



Before You Meet Prince Charming: A Guide to Radiant Purity

Sarah Mally

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Companion Book: Before You Meet Prince Charming: A Guide to Radiant Purity, Study Guide

A young lady who is pure will shine with a radiant brightness in this world of darkness. How can a young lady stay physically and emotionally pure as she waits for God's best in marriage? This guide to radiant purity combines the thoughts and events in the life of a young princess with solid, clear teaching of Biblical convictions that young ladies today need to grasp. Through a captivating fairy tale, modern day examples, practical instruction and abundant humor, Sarah Mally challenges young ladies to turn to the Lord for fulfillment, to guard their hearts and minds, to identify and avoid the world's thinking and to shine brightly in this generation. This book offers Biblical answers to everyday questions and deep life struggles. It deals with many practical topics such as being wise in internet usage, dealing with crush, and building strong relationships with parents. Sarah Mally is a bright light in our day. Nancy Leigh DeMoss, Author, Host of Revive Our Hearts Radio "Before You Meet Prince Charming is a must read for every girl! Each of us sisters have been greatly encouraged through Sarah's challenging and easy to understand book." -Jana, Jill, Jessa, Jinger & Joy Duggar Sarah Mally is like a loving big sis to a generation of girls whose perceptions of love and romance have been seriously distorted by a culture intent on breaking their hearts. Before You Meet Prince Charming answers the big questions in a friendly, honest, and light-hearted fashion. We are adding it to our courtship reading list with pleasure. Dr. Jeff and Danielle Myers, President of Summit Ministries A sweet and delightfully humorous story . . . Creatively accomplished and very helpful. Gregg Harris"

Before You Meet Prince Charming: A Guide to Radiant Purity Details

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Sarah Mally**

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Sarah says

Just a few questions...

If this supposedly works, why is the author not married (at nearly middle age)?

How is one supposed to get to know a man well enough if you are not supposed to be friends with him or even talk to him at all?

This book just actually, completely, totally doesn't make sense. Unrealistic, not to mention out-of-date and practically impossible to follow. Nope nope and nope. My daughter(s), hopefully one day, will not be reading this. I met and married my very un-perfect but wonderful husband by having a better grip on reality: the knight in shining armor doesn't exist, and you cannot get married without **choosing someone** who you'll stick it through with. Nobody's perfect.

Hosanna says

I was excited to read this book when a friend said I could borrow it. =) And now that I've finished, I want to read it all over again! *Before You Meet Prince Charming* is a very clean, Christian book for young ladies on how to handle relationships with guys, how to remain pure, and how to focus on pursuing Christ during our single years. Each chapter starts off with a fictional story of a princess, showing how she determined to remain pure despite the temptations and long years of waiting for her Prince Charming to ride into the castle. This was one of the few non-fiction books that I didn't want to put down...the story helped to bring Sarah Mally's lesson to life and show concepts in a real-life example.

I really appreciated that this book was completely clean. I wouldn't hesitate to share it with my 12 year old sister, and, in fact, I will *encourage* her to read it. It doesn't just cover purity... Sarah writes about everything from the dangers of dating to how to have Godly relationships with guys and other topics. What really hit home for me was the fact that we shouldn't live life as if we're waiting for our Prince Charming. Jesus *is* the one Who loves us most, and we should remain pure and spotless as His bride! Even during our single years, we can be making a difference in the world and shining for Him. (as Sarah Mally is!) It really encouraged me to step out and make a difference, delight myself in the Lord, give up my dreams for His dreams, and seek a purpose bigger than simply marriage. I also appreciated her advice on how to handle the internet in a Godly way.

Overall, this is just a wonderful book! I really enjoyed it, and I am hoping to read through it a second time when I get the chance. =)

Jem Jones says

Okay. So I read this by myself, and now we're reading it as a family. I have... a few thoughts.

Firstly, I need to say: I *do* agree with a lot of what the author says. I think the dating system (in its regular state) is setting up teenagers for messy relationships and possible temptation. I believe that girls shouldn't give away bits of their heart to lots of other guys before the one they marry. I believe that marriage is between one man and one woman, for life, and we need to be really careful about the choices we make.

And YES, thank you, Sarah Mally, for saying that **girls' lives shouldn't be about waiting for Prince Charming.** There is more to life than that.

