't always happy, but life is that way. This is really a story of two people finding their way to God and to each other after pain-filled pasts. Allison Pittman is an awesome writer who will tackle unpleasant situations--all to bring glory to God.

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### **Carolyn Tye says**

Comparisons to *Redeeming Love* are probably unavoidable. In some ways I liked this one better. The character Maureen is wonderful, and I think this story maybe a little more realistic. However, the ending left me feeling the book was unfinished. Yes, she made her peace with God, but I feel more healing was needed between her and John. He needed to apologize to her. I think reconciliation was implied, but I would have liked to have seen it in print.

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### **Jennifer Marie says**

I was okay up till the end. **\*\*SPOILERS\*\*** Killing Baby Kate? Okay I know the author needed a reason to "test" the characters faith, but that just didn't do it for me, and then the ending itself I was just like...that's it?

Granted I don't read many Christian Romance novels, so maybe this is a standard ending, but I just expected something more.

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## Emilee says

I absolutely could not put this down! Fun-loving characters, gripping story line and a wonderful message of God's love! The hero in this story is so "real". I love to read books where the hero is the perfect gentlemen, has amazing self-control and who never gives up on his woman but that's more fantasy than realistic. This guy is not the most good-looking man she has ever laid eyes on, nor does he always say the right thing. He is just a "real" guy trying to get through life. I will be looking for more books by Allison Pittman.

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## Joleen says

### ***Ten Thousand Charms* by Allison Pittman**

**Time Frame:** I seriously don't know...pre-1890 for sure

**Location:** Wyoming Territory and somewhere in Oregon

**Main Characters:**

**Gloria:** Prostitute

**John William MacGegan:** Ex-boxer

Wow.

I love to finish a story and say that. Probably because I am sure it will be a memorable book. The title is a bit odd. It's three words from a hymn, seemingly unrelated to the characters or story. But if you know the rest of the stanza it would give an indication of what the theme will be.

### Synopsis

(view spoiler)

The characters were so real and so well described. Oh, Maureen was nearly perfect, but a lot of gentle, God loving older women are sweet and kind. But John William is not handsome, has messed up ears from boxing and is in no way perfect. Gloria is roughened, but in some ways fragile and really funny at times...not book-learned, but quite smart.

This book gave the gospel throughout the story. I've never read a book that gave so many clearly defined lessons on the grace of God, what His Son did on the cross, what salvation meant for so many people in the book, and the amazing love of a Father to allow his Son to die for people who could hardly believe they were worthy of that kind of love. Gloria had no good role models at any point in her life including preachers who used her body then shouted that a whore such as she should not be allowed in the house of God. But with the help of people who were not afraid to show her patience and love, she learned what her worth was to God.

Some reviewers were bothered by the prostitution subject matter in the book. But if Christians are bothered

by this, then they would be bothered by the book of Hosea, the story of Rahab, John 4, Ezekiel 23, even Revelation 17. The point is, no one is beyond redemption, and a sad life of prostitution brought before the cross of Christ can bring about repentance and thankfulness greater than many can imagine.

I loved this book. The ending was a bother to some, but honestly, so many epilogues are the same. They get married, have children and live happily ever after. I like the way this book ended. You see changes in two hearts that God will make into one joy filled future.

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### **Kate says**

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#### **Synopsis:**

Unfit for Love?

Pregnant—by a man who will never know or care. Gloria, born into a life of prostitution, sees only one solution: get rid of the child. But then she meets John William MacGegan, a miner

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### **Wendopolis says**

This is the third book by Allison Pittman that I have read. Her books (so far) have been consistently readable, engrossing, and clear on salvation. The characters are realistic and fully-fleshed, each with their own problems and weaknesses.

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