



## Unclaimed Legacy

*Deborah Heal*

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**Unclaimed Legacy** Deborah Heal

Unclaimed Legacy

book 2

An old house + A new computer program = The travel opportunity of a lifetime...to another century.

## The People

Abby Thomas' 11-year-old student Merri is finally warming up to her. Her friendship with John Roberts is also heating up. He's definitely marriage material. Except for the fact that when she tells him about Beautiful Houses he thinks she's crazy.

Because a computer program that allows you to rewind and fast forward the lives of people from long ago is surely pure fantasy. Then John sees for himself that it's not.

Together they use Beautiful Houses to help the "Old Dears" next door with their family tree. Rummaging around in their history, they discover that the 85-year-old twins have been keeping a secret from each other since 1941. And the ladies' ancestors have a few secrets of their own.

Convicted in 1871 of murder and arson, Reuben Buchanan is a blight on the family name. But was he really guilty? Abby and John must get inside the mind of a murderer to find out.

But there are also heroes in the family tree—like Reuben's ancestor Nathan Buchanan. That doesn't mean he didn't have a few secrets, too. And Abby and John find one that's lain undiscovered for over 200 years.

## The House

It began life as Nathan's log cabin built outside the walls of Lewis and Clark's 1803 Camp River Dubois. It was added onto through the years, and at one time it was a stage coach inn called Shake Rag Corner. Today it is a condemned derelict. While watching its history unfold, Abby and John discover a legacy waiting to be reclaimed and that God's promise to bless a thousand generations is really true.

## Unclaimed Legacy Details

Date : Published August 17th 2012 by Createspace Independent Publishing Platform

ISBN : 9781478311492

Author : Deborah Heal

Format : Paperback 284 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Young Adult, Science Fiction, Time Travel, Mystery, Christian Fiction, Christian, Contemporary

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## From Reader Review Unclaimed Legacy for online ebook

### Victoria Lynn says

I enjoyed this book. I remember the romantic relationship being a bit more than I liked, but it was still innocent because 11 year old Merri is always there. It continued the story and was still interesting. I enjoyed the way the author explored some little known history in these books.

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### Meagan Myhren-bennett says

Unclaimed Legacy  
By Deborah Heal

Abby and Merri want to embark on another Time-Surfing adventure, but unfortunately the House Beautiful program is no longer working. When Abby and Merri tell John about the program he acts as if he thinks they are playing an elaborate joke at his expense.

But when Merri's dad again pulls a no-show John has a friend fix Merri's computer, but the House Beautiful program can't be repaired.

When Abby and Merri agree to house-sit for a week the House Beautiful program begins working on John's laptop and instead of Merri's house it is the house that they are house-sitting! The program opens on the year 1897 and Abby shows John how the program works forwarding them into the 1940s and the next door neighbors Beulah and Eulah are young women.

As Abby, Merri and John help the twins look for their Edwards family lineage they are stymied when they are unable to find a marriage record for Frances Ann Edwards and Reuben Buchanan or a birth record for their son Albert William Edwards.

But what they do find shocks them - Reuben was not only accused of arson and the death of a neighbor he was found guilty. Abby, Merri and John are determined to prove Reuben innocent. But their search for the truth is not pretty. Frances and Reuben's neighbor is a cruel man who uses Scripture as an excuse to beat his wife.

As Abby and John push forward in their quest for the truth, John discovers something that could reveal even more in the Edwards/Buchanan line that could bring to light an important piece of American history.

Unclaimed Legacy looks at a few harsh realities in American history. Issues that are never too far from the surface - bigotry and domestic abuse. But through it all Abby, Merri and John learn more about America's history through the House Beautiful program and they further delve into the history they observe using local resources such as libraries, museums, and genealogy records.

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### Faye says

Another time surfing adventure with Abby, Merri, John who use the mysterious computer program to solve a crime from years gone by.

Merri and Abby, along with John, are back and time surfing, in this all new adventure and this time they are determined to clear the name of a man accused of a crime many years ago.

I really liked this story and how it picked up not too long after the first book left off. I really liked the character of John because he was just so kind and respectful in the way that he treated Abby, and showed how much he cared about her, plus he was a great character in the first book and I loved that he was more prominate in this second installment. I really liked how in this story I got to see more of Miles Station, and learn more about the people in the town. I guess what I missed about this book, was that Michael wasn't really in it, and I had really liked him from the first book and was hoping to see more of him. So I'm hoping that he'll show up alot more in the third book :)

Overall, a great book for tweens, with a fun plot and well developed characters. I liked how in this book I could see how Merri was changing and growing still, even though the change wasn't as dramatic as in the first book, bust she's on her way :) This was a fun and engaging book to read, that can be enjoyed by a variety of ages, depending what you are in the mood for :) A great, fun read!