But. At the same time, the author doesn't suggest any alternative options about how to spend your life?? Getting a paid job is never mentioned. Tertiary education [which I guess is meant to lead to a job] is never mentioned. What *is* mentioned is "ministry". I'm actually not fond of that word: it's so *vague*. And from stories of the author's life, she and her sisters apparently spend their waiting time by going around playing their harp (!!) for old people.

[Okay so that was ONE INCIDENT and they were visiting their grandma or something, but I can't get over the fact that they play a HARP.]

Also, I really. Really. Dislike. ANY mention of Prince Charming, galloping dramatically on his white steed, coming to sweep you off your feet. In fact I'd go so far as to say I hate it. It seems to suggest that I have no agency in my own life; plus Prince Charming sounds like a super-arrogant and impossibly-[annoyingly]-perfect guy; plus I'm in my tower on PURPOSE and unless he's bringing food or more books, I'm fine thank you very much.

Anyway.

So, I agree that the dating system is not the best way to do things. Sarah Mally stated that, and recognised that some people will then ask "but how will I meet Prince Charming if I don't date???" An excellent question! (I assume you had to meet the guy somewhere before you could date him anyway... *sarcasm intensifies*)

But the answer the author gave was basically: church! or ministry! and God will send him!

Again, that's *super* annoying and vague. (For a start, not everyone goes to a huge church! some people go to tiny ones! where it's just old people and extended family!) But mostly I wish people would CLARIFY. God will send my future husband (if marriage is His plan for me) at the right time? Great! But will he come with a label saying "God's pick"?? How do I tell him apart from the other guys??

[Sorry. I get sarcastic when I feel too much. I don't mean to be disrespectful.]

And then you have the story.

Opening each chapter is a cute little pseudo-medieval story. Now since I haven't had *any* writing published, I really shouldn't be picking at it. But the opening info-dump! the *thees* and *thines*! (to be absolutely fair, the author put a 'not historically accurate medieval speech' warning in the front...) The cut-out characters!

The King - who knows the right thing to do, EVERY TIME, b/c he is her dad - lets her wander around the kingdom with just her horse and no guards, visiting the poor and sick... then warns her about the dangers of balls and the common people in general?? And *then*, he's either ignorant about the evil crocogator in the moat, or he's fine with his daughter talking to it?? (The crocogator, by the way, keeps putting wrong ideas

and desires into the princess's mind... and that's all the temptation she ever faces. No peers pressuring her or anything.)

And as another reviewer pointed out, the princess talks openly to her father (which is a good thing!), but she apparently has no mother?? Firstly, it's way more likely she'd talk to her mother - that's just how these things work! - and secondly, how is she supposed to know what a good marriage looks like if she never sees demonstrated??

[Oh, and there was ONE little cartoon that said something along the lines of "Make sure you wait for the right prince to rescue you!" Like WHAT. If you're in danger, i.e. need rescuing, RESCUE YOURSELF. And in fact, if the someone has faced danger to rescue you, *[you don't have to marry him!]* but WHY REFUSE TO GO???)

BUT, I guess the story/cartoons weren't the point of the book.

To sum it up, this isn't my favourite book ever. But it has some good points, a hilarious [basically I can't make eye contact with my siblings] pseudo-medieval story, and I'm sure it will stimulate some excellent and thought-provoking discussion as we read it as a family. (Hopefully discussing these things will bring me closer to my mother - and my father too.)

[If only I could stop making sarcastic/exasperated comments.]

[Note: I hope the author never reads this. I feel really bad. o_O]

[Update: wow this is the top review. THERE GOES MY HOPE OF THE AUTHOR NOT SEEING IT. O_o]

Do you have any comments?

Morgan says

Recommended for: single girls ages 12 to adult and parents of daughters

I've wanted to read this book for years, but I had never been very active about tracking down a copy. When I saw that they sold it at the Creation Museum, I naturally picked up a copy, but I was thinking "I'm twenty, I've pretty much defined my ideas on relationships. I doubt I really need this." But as I flipped through, I went, "Yep, I still need this." Luckily I remembered I still had a good bit left on the Visa gift card I got from my grandma for Christmas, or I never would have bought it. Because while it's true that I already knew a lot that was in the book, I did need it and I still managed to get a lot out of it.

