



Seven Brides for Seven Mail-Order Husbands

Cynthia Hickey , Susan Page Davis , Darlene Franklin , Gina Welborn , Carrie Fancett Pagels , Patty Smith Hall , Susanne Dietze

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Meet seven of Turtle Springs, Kansas, finest women who are determined to revive their small town after the War Between the States took most of its men. . .and didn't return them. The ladies decide to advertise for husbands and devise a plan for weeding out the riff raff. But how can they make the best practical choices when their hearts cry out to be loved?

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Seven Brides for Seven Mail-Order Husbands Details

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From Reader Review Seven Brides for Seven Mail-Order Husbands for online ebook

Kelly Tyree says

Seven Brides for Seven Mail Order Husbands Romance Collection was incredible. I cannot say enough good things about this book. It features seven stories and each are wonderfully written.

A small town in Kansas has lost many of its men to the war. The women decide to post an article for mail ordered husbands. The husbands come and are interviewed and the women select who they would like to court. This book takes seven of those women and tells their story. I loved each one. The characters are so great and you just get caught up in each story. Each story references the other characters and it all culminates into one great story at the end.

This is a wonderful book that I would gladly give a five star rating. If you love historical fiction, this book won't let you down. Loved it.

Wilani Wahl says

What a unique story line. I loved how all seven authors wrote about the same town at the same time and the characters appeared in each story. I also found this to be so fun to read. At times I was laughing so hard as I read and then crying at other times. It was like I was right there in Turtle Springs, Kansas.

Cindy Nipper says

Incredible stories of the devastation of the Civil War and the women who rose above it!

Abigail's Proposal by Cynthia Hickey

A wonderfully sweet story! I loved how the Sheriff couldn't decide what he wanted but God kept pushing him in the right direction! The Mayor knew what she wanted from the beginning but had to trust God to fulfill her heart's desires! I'm looking forward to enjoying the rest of this anthology! This was a great way to start it!!

The Kidnapped Groom By Susan Page Davis

I laughed a lot during this book and even had to share a bit of the story with my husband to explain my laughing out loud!! A great story that pulled me in right away! Those boys were perfectly described and I could see my own son responding that way! Truly a great novella and I love the whole concept of this anthology!

A Clean Slate by Susanne Dietze

A brilliant story full of forgiveness, and growing in both mind and spirit! I loved the loose piglet escapade and the secondary romances going on all around them! Of course the final schoolhouse scene was my favorite!

Sunshine of My Heart by Darlene Franklin

So sweet! I loved how they knew right away they were meant for each other and trusted God on the timing! Just a beautiful story of tender love that grows and strengthens!

Come What May by Patty Smith Hall

Stubborn men! Oh, this Luke frustrated me to no end! He loves her but doesn't feel worthy enough for Chardy because of his disability from the war! I just want to strangle this guy! Sure glad this story finally had a happy ending!! The brothers on the other hand impressed me with their wisdom beyond their years and their love for their sister! I love books that make me emotional! And this one definitely did that!!

Dime Novel Suitor by Carrie Fancett Pagels

A wonderfully funny case of misunderstandings let's a British nobleman take on the role of fiance unbeknownst to him. But God leads them down the right path despite their confusion! I really enjoyed this book! I look forward to reading more of hers!

Louder than Words by Gina Welborn

I had a harder time getting into this book with so much detail in the beginning but it was worth the effort and was a wonderful book! I especially loved the private picnic and the ending (although it did end rather abruptly)! That Jane is an amazing woman who deserves a man like him! Two people who are quite opposite of traditional roles make a wonderful couple together!

Susan says

This is a wonderful collection of novellas. In the year following the Civil War, the women of Turtle Springs, Kansas take fate into their own hands when they advertise for husbands. They plan on holding interviews or auditions when choosing which man will be allowed to court them. These women have learned to be self-reliant when their men did not return from the war. Each novella tells a story of strong women who want to find someone with whom to share their life. But in this search, they learn that God is in control, that He has a plan for all. These are stories of hardship, heartache, perseverance, forgiveness and trust. There are laugh out loud moments as well. Although each story is complete by itself, they are interwoven into a much greater story of hope in the future of a once dying town.

