



Heart of a Soldier

Belle Calhoun

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A Soldier's Unexpected Homecoming

Returning soldier Dylan Hart heads to Texas to finally meet pen pal Holly Lynch. When he arrives, he's shocked to discover the plucky beauty he fell in love with has kept a very big secret. Scarred emotionally by his past, Dylan is deeply hurt that Holly didn't trust him with such a vital truth about herself. When he's hired as a cowboy on her family's vast ranch, he's committed to staying in town. And as he slowly reconnects with the woman whose letters once saved him, he'll have to take a look inside his heart to discover what matters most.

Heart of a Soldier Details

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Author : Belle Calhoun

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From Reader Review Heart of a Soldier for online ebook

Loraine Nunley says

Nice clean love story.

Jolene says

This is a sweet story of over coming self doubt and learning to forgive others so you can go into your future stronger. I loved this story because they each had something to give the other and something to learn for the other. This is the second book with the best friends called the roses - four girls all very close and then a night of recklessness changes their lives forever. Holly the most, she loses the ability to walk. Now in a wheelchair she has to learn she is still enough and not lacking. Can all of her old dreams be resurrected? She is the sister of Sheriff Tate Lynch, the hero in the first book: Reunited with the Sheriff. These books are stand alone and can be read out of order.

Barbara Thompson says

Wow, what a beautiful story! This is my first book to read by Belle Calhoun and Heart of a Soldier is a fabulous book. The two main characters were pen pals for a long time and thought they really knew each other, but they had their secrets. The author was brilliant in combining the characters' inward and outward tremendous depth issues. As a reader's perspective, I'm impressed how Ms. Calhoun was able to capture my attention from the beginning and I was totally captivated with this book to the end. This will not be the last book I read by this author and I highly recommend reading Heart of a Soldier.

I received a complimentary copy from the author in exchange for my honest review. This review is one hundred percent my opinion.

Sara Archibald says

I LOVED Heart of a Soldier, and would recommend it to everyone!

Holly and Dylan became pen pals for over a year while he was in Afghanistan. She receives a letter stating that he is state side and is coming to see her, however by the time the letter reaches her it's the same day he shows up. Holly hasn't told him that she is a paraplegic, every time she was going to tell him she didn't and so she never did. When Dylan shows up Holly answers the door and tells him that her name is Cassidy, which he knows from Holly's letters, is her best friend whom is engaged to Holly's brother Tate. Dylan ends up leaving stating he will be back to see Holly. The only thing Holly thinks to do is call Cassidy to come over ASAP and pretend to be her and send Dylan on his way even though she has feelings for him. He ends up figuring out that Cassidy isn't Holly and isn't happy when he figures it out. Since Dylan is going to be staying in West Falls, Texas for a few months and is looking for work Holly suggests he work on the ranch. Dylan ends up working on her family's ranch getting to know Holly better but keeping his distance. Will Dylan be able to forgive her for trying to deceive him? Will he be able to get past her being in a wheelchair?

Will his past make him run from his future?

Jen says

I was privileged to have received an advanced copy from the author if I gave an honest review. I really enjoyed reading this book. The story is such a sweet one about Holly and Dylan. Even though it is the 2nd book in a series, it stands on its own. However, I want to read the first one now. This is such a fun, easy, clean read that anyone can enjoy. Be blessed :)

Ruth says

HEART OF A SOLDIER by Belle Calhoun is an absolutely awesome heartwarming story. It will have you crying tears of joy, as well as tears of sadness as you read the story of Holly Lynch, a paraplegic, and Dylan Hart, a handsome soldier who had proudly served in Afghanistan, a pen pal to Holly for over a year, but had no idea of her physical condition. The story is so well written, that it draws on all of one's emotions. Joy, sadness, pity, hostility, humbleness, etc.. It will touch your heart and soul like no other book has ever done. I loved this book and I highly recommend it to everyone liking a good Christian novel written by a lovely and devout Christian lady. I felt so privileged to be reading such a brilliant and sweet love story. I am certainly a lover of happy endings and this one has an awesome heart warming ending. Thanks Belle, for sharing your God given talent of writing with us and the promise of more wonderful stories to come. May God continue His blessings on you.

Disclaimer: I received a complimentary copy of this book from the author by being a member of the "Belle's Brigade". in exchange for an honest review of the book. All thoughts expressed are my own and no monetary compensation was received.

Sue Stinnett says

Courage

Courage comes in many forms as in this story courage to fall in love when you feel you would be a burden. This story shows love is never a burden. Great story that captures your heart.

Evelitza Soto says

I absolutely loved this book. I had been looking forward to Holly's story and I have to say I was not disappointed. Sometimes in our life we go through some rough times and we don't realize how blessed we are, we don't see the blessing that God gives us daily. I know this story is fiction but I also know there are people out there that has gone through similar situations, some more than others. I highly recommend this book, and

all her books. I think I have read all of them and now I'm waiting for her next ones.

Brittany says

This was a great story! I love books that deal with the topic of a disability of some kind and do so in a realistic way. Holly and Dylan were great characters and the author did a wonderful job of creating great tension and attraction between these two. She also wrote these characters with realistic flaws. Not only did Holly struggle with a physical disability, she had some fear, self-worth, and forgiveness issues to overcome in this book. Dylan didn't have to overcome any physical disabilities in the story (although he has a very interesting back story), yet the anger and doubt he carries with him from childhood are just as debilitating. I had not read the book that came before *Heart of a Soldier*, yet I had no trouble at all reading (and loving) this one. I am definitely planning to read more books written by Belle Calhoun.