Now, I've come across things in the Bright Lights handouts that indicate the Mallys seem to lean a bit towards legalism, but I didn't come across much if anything in this book that seemed overly legalistic. At least, nothing I hadn't already read in Bright Lights materials. (Honestly, the thing I most disagreed with was the implication in the bonus material that online friendships are fake. Because while you absolutely have to be super careful, it is possible to make good friends online. It's like a modern version of a pen pal.)

Essentially, what the book is about is staying truly pure and trusting God in relationships. It seems like basic stuff, but unfortunately, it's not really very common. I don't want to rehash the entire book, you need to read it for yourself, but I want to touch on the chapters that stood out to me the most.

Guard Your Heart

I honestly tend to have the opposite problem from what this chapter is really written to help you with. I tend more to hide from guys than to be overly familiar with them. But whether you're boy crazy or anti boy, this chapter helps. It talks about how to have friendships with guys without becoming emotionally attached in a romantic way. Things like keeping the friendship casual and focusing on the other person, not yourself. It's not bad to be friends with guys, but you absolutely need to protect your heart and keep it for the right one.

Could He Be The One?

Despite being a girl who was never interested in guys and never really developed any crushes, I do want to get married someday, and I want to know...How do you know if he's the one? Unfortunately, there's no hard and fast rule, and every situation is different. What this chapter does do is give you an idea of essential qualifications to look for in a spouse. Things like the essentials of marrying a strong Christian, and things like considering if your life missions are the same. But a bigger thing is: Are YOU ready for marriage? And if not, what things do you need to work on to get there? Because you can't expect a guy to be ready to be your husband if you aren't making yourself ready to be a wife.

When God Says Wait

This really stuck out to me because, well, I'm not in a relationship, don't see the possibility of one anytime soon, and I know I'm not really ready for one anyway. God is saying wait. Waiting is important. There are so many things we miss if we refuse to wait on God. God's timing is rarely the same as ours, but His is infinitely better. Still, waiting doesn't mean sitting around just...waiting. It means serving. There are many opportunities for ministry we have while we're single that we won't have once we're married. The morning after I read this chapter, I talked to my mom about the subject, and then immediately after when I got in the car to go to work, "While I'm Waiting" was playing on the radio. I guess it's a message I needed to hear!

Have a Life Purpose Bigger Than Marriage

Despite the fact that I don't even want to get married for at least a few more years, I still tend to think of my single years as filler. The years in between graduation and marriage. I think that's why this chapter stood out to me. It tells me not to hold back because, well, it's probably something I'll have to give up once I get married and start having kids because I won't have the time anymore. Use your single years wisely. I don't want to be thirty and unmarried, looking back and saying, "I should have tried harder at the things I was doing. I gave up opportunities I should have taken advantage of because I was afraid it would keep me from getting married or something." Because my life purpose, your life purpose, should be far bigger than marriage. It's about serving God in everything, surrendering to Him, and working for His kingdom, regardless of whether it's something you'll have to give up or put on hold should you get married.

Reserved For One

This chapter was really exciting to me. For a lot of girls, what they care about is how far they can go while technically remaining pure. But what it should be about is how much we can save for our future spouse. And that is immensely exciting to me. It's really amazing to think of saving as many firsts as I can for my future husband, more than just my first kiss. Sarah provides a list to get you thinking, things like first expression of interest, first words of affection or love, first special song, place, event or memory...How much more special will it be if we have all these firsts of a romantic relationship with the right one? I don't want to have any special romantic moment with some other girl's husband. As I told a friend the day after reading this chapter,

I want to be able to tell my husband someday that "there was only ever you." And that thought excites me.

This book taught me a lot, as well as better defining and reinforcing beliefs I already held. Because while I don't agree with the Mallys on everything (I do think completely getting rid of your TV is a bit extreme), they teach a lot that is of value. Before You Meet Prince Charming is well written, informative, and biblically based, containing many scripture quotes and references. This book is well worth the read for any single girl or woman.

For more reviews from me and my sisters, visit www.shirereviews.blogspot.com

Carmel Elizabeth Elizabeth says

The main problems I had with this book were the childishness, and the amount of rules.