I look forward to reading more books written by the authors of this collection.

Andrea says

Amazing Collection! Each novella is it's own story but connected to the others through the community and their shared hardships. I loved how the characters interacted with each other throughout the whole book.

The town of Turtle Springs, Kansas lost most of their men to the Civil War, some to illness. Mayor Abigail Melton and the other women place this advertisement in several papers. WANTED: MEN TO AUDITION AS HUSBANDS. TURTLE SPRINGS, KANSAS. AUDITIONS HELD MAY 25. ONLY GODLY, UPSTANDING MEN NEED APPLY. CHECK IN AT MAYOR'S OFFICE.

Not all of the brides and grooms meet at the auditions. Some aren't even looking, but find love anyway.

There are happily ever after endings, there are some very suspenseful moments, there's even a kidnapping or two. Funny moments and heart-tugging moments are found in this book as well.

You can read a synopsis of each story in the description, I've decided to share a few of my favorite lines from early in each novella, I don't give any spoilers.

Abigail's Proposal by Cynthia Hickey, I liked this scene on page 28. With a tilt of her pert chin, she headed

back outside, leaving him to follow as if he were her obedient watchdog. Shaking his head, he did as she expected. Why? He had no idea. No other gal in all his life had him tagging after her. Ever. What was it about Abigail Melton that had him disregarding his vow to stay away from women? The more time he spent with her, the less he wanted to stay away. (Thoughts of new Sheriff Josiah Ingram)

The Kidnapped Groom by Susan Page Davis, I loved the Piner boys. I laughed when I read the line on page 70, "We're not stealing nothing, mister. In fact, you can thank us. This is your lucky day."

A Clean Slate by Susanne Dietze, there are a couple of unexpected surprises that I really enjoyed in this story. The line I chose is on page 136. Shoulders sagging, Miss Green looked up at Drew. "Thank you for the information, Mr. Cooper. You've protected Frieda from a grave mistake. I wish you well finding a bride in the auditions."

"Oh, I'm not here for the auditions." Drew peered down at her. "I'm her for you, Miss Green."

Sunshine of My Heart by Darlene Franklin had several lines I liked. This one is thought by potential bride Debbie, while she's getting ready for the auditions. On page 192 (already knowing that only Godly men were to apply for the auditions). Was is vain to want someone who was good-looking, who tickled her insides just by looking at her?

Come What May by Patty Smith Hall. The line that left a tear running down my cheek is from Luke Collins on page 258. Cool evenings swinging with Chardy on the front porch, talking about their future and making plans. Holding hands in her father's parlor. Luke had fallen in love with Chardy there. Now those memories were of a life he couldn't have.

Dime Novel Suitor by Carrie Fancett Pagels is the really good story of Caroline Kane, owner of the inn/restaurant, (the center of all the husband auditions) an over-worked widow (not looking for a husband) with five younger siblings to care for as well. I really loved the misunderstanding that is at the center of this story. One of my favorite lines is Caroline, thinking at the top of chapter four, page 328. Early June 1866 "Who'd have thought the image of a man washing dishes could be so attractive?"

Louder Than Words by Gina Welborn is a most interesting story of a self-sufficient woman Jane Ransome, who happens to be one-quarter Shawnee. It is also the story of reporter J.R. Lockheart. The line I'm choosing to share is something J.R. says on page 384, just before his boss lets him go. "When I was fifteen, I started writing abolitionist pamphlets to end slavery. This morning I finished a three-page ballad about a butterfly. 'She was happy and fair, graceful and gay, sporting the summer of bright youth away-'" J.R. Groaned, unable to continue reciting the words he'd forced himself to pen. "I'm tired of writing about butterflies in hopes of temporarily distracting readers from the horrors none of us can forget."

I love the exciting way J.R. meets Jane. Another of my favorite lines is on page 404: This confident yet mysterious Indian maiden had a story to tell.

Before he continued on to California, he'd find out what it was.