I received this book from Deborah Heal in return for an honest review. Thank you!

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### **LeAnne says**

I told myself I would just read a little bit before bed, but I fell in love with the Old Dears. The elderly identical twins love to cook, but somehow they misread recipes, and the results of their time in the kitchen are more welcome by the dog than their guests.

Abby and Merri of Time and Again are house-sitting the identical Victorian next door, and of course, they have brought along the mysterious computer program that lets them into a virtual reality view of the history of the house. But it is another house across from the site of the Lewis and Clark museum that interests them more as they seek to help the lonely Old Dears discover their family history and fill in their family tree.

Merri is no longer the angry teen she was when her summer tutor, Abby, arrived. She still misses the father her mother left Chicago to avoid, and yes, he shows up in this book, but the reunion is NOT what Merri has been hoping for. John keeps earning stars on Abby's imaginary husband-material chart, but runs off at the oddest moments. The puns and Beulah's practical jokes are groaners, but they made me smile. As a librarian, I must protest the Old Dragon in the genealogy department, but she IS only an assistant. I'm sure a real librarian would have behaved differently. All in all, its a fun read with a good reminder that God knows the truth even when others don't.

[I received a free copy of this book in exchange for my honest opinion.]

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### **Vera Davis says**

I loved this second book in the series even more than the first. The mystery of the events of the past make it a page-turner. I did find myself wishing I could follow the characters from the past further into their stories,

they were especially compelling, although I loved the characters from the present as well! This is a perfect book for curling up in a cozy chair and losing yourself in a good story.

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### **Vikki says**

This is the second in a series by an author who was new to me, Deborah Heal. This book continues with the same colorful characters, a new laptop, and more "virtual" time travel, even though Abby, Meredith, and John are only able to observe what occurred 200 years prior. Of course, history cannot be changed, but these visits to folks of a much earlier time helped Abby, John and Merrie bring long awaited peace of mind to the "Old Dears", twins, Eula and Beulah, 80 something, to find information that resulted in peace of mind, pride, and closure to rumors of old, that turned out to be just that, RUMORS. I'm enjoying this series and have added this author's books to my unending TBR list. This was an audible book and I also enjoyed this experience. Now on to Book 3.

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### **Dana says**

There are so many things I love about this book; loveable characters, wonderful humor, mysteries, romance, sorrow, history, modern technology and even time travel! Besides these favorite topics there were thought provoking serious issues to deal with including the plan of salvation, racism and abuse. I also especially loved how the Biblical topic of "wives being submissive" was explained so well. Even covering all of this the book was easy to read and one you don't want to put down.

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### **Lisa says**

Well, Deborah Heal has done it again, my friends. This book picks up exactly where Time and Again leaves off. The time travel element is a refreshing spin added into a Christian Historical fiction novel that is perfectly suited for any age, from middle grade on up to adults.

I love that you feel like you are learning a little bit about history while you are reading these novels. The historical elements are well-researched and the characters and situations are fleshed out well to work with the historical elements.

Ms. Heal does an excellent job of sucking you into a story that is filled with drama and fun little plot twists. You find yourself wondering by the end, just before you find out, what ever is going to happen with John and Abby. You have one of those "ah ha" moments when you find the answer to that question. You cry for Merri for the hand she has been dealt, and your heart will fill with awe and wonder at the things uncovered about the Old Dears.

This really is a wholesome, fun read that everyone should pick up and have as a part of their library. I absolutely cannot wait to see how the story will play out in the third book that I hear is coming!

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### **Joy says**

This book is different from what I usually read. It's a great tale of time travel using computer software, perfect for tweens. Adventure, mystery, and humor. You may even shed a tear or two. Abbi and Merri are off to Illinois where they meet 85 year old sisters who are researching their family tree. The girls offer to help and uncover something shocking. A fun read! Well written, the author covers many issues prevalent today.

I received a copy of this book free from the author in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Patricia Kemp Blackmon says**

Abby and Merri are upset because their virtual computer program is not working. Abby's new friend John brings one of his computer geek buddies to Merri's home to try to retrieve the program. But that does not mean John believes what the girls have been telling him about time traveling. Merri was very upset the program still did not work. She had so hoped to spend more time with Charlotte.