Note: I didn't sit down and read this book the traditional way. I actually just flipped through and read a couple chapters at a time. Because of the subject matter, this was not a problem. :)

One thing that bothered me about the writing was that Ms. Mally tells us when and where to court, what to do, how to do it, etc. but she has yet to be married. I think that while for the most part she was right, (because she does say to trust God with your heart, and that is the core of any romance you want to be a part of) she got a little too caught up in the details, pegging the reader with do's and don'ts that get rather stressful.

I also found that the pictures and the little princess stories to go with them were to young to be put in a book with a topic like dating and marriage.

On the positive side, her views were mostly correct. I agreed with her in principle, (for the most part) but I didn't particularly agree with her way of carrying that out. :)

This isn't to say I totally dismiss the book though. It's inspiring to see a young woman passionate about helping other girls her age.

Morgan Duplechin says

First off let me just say I read this book against my will because I was told I wasn't allowed to buy any more books until I was finished with this book so it might contribute to my hatred of it. At first I thought this book might not be so bad, it started out with a cute little story about a princess who was beginning to wonder when God was going to provide her with a husband. I love fairy tales so I found myself smiling at the simple yet cute story. However, when the author would start writing her viewpoint at the end of each part of the fairy tale I began to resent this book. This is just my opinion but the author seemed to legitimately think that without being friends with or ever getting to know a guy he's just going to show up on her doorstep one day and ask to court her never having talked to her before. I'm not sure if she meant it that way but she also seemed to think that girls should spend their single years helping people in this best ways they can (which I do agree with) but she also stressed the point that women are meant to be helpers to their husbands and its our job to take care of our husband and children and in return our husbands protect us. At this point I was *mad. I strongly believe that girls do not always need men to take care of us and provide for us. Though some*

girls may be fine with that I'm more of a take charge type of person who would rather make or do something remarkable to be remembered by than to get married and spend the rest of my life taking care of kids. This is just my opinion and I don't mean offense to anyone but I simply thought this book pushed those topics a little too far and I felt the need to express my opinion on the topics. If anyone got anything different from this book please send me a message and I would love to discuss it with someone with different viewpoints from mine who might be able to help me understand this book differently. Happy reading! :)

Chiara Rose says

Okay, so I'm fourteen and I got about halfway through this book, a little over that. I think this book is more aimed for girls who have been raised in a Christian home. I have not been raised in a Christian home, so this book for me, was a little childish. I feel like it kind of sheltered issues. That's okay for girls who are younger or have been sheltered. I have been exposed to more sexual things and I have made mistakes, so I think a more mature book on purity would be more effective for me. I still recommend it for girls who have been more shielded than I have to lust and such because I really think this book would be great for them.

The only reason I have given this book a 3/5 is because it is a good book and it provides helpful assignments and such to exercise being a pure young woman and making good decisions, but it is aimed for a different audience. It makes references for parents to step in and assist and my dad is not present and my mom is not a Christian so that hindered me from really being able to follow some of the things Miss Sarah writes about.

Hannah says

This is such a good book! It's all about: waiting on the Lord, how to prepare for marriage, purity, finding true and lasting love in Christ, listening to your parents guidance, etc. I found it very interesting and helpful. It's a great book for teenage girls to read! Sarah Mally is such a great writer and she backs everything up with scripture.

Jenna Love says

this book was excellent. Ms Mally has been an incredible inspiration and mentor to me and her writing is awesome. This book is important and I hope that every young girl gets to read it. I see some people have left negative comments on it, and that's fine, everyone is entitled to their own opinion. But I realize nobody likes to think someone may be telling them there's a better way to live their life or they are doing something not according to God. Who wants to be told they are wrong? Even in the Bible when Jesus condemned people for their sins they lashed out against Him, of course people will do the same to us humans. But, that's because like Jesus said on the cross, forgive them they know not what they do...a lot of people do not KNOW they are living sinfully or the full extent of the punishment for it..and I admire this book because it helps open people's eyes and hopefully humbles people enough to help them be wise and learn from criticism.

Annemarie Donahue says

I wanted to put no stars. this book was just awful. Granted, I'm a married woman, who doesn't have to wait for Prince Charming because that's ridiculous, so this book isn't for me, however, this book really isn't for anyone living in this century. I mean, really? Is this what we teach girls? I'd rather my daughter understand sex, as the power responsibility and wonderful activity it should always be. But this was just silly. Get into your library and give your daughters a book on physics, or the Dangerous Book for Boys (it goes both ways, meh) or anything, but stop teaching her that sexual purity is an advantage to her someone... cultivate her mind that is the best attribute she will always have!