Bottom line. For me this is a great read, I recommend it to those who love post-Civil War fiction and Inspirational romance. You can take your time and read each novella slowly over several days or read it all at once like I did.

*I requested and received this book from the publishers through NetGalley for personal review. All opinions expressed are entirely my own.

I was then given a print copy as a gift, I will treasure.

Julie Carpenter says

What do you do when almost all the men in your small town went off to fight in the civil war and didn't return? When you are put in as honorary mayor until your father, the elected mayor, returns...but he doesn't. Life has turned completely around for this small town and all the occupants living in town as well as the farmers and ranchers living outside of town.

Abigail Melton is trying everything she can to help her town survive and the people thrive. Yet when your town consists mainly of women and children it's a struggle to make ends meet and keep up with all the labor of running farms and ranches. If only there was some way to help bring men to their town so the women might find suitable, God loving, hard working and family men to become their husbands.

Wait, there is!! It's so simple...instead of mail order brides she'll advertise for mail order husbands to come audition for the chance to court and wed the lovely ladies of Turtle Springs, Kansas. Perfect! This will solve everyone's problems and bring life and joy and light and vitality for everyone!

Such a fun premise for a collection of novellas! I had previously read a couple of these authors' work before so I was excited to read more by them and discover new authors. There are 7 stories for seven brides and I really enjoyed the way the stories interconnected. The first story sets the foundation for the setting, the characters and the premise of the collection. Abigail Melton has her hands full trying to coordinate everything, be the mayor, help her mom and sister, keep crime under control, and a handful of other demands. As the day gets closer for the auditions, more men keep showing up and of course that can cause trouble.

The women characters were a hoot. Some were just fun and spit fires and others wore their hearts on their sleeves, while others held their emotions closely to their hearts. Each story features a different woman in the town and follows her from the time of the auditions or just before the auditions. I loved how each story showed little snippets from the previous story's timeline. It was great! And the men that come to Turtle Springs, they were perfect! Loved the different backgrounds of each of them and the way they were able to fit right in with the town and find a perfect fit for them.

While I enjoyed the collection as a whole and the novellas individually, I have to say I have a couple favorites. A Clean Slate by Susanne Dietze and Come What May by Patty Smith were my top two favorites, but really all 7 were well written and very sweet and fun romances. Each book deals with healing, heartache, learning how to move forward, saying goodbye to the past, trusting God and His will for us, and even some suspense in a couple. Well worth the time spent if you enjoy collections like this. The writing style between the different authors seemed to flow pretty smoothly and it wasn't an abrupt transition from one book to the next.

Content: Clean. Some sweet kisses, a couple fights but nothing graphic. Talk of God and His hands guiding our lives as well as characters learning to trust in Him and rely on His love.

I received a copy from the publisher, Barbour Publishing, via NetGalley. All thoughts and opinions in the review are my own.

Happy Reading!!!

Amy says

Seven Brides for Seven Mail-Order Husbands Romance Collection is a fun and sweet collection. When the Civil War takes the men of Turtle Springs, Kansas, seven women decide to post an ad for husbands.

Each woman has a story to tell in the collection. Which are:

Abigail's Proposal by Cynthia Hickey

The Kidnapped Groom by Susan Page Davis

A Clean Slate by Susanne Dietze

Sunshine of My Heart by Darlene Franklin Come What May by Patty Smith Hall
Dime Novel Suitor by Carrie Fancett Pagels Louder than Words by Gina Marie Welborn

I liked this book and I think it is one of my favorites of the romance collections that Barbour releases. All of the stories follow one another, which I enjoyed. They are all well written, keeping my interest throughout. I thought they all were great and I just can't pick one that I liked best.

Great collection!

5 stars

I received this book from NetGalley. This review is 100% my own honest opinion.

Julia says

Seven Brides For Seven Mail Order Husbands is a wonderful set of seven delightful Historical tales by seven different authors. All the stories are set in Turtle Springs, in the aftermath of the American Civil War, and have the same core. It was wonderful to read seven unique tales about the same event.

