



When Love Calls

Lorna Seilstad

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Hannah Gregory is good at many things, but that list does not include following rules. So when she is forced to apply for a job as a telephone switchboard operator to support her two sisters, she knows it won't be easy. Hello Girls must conduct themselves according to strict--and often bewildering--rules, which include absolutely no consorting with gentlemen while in training.

Hannah doubts it will be difficult to keep *that* rule--until a handsome young lawyer starts getting under her skin.

With historic details that bring to life the exciting first decade of the twentieth century, Lorna Seilstad weaves a charming tale of companionship that blossoms into sweet romance.

When Love Calls Details

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Author : Lorna Seilstad

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Christian Romance

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From Reader Review When Love Calls for online ebook

Alice R. says

I really liked this book: the more I read it, the more hooked I became and the less likely I was to put my Kindle down.

The story is quite simple: intertwined are Christian values, a bit of good old American history, romance and hardships.

Hannah Gregory is a wannabe-lawyer who has just lost both of her parents and, as the older of three sisters, finds herself in the odd predicament of having to provide for them.

Scrapping her plans to continue with law school, she sees her parents' farm being repossessed by the bank, sending intriguing attorney Lincoln Cole her way. In a midst of stubbornness, disbelief, sweetness, a childhood friend and arson charges, we see Hannah and Lincoln's relationship delevolving: will they be well-suited for each other?

Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says

About this book:

“Hannah Gregory is good at many things, but that list does not include following rules. So when she is forced to apply for a job as a telephone switchboard operator to support her two sisters, she knows it won't be easy. Hello Girls must conduct themselves according to strict--and often bewildering--rules, which include absolutely no consorting with gentlemen while in training.

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Series: Book #1 in “*The Gregory Sister*” series. Review of Book #3, [Here!](#)

Spiritual Content- Ruth 2:12 at the beginning; Scriptures are mentioned, quoted, read, & remembered; Prayers & Blessings over food; Church going; Talks about God, trusting Him, & those in the Bible; ‘H’s are not capital when referring to God; Mentions of God; Mentions of prayers, praying, answered prayers, thanking God, & blessings over food; Mentions of those in the Bible & Bible reading; Mentions of Christians; Mentions of churches, church going, services, hymns, sermons, & preachers; A few mentions of blessings; A couple mentions of a Bible quiz;

*Note: A few mentions of curses; A couple mentions of superstitions; A couple mentions of luck.

Negative Content- Minor cussing including: five ‘stupid’s; A couple mentions of curses (said, not written); Sass, sarcasm, & eye rolling; An explosion & flames (up to semi-detailed); Shattered glass, screams, & blood/bleeding (barely-above-not-detailed); Many mentions of possible planned murders, deliberate explosions, arson, dynamite, throwing bricks, & fires (up to semi-detailed); Mentions of Hannah’s parents’

Lisa at Farm Fresh Adventures says

Fun Story With Great Message

I enjoyed the history of the Hello Girls being shared in this book. What a lot of rules and regulations they had!

I really appreciated that the overwhelming message to the readers was that trying to do life on our own instead of letting go and Letting God have control, brings nothing but chaos and stress. That it's just easier to let God handle it. A wonderful message to Christians.

Maureen Timerman says

Hannah Gregory is an outspoken young woman, a woman before her time. She wanted to become a lawyer, and had started college, when both of her parents died. She now has taken over the responsibility of taking care of her two sisters.

They are living on a farm her parents owned when the book opens, and a young lawyer, representing the bank, tells them they have to leave. What an impression Lincoln Cole makes on Hannah, irrational as it is, he is just the messenger.

Now we have a young man smitten with a woman who blames him for the loss of their home. They are now homeless orphans!

The Lord does have plans for them, and in her path he provides a home, and is there for her when she is looking for work. Outspoken Hannah becomes a Hello Girl, what a rigorous place to work. Can you imagine sitting there and only saying "number please". No other words?? Also no crossing your legs or ankles, no looking anywhere but straight forward....come on!! No itching your nose?? I wouldn't have lasted very long! You will laugh out loud at some the antics that happen, and find a lot of joy in some the kind heart people we meet. Of course, there always has to be one rotten apple in the rain barrel...you meet him right up front! Enjoy the love between the sisters, and yes they argue and act like sisters, but there is a great family bond between them. All in all, a really wonderful book to immerse yourself in.

I received this book through Revell's Book Bloggers Tour, and was not required to give a positive review.

Olivia says

I liked this more than I expected. I get a little irritated with the usual story line of the girl being independent and so forth! What made me like this book more was the time setting. All the car rides (in Lincoln's Reo :)), the picnics, the Hello Girls, and the last chapter!

It was really fun to read about Hannah being a telegraph operator. It cracked me up about all the rules while she was training for an operator (if you wanted to cough or wipe your forehead you had to raise your hand first).

Hannah's sisters were fun. All the sisterly conversations were very realistic. I especially liked Tessa. Charlotte's POV seemed a bit random and didn't go as much with the rest of the story.