John suggests taking young Michael to his sister Lucy for speech therapy. When they take Michael for his first consultation Lucy asked Abby and Merri if they would be interested in house sitting for a week. They jumped at the chance to stay in Lucy's renovated Victorian Home. While there they are introduced to the very eccentric twin sisters nicknamed the Old Dears' that live next door to Lucy.

It was Abby's responsibility for watching over and helping out the Old Dears' and John was more than happy to help. One evening while on the computer John realized the program Abby had been talking about was now working. Now he believed her. The only difference it was focused on Lucy's house in the year 1897. Abby showed him how to navigate the program and fast forwarded it forty years. Lo and behold the Old Dears' appeared on the screen. But when it becomes uncomfortable for Abby to be spying into the lives of the Old Dears as young women she told John they should not watch them. They agreed there were other places they could time-surf.

So much happens after that day. They are not sure how to deal with what they were uncovering.

The author has outdone herself. I was so curious as to what she was going to come up with for book two. It is even more intriguing and mind boggling than book one. I was almost as giddy about it as Abby and Merri were. The new characters the Old Dears' are hilarious and have so much to hide. Yet the author in her unique way uncovers their past.

I hope there will be another book after this one!

I highly recommend this book.

I rated this book a 5 out of 5.

#### Disclosure

I received a free copy of this book for review from the author for review. I was in no way compensated for this review. It is my own opinion.

If you found this review helpful vote yes or no here

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## **Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says**

I didn't love Abby in the first book, for whatever reason I just couldn't relate to her or feel any kind of connection. I enjoyed the book though and the rich historical detail so I was more than willing to give the second book in the series a try and I am so glad that I did because I found from the very first chapter, that I liked Abby a little more than the last.

She grew on me. She wasn't the insufferable know it all that she seemed to be in the first book. She was more relatable and kind and I really was relieved about that because I really wanted to like her.

Merri was so much better too. No longer the spoiled brat she was in the first book. She was growing up and doing something about the way others saw her. She was making changes in her life for the better and Abby was right by her side helping her the whole way.

We also once again got to see John, who I really like. He is a great, kind character and I really enjoyed reading about him and his interactions with everyone, especially Abby. The sweet romance between them was very nice.

He also gets to help Merri and Abby as they are once again transported to another time through the computer system, only this time, the people they see, are people they know.

Twin sisters Beulah and Eulah, or more affectionately known as Boo and Yoo and of course, a whole slew of others as well.

I really liked the genealogy side of this one. It was so interesting and fun to read about.

There were a lot of sad moments in this one as well as Abby, Merri and John discovered things about the twins past relatives and their neighbors.

And there were some preachy moments that I wasn't expecting and while I don't mind a little religious talk this one did have a little more than I like but nothing over the top or overbearing.

The ending was a sweet one and left it wide open for another.

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## **Rebecca Graf says**

After reading Ms. Heal's, Time and Again, I couldn't wait to read Unclaimed Legacy. I had to know the rest of the story. I found it.

This story picks up after Time and Again. Abby finally gets to go on a date with John. Merri is out of her shell and really getting into the studying thing as they continue to explore the history around them. This time, John gets involved and they discover more about two sweet old ladies who live nearby.

I found myself crying as I read many parts of this book as it was very emotional involving spousal abuse, murder, and injustice. Ms. Heal once again takes the kids back in time where they find way more than they expected to.

This book was even more enjoyable than the first. I think it was mainly due to the fact that I already knew the characters and could focus more on the plot. My same praises can be said about this book. The characters

were extremely real and pulled you close to them. The history was amazing and had me wanting to look stuff up and investigate which is really cool.

This is a great Christian fiction read that you have to read this year. I do recommend that you read Time and Again first. So much will make sense.

Note: This book was part of a book tour with no expectation of a positive review.

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## **Judy says**

Unclaimed Legacy by Deborah Heal

Time and Again Series Book 2

Abby and Merri return for another adventure with the mysterious time-surfing software that seems to bring out the “soul” of a house. This time it’s the old Victorian they are house sitting that belongs to John’s cousin Lucy. Up to this point John didn’t believe Abby and Merri when they would tell him about their adventures to old time Miles Station but now that the program has been uploaded to his laptop and he’s seeing it with his own eyes....well let’s just say for some people seeing is believing. Although Abby would have liked for John to believe her without proof.