The stories all had similar themes of recovering from war, trusting God, facing fears, new beginnings and more. The characters were all warm and welcoming.

Did I have a favourite story? No. Each one was a wonderful offering and I could not possibly choose.

A perfectly delightful book.

Abigail's Proposal by Cynthia Hickey is a most delightful tale to kick off the collection. It sets the scene for the tales to follow. It had a light hearted feel to it with wonderful warm and welcoming characters. It warmed my heart.

The Kidnapped Groom by Susan Page Davis is another wonderful tale. It had themes of family, love and hard work. A wonderful feeling of community which I loved.

A Clean Slate by Susanne Dietz is a delightful offering. The American Civil War divided not only the country but families. The end of the war left heartache and anger. Families felt loss but also needed to extend forgiveness. Faith and forgiveness go hand in hand because we are all sinners in need of a Saviour. There were some wonderful moments involving the children. A real heart warming tale.

Sunshine Of My Heart by Darlene Franklin is another delightful offering with a warm family feel to it. The war robbed people of so much and this story focuses on new beginnings. The past is gone but the future awaits. A wonderful read about the faithfulness of God. "Wherever we are, God is there - He doesn't change."

Come What May by Patty Smith Hall is a tale showing how God is the God of restoration. We need to trust that His plans are so much greater than ours. We do not need to shoulder our burdens alone. There is a wonderful family feel to this tale and I adored it.

Dime Novel Suitor by Carrie Fancett Pagels is a delightful offering about following God's plans. It has a real fairy story element to it with the arrival of an Englishman in Turtle Springs. There is a mix up in communication which is obvious to the reader but oblivious to the characters. A delightful tale that will warm your heart.

Louder Than Words by Gina Welborn is another wonderful tale which I found had Jane Eyre and Mr Rochester undertones at times. The story has many godly themes including those of trust, grace and fear.

"You've limited God's grace to man-size proportions... and allowed your fear to grow into God-size proportions." We need to take our eyes off our fear and put our trust in God. Faith and fear cannot exist side by side. There was a wonderful warm community feel and this was a perfect end to a fabulous set of stories.

I received this book for free. A favourable review was not required and all views expressed are my own.

Bree says

I read a lot of these collections. They all have sweet romances, some suspense and of course the joy of Faith. But this was the first collection that read like an entire book, a union of one theme. It was amazing. Truly just amazing. The War between the states, and many that followed cause the male population to decline, these authors gave such a fresh spin to history with their stories.

Men were sparse, the war had taken many to their early graves leaving a town of women, ran by the former mayor's daughter. She has a brilliant plan to do a reverse mail order bride plan. Girl Power! Sorry, got excited thinking how cool it was to have all these women running a town smoothly, only wanting the company of a Godly man, and the prospect of building their family. They did NOT need them to run the town, this made the collection instantly a favorite for me. It had all the elements that make a romance, a favorite read for me.

The stories were all based around the theme of interviewing the men, finding love and strength. So to my surprise I was finished within a day, and felt as though I had just read the best new romance story. Each story was their own characters, and plot. But they blended they flowed together. It was as though all these authors sat around a table and compared notes, researched, formed and created together. It would be hard to say that I had a favorite, but Suzie's story with the school teacher was wonderful, and of course Cynthia Hickley's story set the bar high for these stories.

It will be hard for a collection to come along and surpass this one. It was exactly what the publisher needed to create for its readers. I think all these authors need to work together on at least five more collections such as this.

Diana Montgomery says

This book has been filled with many great novella's by many great authors. Seven Brides for Seven Mail Order Husbands is a great collection of romance stories from the time of war and whats left after the battle. In this time in history mail order was a great ideal to pull men to a area where women are needing husbands to finish up the family. Plus to help them in their lives. Sometimes even true love comes out. I loved this book was well written by seven different authors each telling a story of a bride. Characters are well written.

Melissa Henderson says

A nice collection of stories. What happens when women decide various ways to find husbands? Posting ads could be the way to happiness. Each author tells a different story and brings all the characters to life in unique ways. I enjoyed these stories. I received a copy of this collection from Net Galley and this is my personal honest opinion.

