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Not This Time: A Contemporary Christian Romance (Love At The Lake Book 1)



Synopsis

Amie Reynolds woke up on her wedding to find a note from her fiancé that he left the country. With the engagement and wedding off, the constant parade of sympathetic platitudes made it impossible to forget she'd been jilted. Needing an escape, she moved to her aunt's lake house for the summer. Drew Sullivan's return to Jasper Lake one hot summer day had everyone talking, but he wasn't giving answers. His plans didn't include romance, but neither did they include Amie Sullivan. Fortunately for him, he'd learned to be flexible. Romance blooms, but when Amie discovers Drew's secret, will the trust between them be irrevocably broken? Please note: this is a significantly revised edition from that which appeared in the Whispers of Love collection.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After disappointments elsewhere, Drew and Amie both return to Jasper Lake, the site of their youthful romance, and quickly rekindle their romance. (Though reviews are inherently subjective, I prefer to provide some organization to my opinions through the use of a personal rubric. The

following notes may contain spoilers.) Plot and Setting: 4.5 -- Plot has unique elements and no major holes, but a few shaky bits. I love that we avoid most of the conventional irrational behavior when Drew's ex shows up, and that Drew and Amie are both solid enough in who they are to have barely a doubt. All the same, I find myself slightly dubious that 2 people who were each prepared to marry someone else in May are ready to be married to each other in October. Sure, they knew each other years ago, but still. Setting is clear and believable. I like the cheerful small town feel. Characters: 4 -- Main characters are relatable, realistic, interesting, and dynamic. Both have had their trust badly broken recently, but they each find that they can trust the other pretty quickly. They also each have their strengths that make them good at their jobs, though neither is working at the moment. Some minor characters have depth, while others may be slightly stereotyped or simplified. Glimpses of depth in Aunt Sally and in Claire, less in other minor characters. Definite strong points in the relationships between characters. Hints of family relationships, but mostly it's about Amie and Drew reconnecting. Mechanics and Writing: 3 -- Scattered typos, punctuation issues, and word errors, including a few major mistakes. Totally wrong words in places, some which can be considered typos (like mixing up 'to' and 'no') and some that are just confusing (like 'her' for 'his').

Originally posted on Tales to Tide You Over This novel is a sweet, inspirational, story about surviving life's obstacles and finding your way back home as Drew and Amie did to a town they love, and the person they'd loved and lost when much younger. The characters are fun, especially some of the secondary characters like Aunt Sally and Dena. While I didn't feel a huge connection, and had a few quibbles, it's a good read with some great moments. I appreciated the self-analysis in the characters as they try to find their way. The secret Drew is hiding wasn't big enough to support the tension, but I can sort of see why he'd think so. I'm with Amie, though, in finding it not much of a barrier when it comes out. I liked how the fact of withholding, trust, and honesty was a focus of the story, which served to make the novel a solid demonstration of how people make up from arguments or misunderstandings. This is a key element of romances as far as I'm concerned, to teach people how to work at a relationship rather than cutting and running. It's also a good demonstration of how Christians should behave. The characters are not perfect, nor should they be. Instead, they're caring and willing to look beyond differences when helping those in need. Some of the obstacles and sub-plots I enjoyed, such as the budding senior romance, while others I did not. I'm finding the blackmailing pregnancies a far too common theme, especially in inspirational romances. Maybe I hang with a different crowd, but the number of people who would go to such lengths (or pretend to) just to win a marriage that's likely to be awful are

few and far between.

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