On this trip we are in Alton, Illinois and we meet eighty-five year old twin sisters, Beulah Mae and Eulah Mae. As our sleuths try and help the Old Dears with their family tree they run into information that isn’t so good. A bad apple on one of the branches.

Deborah Heal tells the story with a mystery to solve, humorous events and some tear jerking moments. She also leaves you with some interesting history facts. You may want to read book 1, Time and Again: Charlotte of Miles Station, to know the whole story about their first time-surfing adventures and how Abby, Merri, Michael and John meet.

<http://justjudysjumbles.blogspot.com/...>

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## **Fran says**

Unclaimed Legacy

Deborah Heal

( This is a great YA BOOK)

Promises to young children should never be broken and Merrideth learns once more the true meaning of loyalty, friendship and love as we revisit Miles Station and learn more about the computer program that brought her closer to her tutor, Abby in Time and Again by author Deborah Heal. As Merri is feeling left out when Abby begins dating John Roberts little does she expect to be invited on their date to lunch and to explore the town of Alton. As the story opens we meet both Abby and Merri and they discuss their relationship, John arrives and the three leave for a leisurely lunch that does not turn out as Abby would have liked or expected. But, when Merri is excited that her father is going to join her for lunch and Abby agrees to take her to the restaurant. Resilient to a point yet almost 12 years old, Merri is once again let down by her so-called father. A short text message stating he could not make it is all she receives but when John shows up with a friend they forge ahead to try and convince him that the program on her computer can take them back in time and his skepticism unfounded if his friend can fix it hoping to learn more about Charlotte from Miles Station. The program Beautiful Home invites the visitor to take a virtual tour of the old homes and go back in

time to visit and get to know the residents who lived there and experience some of the events of events in their lives. Did someone infect the program with a virus, was caused by the storm or just a simple malfunction? But, John is not sure if this program really exists and his friend offers to fix it but cannot. Just how will they reconnect with Charlotte and what happens you will have to read by review of Unclaimed Legacy to find out. But, another idea comes about and Michael reenters the story and we meet Lucy who is a speech therapist who is willing to help Michael overcome his speech problems and work with him with her special dog Dr. Bob. But, having to leave for a lecture she enlists, John, Abby and Merri to take over some of the duties needed in her house and that is where the real story is about to begin as we meet Eulah and Beulah Edwards two twins whose story will definitely intrigue the reader. The computer program to learn more about Charlotte might be gone but what happens when they bring the laptop to Lucy's house and fire it up you won't believe. The program might not work in Merri's house but it renews itself in Lucy's and the house on the screen is the one they are staying in or Lucy's house and the people they see are the Old Dears or the twins in the 40's and we learn more about their lives, the time period and an ancestor that was quite colorful to say the least. Added to that these two women are quite strange, eccentric and what they cook or bake is definitely not what you or anyone should eat. Staying overnight in Lucy's house would not only ignite the program for Beautiful House but it would reveal more about the residences and its history. Time travel even if virtual can really be exciting, educational and a great way to keep Merri on the right path. Added in is the fact that she is quite intelligent, wants to be accepted, is trying to lose weight, definitely looks better and her attitude about school and learning has improved thanks to Abby.

The program cannot be fixed but the end result will definitely surprise the reader as Abby, John and Merri refuse to give up on their quest to help the Old Dears and what happens when they bring the laptop to Lucy's house is totally amazing. In order to help the Old Dears with their family tree they need to do some research and going to the library, the Lewis and Clark Museum and going through many books helps them uncover some of the names of the relatives on the tree but not all. But, with one click of the wrist the program comes back to life and what they see will definitely give them more than just pause for thought. This program works and displays the house that the resident is in at that time. Whatever house they are researching and if you are in it the program will work and help you uncover what you want to know. But, will it help them to learn everything? What about what happened to Charlotte? Let's go back in time and take this second trip with them and find out what they learn about Eulah and Beulah and a secret that Beulah does not ever want revealed. Entering the home of the two sisters we see Beulah sitting at the piano that belongs to her sister playing my favorite piece Fur Elise. Eulah inherited the piano and the Yellow House too where this part of our story in virtual reality time takes place. Although the sisters are close one had no trouble finding a husband and the other did not. When Carl, Eulah's husband returns from War and enters the Yellow House he thinks he is greeting his wife. You have to read and picture what happens. Is it mistaken identity or just one sister wanting what the other one has even if it is just for a little while? As they learn more about their family tree they uncover someone named Priscilla but their visit is cut short since she is quite ill. Finding a Bible they learn about Frances Edwards their grandmother and then the story really heats up. Delving further they learn the true history of where they live and the fact that they are related to the first governor but there is much more. Bertram White and he was anything but wonderful to her as they witness an incident that if they could have stopped it he might have wound up anywhere but where he was. The author brings to light that spousal abuse is not something just relevant to the 21st century. We learn more about a man named Reuben Buchanan and his relationship to the sisters and to Frances. What they learn will cause them to look further as an article in the paper relates that he was arrested and tried for murder and arson. His young son was brought up by his grandparents and the family tree is still lopsided unless they can learn more about Reuben and find out if he really did commit the crime of killing Bertram White's wife or did he?