Hannah's independent streak was, instead of "voicing her mind", more childish than anything else. I was glad that toward the end she realized she hadn't even trusted God or Lincoln enough because of her independence.

There is some kissing and feelings portrayed, especially toward the end. One scene in particular had several kisses.

This isn't one of those stories that shocks your socks off or anything. It is a little cliché, but still kept me interested. I might be tempted to read the others in the series.

Dottiebears says

I'm not a fan of christian fiction/romances as they are generally far too preachy. This book however had a fair amount of humor, wasn't overtly "christian", and had some delightful, if squeaky clean characters. I really did like the historical background on the switchboard operators.

Cheryl says

Hannah Gregory is worried about what she is going to do after the death of her parents. It is up to her to care for her younger sisters. Hannah just may have found the answer to her prayers when she spots an advertisement in the grocery store. The ad is for a switchboard operator.

Lincoln Cole works for the bank. He pays a visit to the Gregory homestead. It seems that Hannah's father took out a second mortgage on the house and defaulted on the loan. The bank is foreclosing on the home.

Luckily for Hannah she meets Rosie. Rosie is also a new switchboard operator. Her mother has a cottage that just became available. She offers it to the girls.

Lincoln may be handsome but Hannah remembers that he is the enemy.

I loved Hannah. She has lots of spunk. She is a free thinker and the type of woman I would imagine myself to be back in these times if I was living in them. Hannah's two sisters are just as entertaining. I can not wait to read their stories.

Lincoln is easy on the eyes. I almost felt sorry for the way that Hannah treated him, except that I knew that Lincoln could handle Hannah. Now that I have been introduced to this author, I will be checking out more of her books. When Love Calls you answer it and read a copy of this book!

Becky says

I liked this a lot. Would give 4.5 stars if I could. I like the topics addressed here of forgiveness and trust.

Lorraine says

SUMMARY: Hannah Gregory is good at many things, but that list doesn't include following rules. So when she is forced to apply for a job as a telephone switchboard operator to support her two sisters, she knows it won't be easy. "Hello Girls" must conduct themselves according to strict--and often bewildering--rules. No talking to the other girls. No chatting with callers. No blowing your nose without first raising your hand. And absolutely no consorting with gentlemen while in training.

Meanwhile, young lawyer Lincoln Cole finds himself in the unfortunate position of having to enforce the bank's eviction of the three Gregory girls from their parents' home. He tries to soften the blow by supporting them in small ways as they settle into another home. But fiery Hannah refuses his overtures and insists on paying back every cent of his charity.

When one of Hannah's friends finds himself on the wrong side of a jail cell, Hannah is forced to look to Lincoln for help. Will it be her chance to return to her dreams of studying law? And could she be falling in love?

With historic details that bring to life the exciting first decade of the twentieth century, Lorna Seilstad weaves a charming tale of camaraderie and companionship that blossoms into love. Readers will get lost in this sweet romance and will eagerly look forward to championing each sister's dreams.

REVIEW: This is the first book in The Gregory Sisters series. I love the entire story as it was filled with action, adventure, humor, romance and a hint of mystery. Hannah and her sisters were delightful characters as they loved, argued and supported each other through the rough time of losing their parents and having to support themselves. Lincoln was such a sweet, caring young man who felt compelled to help the Gregory sisters, particularly Hannah, even when they didn't want or feel like they needed help.

I thought that Seilstad's information on the training to become a telephone operator and it's rules and regulations was very interesting. I especially like it because my mom was a switchboard operator in the early 1930's when she met my dad, and it brought back fond memories of her talking about the rules and the need for a ride home or a cab when leaving after a late shift. I also enjoyed hearing about Lincoln's car and the fun that Hannah and her sisters had in it along with the bicycle adventures.

The author wove her message of dependence on God and not oneself and follow your own dreams artfully throughout the story. A wonderful read that I would recommend to anyone who likes historical romance fiction.

FAVORITE QUOTES: "Remember, nobility knows no race or station. Always judge a man by his heart and actions."

"Mother always said to render a blessing rather than a curse."

"Best way to fight the monsters of the night was with warm milk and a prayer."

"If God had put me in charge of the world, things would be different, but he didn't....But in God's great wisdom, he decided against letting me call all of the shots. Imagine, he thought that he could do a better job running things than I."

N.N. Light says

I've been on a historical romance kick for a bit so I hope my followers don't mind. I think it's the humidity. lol!

This was my first Seilstad book and I loved her writing style. She immerses the reader in the early 1900's and it was simply delightful. From the background to little things like speech and shoes, it's a history buff's dream read. A little slow in places but it worked with the pacing of the plot.

The sweet romance melted my heart and the ending was delightful. I can't wait to read more of the series!