Catherine Simons says

I really enjoyed reading this book. First I love books about soldiers. This is a wonderful book about God's forgiveness and the forgiveness that we give to others. I also liked that Sandra had a character who is in a wheelchair, it shows us that we are all loved by God no matter who we are.

Anna Marie says

I picked this up because the back of it said that it was about two people who were 'penpals', and I happen to have a thing for letter-writing novels. Naturally, there's the ONE last letter in the book (on page 2), and that's it for the letter writing. Which pissed me RIGHT the heck off.

Then there's the REAL story in this book. I don't think the 'wounded heroine' genre could be done more pitifully. From moment one, the heroine is a liar, pulling off a deception to try to hide her condition, all while praying to God to 'help her'. Great chrischun chicka, there. ((insert eye roll)). She's overdramatic the ENTIRE book, throwing tantrums, playing martyr, accusing her mother of ruining her friendship with deception (pot-kettle-black)... she's a total brat, and not at ALL admirable, in any way, regardless of what the author has her other characters tell us.

Then there's the whole thing, where she's tried to ride horses again but couldn't muster up the courage until *HE* is there, and suddenly she's riding just fine. And immediately after that, Dylan has to take over her riding lessons? Lame, lame, lame writing.

And a hero whose real identity is Dylan McDermott? Seriously?!?! Do we have a fanfic crush going on here or something? Because that's just sad, if that's what the author is doing. Caught a few references to the movie 'The Christmas Card', too - curly fries on pg 114, for example? Meanwhile, Dylan is written as articulate and sweet and caring as a woman... more bad writing. Until he gets mad at his dad, and then he's as immature as Holly. Which is a major character deviation for him. More bad writing.

BTW, soldiers can't take pets to Afghanistan, so Leo as a pet he wrote about is wrong on every level.

The cowboy angle was absolutely laughable, too. Dylan lifts a colt's hoof, pries a stone out of the frog, and the Ranch manager is ETERNALLY grateful... it saved him all sorts of money, calling the vet. (Like *anyone* on a ranch wouldn't know to check for stones? Seriously?!)

Also, the author handles disability ridiculously badly. On the top of pg 82 Holly is suffering nerve pain so bad she can hardly function, and the moment Dylan offers to drive her to town (bottom of same page), her nerve pain is immediately, magically *gone*! Bad writing.

I skimmed the second half, just to be sure that the author didn't have a miraculous healing as a big fat ugly cherry on this disaster. The only good thing I can say about the book is that she *isn't* completely restored at the end, by the grace o' gawd. But WHA. What a colossally horrible book, regardless.

Harlequin Books says

"Holly is a strong, inspiring heroine who reminds the reader that while life is not always easy, it is always worthwhile" (RT Book Reviews, 4 1/2 stars).

Harlequin Books says

received 4 1/2 stars @ RT Book Reviews

Amanda says

Note: I received this book for free through Goodreads Firstreads.

I must say that after reading this book I cannot understand all the 5 star reviews except that maybe the author got all of her family and friends to leave a 5 star review. I gave this book 1 star because although I didn't hate it there were no redeeming qualities about it either. The characters were very flat and predictable or entirely different characters than they had been presented at first. There would also be events that Halen in the story that were not in any way very remarkable or even mentionable. For instance, the female lead when writing to her soldier pen pal never told him that she is a paraplegic and will never walk again. So when the male lead unexpectedly shows up at her house he never even suspects that she is his pen pal and is angry at her when she clears that up. This is a very shaky and unbelievable argument at best and at worst isn't even worth the mention, but the author makes it into this huge deal that is the sole reason that the male lead won't be with the female lead (besides the fact that he thinks she is less because she is paralyzed). Due to this development, from the very first the reader sees the male lead as a shallow and insensitive excuse of a man. On the other hand, the female lead is so spineless and wishy-washy that you can't respect or even like her at all. She doesn't do anything wrong and she will be justified in her feelings and then someone will tell her she is being a selfish sinner, and she will not only believe them but whine and cry until they tell her what to do to fix something that didn't need fixing in the first place. Another thing that really got to me in this book (and probably ultimately is what resulted in the one star review) is that the author was very preachy and constantly telling, through the characters, that any little thing will make you a horrible sinner and that it is not acceptable to make even the smallest human mistakes. As a Christian myself, that is something that

immediately turns me away from something and angers me that people will say that this is an example of a perfect Christian because it is not. A good Christian can accept that mistakes happen and aren't a big deal as long as you are able to fix them and want to because it is the right thing to do. Not because someone is laying a guilt trip on you about it and telling you that eternal damnation is in your future if you don't fix things the way they want you to on their own personal agenda. All in all, I wouldn't recommend this book to anyone due to the first-attempt nature of the storyline.

SassafrasfromAmazon says

This was a well-written, tug-at-your-heart strings story. Dylan had so many inner demons to slay, so much so that they overwhelmed him---- from his childhood feelings of rejection stemming from his father's actions & the subsequent treatment of him and his mother, to all that he suffered and lost in Afghanistan. At some point he knew he couldn't outrun his inner turmoil and had to heal. Holly helped him deal with it. Holly's physical disability was her demon. She and Dylan had forged more than a friendship when they exchanged letters while he was deployed. She never dreamed that all her hopes and wishes could come true. Nevertheless, she didn't feel that she was good enough for Dylan, knowing that he could any woman he wanted, and knowing the obstacles that they may face in the future. These were very weighty problems that they had to deal with both individually and together. What a great read.

This was an "inspirational" novel, which I rarely read. There was an abundance of prayers and bible verses interspersed throughout the book. There were a couple of extremely chaste kisses between Holly and Dylan--no sex, no sexual touching whatsoever. There really was no "heat" between the H/h. For those who prefer this type of novels involving mature adults, this is an excellent read.