What they learn and uncover about the fire will definitely spark more than just interest as they learn about how Franny tried to help Mrs. White learn about the Bible and understand its true meaning. But, her husband had other ideas and then the fire broke out and she was killed. But, was Reuben really there? How can they clear his name after so many years? Added in is Merri's dad is arrested at lunch and she learns why her

mother took her away and much more. But, when Abby actually learns the truth and what happened she falls apart.

The history behind the Lewis and Clark expedition is added; Merri's essay is completed but the link between the sisters and the Buchanan's you have to read for yourself. The end result and whether they clear Ruben you won't get from me. Some research you have to do on your own to learn just how exciting one computer program can be, the knowledge you can impart to kids, adults and just how interesting it can be to create a family tree. One ending you won't expect and a family that just might surprise you.

Fran Lewis: reviewer

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### **Kathleen (Kat) Smith says**

Ever since Mother's Day my husband and I have been searching Ancestry.com to try and figure out just how far our own family tree goes back in time. Rumor has it from my husbands side of the family that his distant relative may have been William Clark from the famed Lewis and Clark expedition and that is just where I found myself today after reading Deborah Heal's latest novel, *Unclaimed Legacy*.

In this sequel to *Time and Again: Charlotte from Miles Station*, we revisit Merri and Abby who have come across quite an unusual computer program that has been installed on Merri's computer called *Beautiful Home*. With it, they can log into the program in old homes and take a virtual trip back into time and view what life was like for the people who lived in that particular home. Now that they haven't been able to get it to work in the Miles Station home any longer, they think the program has malfunctioned or gotten a virus.

They consult with John Roberts, a young man that helped them out in the first book and whom Abby has a bit of an attraction for to help them fix their computer. He brings along a friend who tells them there is no such program called *Beautiful Home* and offers to de-bug their computer anyway. Since they can't get the computer program to work anymore they set out to work with a neighborhood boy by the name of Michael who has speech problems and is being bullied at school. When they meet his mother, who is deaf, they make the connection that Michael's speech problem can be fixed by working with a speech therapist by the name of Lucy.

Since Lucy is so busy, she asks Abby and Merri to house sit for her and take care of her young dog named Dr. Bob. While there she reminds them of some older ladies named Beulah and Eulah Edwards, twins who live next door and who are a bit intrusive, harmless and eccentric. She advised them, not to eat anything they cook, since most of the time it's not edible and to help them out whenever they can. It's not until they stay over night that the computer program for *Beautiful Home* once more is working but this time it's there current residence that has a bit of history to reveal on its own.

This is where the story gets interesting and the reader is taken on a fictional time travel of sorts where the author, Deborah Heal has taken pieces of real life history and woven them into the story to create a fantastic story geared to keep the reader entertained and on the edge of their seat through the whole book. I've been delighted to be given a sneak peek into this sequel due out this year for young adults and have to say I adored every single bit of this. It has just the perfect blend of history and action packed suspense to keep young

adults glued to the pages as they work with the characters Abby, Merri and John to uncover a crime from history and a mystery of a secret intruder who stakes out the Shake Rag Corner Stage Coach Inn in the late night hours searching for something.

I received an Unclaimed Legacy compliments of Deborah Heal for my honest opinion and being both a lover of historical fiction and young adult books, I think she has mastered a home run here. This one easily rates a 5 out of 5 stars for me and one I anxiously await our coming school year to have my 13-year-old daughter pick up as both a part of literature and history. I think that's what makes this book so incredible is its ability to translate a love of reading with a fascination for history and I hope it will work it's way to the top of the best seller lists for young adults.

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