Annalise says

this had good teachings in it, but I didn't like the person writing it because she had no stories of her own to share. The impression I got from the book was that the author was saying, "I'm a perfectly pure, wonderful daughter and you should be just like me." Now, I know that's not true, but I just didn't like it. so no offense to anyone that does like this book.

Issabella says

I really enjoyed this book and would recommend it for all young ladies. It helps to clarify all the questions that teenagers and young adults are often plagued with concerning relationships.

Kira says

more geared for home-schooled girls but still great for any girl on why she should not dwell and waste her time waiting for a man and wait till marriage to be intimate. good teaching on how to live your life for God. will definitely have my daughter read this.

Sarah says

Ohhh goodness. I've been thinking about my review for this book for several months, to be quite honest. It's not that it's a hard read, but rather, it's difficult to put into words how exactly I felt about reading it.

To start off, let me say that Sarah is a wise young lady. She knows what she's saying, and she makes her points straight. I love seeing how God has worked through her ministry and this book, and I am blessed that I have been able to read it.

But I have a few small problems with the premise:

1. I don't agree with the plot of the "story." Let's see: you have a beautiful princess who is tempted by an alligator (or the devil) to chase after this guy, and to disobey her father (god-like figure), and she refuses. Every.single.time. She's portrayed as the "perfect" princess, always willing to follow her father's orders. Honestly this isn't realistic.

You see, in the real world there's sin. We're going to have temptation, and we're going to make mistakes. But we learn from them, and that's how we learn the difference between right and wrong. There was no real lesson learned in this book—the princess just does everything she's told, and lives happily ever after—and that's what confuses me. If we want girls to learn what this book teaches, we need to have better examples from characters that aren't "perfect." Because in reality, no one is.

There's also no female role model for the princess. The story mentions her mother only once or twice, but her mother is never there to give her advice from a woman's POV. The princess' father is the one who gives it, instead. I guess there's really no problem with that, but it just seemed off.

2.I also wanted to mention the views expressed on dating. I wholeheartedly agree that the dating system is not perfect, and I believe that we are in fact setting ourselves up for heartbreak by believing that a guy is going to fulfill our every needs, and by falling for the first guy that says hello. But I also don't believe all forms of dating are wrong, which I won't go into detail on, since the whole premise of this book is to explain how dating should be avoided at all costs. However, my problem is that, while Sarah says that dating is not the way to go, she gives little-to-no insight on what happens when you choose not to date. For example, where will you meet your significant other? The answer? "Church," or "God will send you the one when it is time." Hold up here. For starters, not a lot of people—even Christians—attend church very often, or know when to be certain that a man is God-sent. And second, have you ever thought that maybe it is not God's plan for you to marry in the first place?

While she supposedly spends the entire book expressing the point that a guy isn't everything in life, the way Sarah gives her opinion implies that it actually is. You see, you can't just expect a guy to turn up out of the blue, as if you've earned him by being godly. If you spend your time developing a meaningful relationship with God, instead of focusing on dating and relationships with guys, the only thing you are earning is a relationship with HIM. God is not going to give you a husband as a reward for remaining pure, and I honestly wish people would realize that He is more important than a husband in the first place. God will give you a husband if it's in His plan, and His timing—not your own.

I am in no way trying to hate on Sarah for her book, even if I did come across extremely judgmental with this review. It is amazing to see authors out there on fire for God, wanting to share valuable information with girls. I only wish she would have discussed more on how to spend your single days entirely for God, while focusing entirely on Him, and not on a husband as a reward for being a good and pure Christian. In the end, the relationship developed with God will be the only relationship that matters. Any romantic relationship—through dating or not—will be nothing in comparison to what God has in store for us.

Marybeth Bratrud says

no girl should read this.