My Rating: 4 stars

Reviewed by: Mrs. N

Tanx says

What I did enjoy about this book

- interaction between 3 sisters, warm & cute
- the switchboard operator job fascinates me, the book would have been better if there were more switchboard issues, such as the 2 girls who were jealous of Hannah, whatever became of them and the complain they lodged regarding Hannah's relationship with Walt & Lincoln? This was never followed up.

I really didn't like the main male character, Lincoln. He seems controlling, meddlesome & have a lot of free time on his hands considering he's an attorney.

Is he still pursuing his political ambitions?

Overall, i'm not impressed with this book. Not much depth to the plot, conflicts are bland, I skimmed read many parts and still knew what was happening & going to happen.

Not a downright horrible read, it was just blah, not on par with top historical CBA authors such as Jody Hedlund, Tamera Alexander, Elizabeth Camden etc.

Staci says

The first book of The Gregory Sisters series was delightful. When Love Calls includes humor and more than one good message.

Hannah is the oldest child and finds herself responsible for her two younger sisters after the death of their parents. Hannah has to make some difficult decisions as a result of their untimely death. She gets so focused on control that she forgets to let God be in control. Hannah with all her flaws was a fun character.

Lincoln is a great balance for Hannah's strong willed character. One of my favorite parts is when Lincoln reminds himself that love is patient and then says he didn't think Paul had ever met Hannah Gregory when he wrote that.

A smaller focus of the novel is on Hannah's sister Charlotte and what she learns in her relationship with George.

There was a lot of great history in the novel including telephone operators and automobiles (Reo).

I recommend *When Love Calls* to fans of Jen Turano. I look forward to reading the next book in the series.

Shari Larsen says

While the title of this book makes it clear that this is a romance, there is so much more to this story. Set in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1908, it is the first in a series about the three Gregory sisters.

After the death of their parents, the oldest, Hannah, drops out of law school so that she can work to support her two younger sisters, Charlotte and Tessa. She applies for a job as a telephone operator. They were called "Hello Girls" at that time. They had to go through paid training first, and the rules were strict. They had to be between 17-26 years old, and unmarried. They also had to be of good moral character; no gentlemen callers during training, and church attendance on Sundays was mandatory. Once they were hired, there were even more rules, some of them sounding very bewildering with today's standards, such as they had to raise their hand to ask permission of their supervisor before sneezing.

Hannah has always been one that has found it hard to follow the rules, so the training and the job are a challenge to her, especially when she has to use her knowledge from her time in law school to help a male friend who is in jail. She also attracts the attention of a young lawyer, Lincoln Cole, who feels very bad after he has to deliver the eviction notice from their family home when the money her parents left Hannah and her sisters has run out and she can no longer pay the mortgage. Wanting to try to make it up to Hannah, he offers to help her friend pro bono. As much as Hannah wants to help her friend, she could lose her chance at a job as an operator if she is seen in the company of these two gentlemen.

I really enjoyed this story, especially the history of the telephone operators. The author did a great job of blending a lot of historical facts about them, and other things that were going on at that time, so that they felt like a part of the story, and not history lesson. I am looking forward to the next book in this series, which will be about Charlotte and published next year.

Barbara says

A delightful story about the very early 1900's and the different expectations that existed for men and women at that time. Becoming a telephone operator was much more difficult, intense, and involved more rules of conduct than I would have ever dreamed, and it was interesting to discover the phone companies felt they could dictate much of the girl's life. I thoroughly enjoyed it, especially the main character, Hannah Gregory. She is spunky, opinionated, capable, intelligent, likes to be in control, has difficulty accepting help from anyone, doesn't always like following rules, and is very impulsive, but yet vulnerable and sweet at the same time. Her strength in carrying much of the load in keeping her two sisters with her after their parents' death is admirable, but yet we see her weaknesses too. The three sisters are very different, and delightful, each in her own way. Humorous escapades also appear frequently, and keep the reader smiling. I can't wait to see what happens when the younger sister's stories complete this series.

Megan says

Possible Spoilers Ahead

I really enjoyed this book! I had never really heard of Lorna Seilstad, but I'm really glad I gave this book a try! One of the biggest reasons I got this book was because I am a switchboard operator and *When Love Calls* is about a switchboard operator in the early 1900's. It was very interesting reading about how the switchboard worked back then.

I think the only thing that I didn't care for was Hannah's actions. For someone who wants to be an attorney, she had such a problem following rules. She was rude and she lied and given the legal situations, she should have know better. However, I appreciated that how she acted was not shown in a positive light and Lincoln turned her rudeness back on her a time or two. Also, the book showed that she did struggle with some pride and trusting only herself when she needed to trust God and also the man God put into her life. I loved Lincoln! I also loved that Hannah and Lincoln didn't meet and fall instantly in love. The reader really gets to see them fall in love and their relationship grow. I liked the Gregory sisters together and seeing them interact as a family. Their struggles were realistic and relatable. The Christian side really showed through with a good lesson for all of us to trust God. I will definitely read more from this author.

Overall a very sweet story 4.5 stars