Regina says

Seven Brides for Seven Mail-Order Husbands by Seven Talented Authors!

It is 1865 and the war is happening between the states.

What is Turtle Springs, Kansas supposed to do when it loses most of its men to the war? One woman has the answer. One woman will solve the town's dilemma by posting an ad for mail-order grooms. Seven Brides for Seven Mail-Order Husbands will take you through seven women's stories to find the groom they desire and want. Each of these authors has penned a series of novellas that range from mysterious, delightful, adventurous, funny, riveting, and yes – all of the grooms are handsome! Each of the stories will leave the reader happy and wanting their own mail-order groom (if you're not married that is!).

There were two quotes I found inspiring:

Dime Novel Suitor by Carrie Fancett Pagels

"I believe God knows all things, He love us all. We are in a war with darkness. God knows the devil's plans. He'll take us to the heavenly realms when our lie on earth no longer is the place for us to be. We're here but an infinitesimal time, compared to His eternity. We have to trust that God knows why and when we must join Him in glory."

Louder Than Words by Gina Marie Welborn

"Marriage was the fertile soil in which love grew."

Disclosure statement:

I receive complimentary books for review from publishers, publicists, and/or authors, including Netgalley. I am not required to write positive reviews. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.

Karen R says

A delightful collection of all new stories!

Based partially on the reality of the aftermath of the Civil War, when so many young men died, the setting of a prairie town full of mostly women desperate enough to "audition" men for the job of husband, and sometimes father, seemed rather authentic. What a way to pick a mate. It was like historical speed-dating!

The variety of men who came, sometimes rather unwittingly in a few cases, were an interesting mix, from wounded warriors, former soldiers, cowboys, gentlemen and would-be farmers, just looking for a chance to start over. I enjoyed reading about the many capable, brave women who had been given so much responsibility in the absence of their fathers, brothers, and husbands in some cases. The stories helped me understand the hardships many faced following the war, on both sides, from lingering prejudices, financial difficulty, hard work--especially the homesteaders and farmers--and the pressure to care for their families on top of it all.

They were all enjoyable tales, overlapping from the start of the "audition" day in May 1866. I especially liked the last two stories, with more of the history mixed in. The shopkeeper's story was good too with the return of a wounded warrior and lost love. Some of these would make good full length novels.

(See comments below for more details.)

Readers who enjoy clean historical romances with some faith elements will probably like this collection. 4.5 stars

(An e-book was provided by NetGalley and Barbour publishing. All opinions are my own.)

Mary Jackson _TheMaryReader says

I only read Carrie's novella and Cynthia's novella. I am fans of both these authors and I enjoyed both of them.

I highly recommend this book just for those two novella's alone. I found my self lost in Turtle Springs, Kansas, not wanting to leave. Dime Size Suitor By Carrie Pagels was a page turner, I have to say the only bad thing was it ended way to soon for me. I wish just a few authors had wrote this in place of seven different ones.

Abigail's Proposal by Cynthia Hickey was the same for me, it ended way to soon for my liking.

After reading these two novella's in this book I have to say Great authors should refrain from writing novellas.

I gave these novellas' 4 stars if for no other reason pick up this book just for these two novellas'.

The Mary Reader received this book from one of the authors for review. A favorable review was not required and all views expressed are our own.

Deanne Patterson says

This was a really fun collection of seven stories by some of today's most popular and entertaining Christian fiction authors. I loved how all the stories took place in the same town, Turtle Springs, Kansas. The women of the town are honest in their advertisement of needing men as their men had gone off to fight in the Civil War and hadn't returned. They interviewed prospective mates for 15 minutes at a time but didn't always suit each other so they went on to the next until they do suit. Such strong heroines who must keep the homestead running in times of adversity. There is a good feeling when you read these stories and there is humor in them. I recommend to all Historical Christian fiction readers.

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Thank you to NetGalley and Barbour Publishing, Inc. for a review copy in exchange for my honest review.