Shantelle says

Before You Meet Prince Charming is a fresh, poignant look at romance, marriage, and waiting for Prince Charming. Rather than laying out the rules (though this is done somewhat), Sarah encourages girls to go as far as they can to remain pure for their future husbands, rather than going as far as they can without losing their purity. This book is also enveloped in faith; and Sarah points out that getting married is not the goal;

rather, growing closer to God is! :) Marriage is a gift in life, not the goal in life. So yeah, this book is just refreshing to fading convictions or people wondering if waiting is worth it. For the most part, it was a lovely and encouraging read.

As with most self-help/devotional books, I didn't find myself agreeing with absolutely everything in this book. But nothing was overtly against my beliefs or dead wrong or anything like that. So, while I didn't agree with everything, you can very much see Sarah Mally's heart for God and for pure and godly marriages and romances! :) It is touching.

Before You Meet Prince Charming is written for rather a wide variety of ages. Nothing explicit or really telling is said; so this book would be appropriate for younger girls. There's a sweet, ongoing story about a princess at the beginning of each chapter that would be especially appealing to younger girls. But it is also a book that can be helpful and thought-provoking for older girls and young women as well. All ages, perhaps! :) It's a thoughtful read.

I am happy to have found this book! *Before You Meet Prince Charming* is a shining instruction manual in a world of romances gone wrong!

Julie says

[disclaimer: before reading this review please understand I am EXTREMELY picky about what kind of media (or anything) I consume.]

gack. this was a piece of cheese, aged beyond good taste! if you are a person who likes reading books with intricate plot, cutting dialogue or anything that qualifies as "good" writing, stay away from this one. I couldn't finish this book (I stopped 3/4th's of the way through) because I felt like I was slowly doing two things: loosing brain cells and having the remaining pieces of my analytic skills smooshed into some kind of mass that only recognizes Disney fairy tales and cotton candy as reality.

let it be known that I found this..."book" revolting but I will mention a few of it's redeeming qualities.

[SLIGHT SPOILER ALERT] "Before Prince Charming" unravels by rotating chapter by chapter a story of princess' problems in courtship and a down-to-Earth commentary by Ms. Mally. as the book progresses, we learn through the princess' choices the consequences of impatience but also the benefits of listening to our parent's advice.

even if you are not a Christian, this book does give some smart practical advice if you want to find a decent partner to live your life with. unless you are someone like Nietzsche, I think anyone who has read this book will agree with the point that Mally does give some solid and practical dating advice. the author does pull a few unexpected tricks showing how people can create emotional bonds without realizing it. don't sleep with too many people, look for respect and someone who seeks harmony among all members of the family for a 99.9% chance of unbreakable stability (99.9% because, let's face it, nothing ever stays in one state forever) or your money back guaranteed.

I'd give this book to a thirteen year old or someone who does not read often. do not read this book hoping for enlightenment if you've been in successful relationships either, you probably already know what you are doing and don't need to waste your time. I came across this book because a friend recommended I read it and

I was curious. I thought I might find something useful in this book, I was disappointed and disgusted.

Ashley Elliott says

"Disappointed but not surprised."

I finally finished re-reading this book. I have so many thoughts on it. Review to come. Paired with wine.

Chloe (aka Crystal) says

This book is amazing! I learned so much.

Mrs. P says

I am quite surprised that this book is so approved and accepted. Realistically, this book was written by a young lady who talks a lot about meeting prince charming but she is not married at mid-age. I've read the book thoroughly, and didn't find any helpful views of marriage and courtship. It's a fairy tale where the dad is portrayed as the King (he is given the role of God, but there is no "God-figure" in the book). They are secluded from anything to do with life in the village, and things that are pleasures in life are considered sinful. That is never taught in Scripture. Also, there is nothing about her getting to know this young man, he is just approved by her father so she marries him. (Betrothal has worked for some people, but I've seen too many cases of it being terribly detrimental to support it.) There are so many girls out there who need something real, and this book gives them a drastically imbalanced view of life and relationships.

Don't give this book for your daughters, teach them the principles of the word of God and raise them to be happy, loving daughters that make a difference in the world. To keep the cloistered at home isn't healthy. If you want a truly realistic book about relationships that are Godly and will last, I would highly recommend Debi Pearl's "Preparing to Be a Helpmeet" and Eric and Leslie Ludy's "When God Writes Your Love Story."

EDIT: I don't mean to come across as sarcastic in this review or criticize Sarah Malley as a person. I just feel that she is confused on matters of life and love. I read this book several times before coming to these conclusions.
