



Hope at Dawn

Stacy Henrie

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IN A TIME OF WAR, LOVE IS THE INSPIRATION

With her brothers away fighting the Great War overseas, Livy Campbell desperately wants to help her family. Her chance comes when she meets a handsome stranger who lands her a job as a teacher in a place far from her parents' farm. But the war casts a long shadow over the German-American town that Livy now calls home—and the darkness will test everything she thought she knew about family and love . . .

More than anything, Friedrich Wagner wants to be part of his adopted country's struggle for peace. But when the bitter animosity between Germans and Americans soon turns citizens against newcomers, friend against friend, he will do whatever it takes to protect Livy from the hysteria that grips their town. As tragedy—and dark secrets from the past—threaten their future, Friedrich and Livy have one chance to stand up for what's right . . . and one chance to fight for their love.

Hope at Dawn Details

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From Reader Review Hope at Dawn for online ebook

Debbie says

Livy Campbell takes a position as a teacher far from her home and family. Thankfully, she finds a friend in Friedrich Wagner, the school maintenance man. In spite of protests from board members, Livy can't help but have a relationship with the kind and dedicated family man. With both their livelihoods at stake, they must decide whether love and country are worth the risk to their hearts and their families.

Each page of Hope at Dawn is fraught with tension and romance. There is certainly more than one hold-your-breath, moment for both Livy and Friedrich. Everything wrapped up nicely in spite of the bumps in the road, but things were left open for a few of the characters.

This storyline was unique, well told and the characters were very interesting. I loved so many aspects of this book. I can't wait to read the sequel of this novel. A great war story of courage, love and making your own place in the world.

Emilee says

I started this book thinking it was going to be a heavy emotional war-time story. It was much lighter than I expected yet still covered some heavy topics. A good bit of this book is about prejudice and injustice against German-Americans during the first World War. It was sad and disappointing to realize that kind of thing happened to innocent people. I enjoyed the historical aspects of this book but I never really connected with the characters. I also felt some of the main characters responses to situations were unrealistic. I plan to read book two in this series in the future.

Katie W says

First of all, this is a cover that I absolutely adore. It leaves a lot to the imagination, yet is really gorgeous. Next, I loved this story! I haven't read many books that take place during WWI. My great-grandfather fought in this war and passed away when I was really little. I don't know about many things that he experienced and the way life was then. This story made it really easy to picture how things were in my mind. I thought the writing was almost lyrical and the storyline was very engaging, with very likable characters.

Livy has always wanted to be a school teacher and when she gets a tip about a school, she jumps at the chance. I love the way she jumps right in, even though it isn't ideal and is hard work. She doesn't let the little prejudices deter her, nor does she let the big ones. I would be scared to death to teach in a school in an area with such strict laws. She does the best she can and is such a strong and determined woman, standing up for what's right any time she can.

I love Friedrich! He's so gentle and patient. I could feel the pain and embarrassment he had over not being able to serve his country. He's so willing to do whatever it takes to show his loyalty, even at the risk of putting his family in poverty. I love the way he sticks up for others, but does so in a very kind, persistent, understated way.

I thought the author did a fantastic job of weaving fiction with truth. I have ancestors who Americanized their surnames and now I understand why. I learned some things that I didn't realize before. I can't wait to see what's next--Ms. Henrie is definitely an author to watch!

Content:

language--none

violence--vague talk of war and death; threatening situations; a fight

romance--clean kissing

religious--mention of church, prayer, faith, but not preachy

I received a copy in exchange for an honest review

Renee says

Some days just call for a sweet, simple romance -- Stacy Henrie's *Hope at Dawn* is that kind of read. Of *Love and War* promises to be a must-read series if the books that follow are half as good as the first. With series' like *Downton Abbey* bringing more interest to the World War I and the difficult years that followed, it's nice to be getting more books set during that time from authors across the romance genre. *Henrie's Hope at Dawn* is a "sweet" romance with Christian themes woven throughout that focuses not on the warfront, but what life was like for German Americans living in the US.

Livy Campbell takes a position as a teacher far from her home and family. Thankfully, she finds a friend in Friedrich Wagner, the school maintenance man. In spite of protests from board members, Livy can't help but have a relationship with the kind and dedicated family man. With both their livelihoods at stake, they must decide whether love and country are worth the risk to their hearts and their families.

Each page of *Hope at Dawn* is fraught with tension and romance. There is certainly more than one hold-your-breath, moment for both Livy and Friedrich. Everything wrapped up nicely in spite of the bumps in the road, but things were left open for a few of the characters. I love Maria and want her to have her own little bit of happiness! Tie up those loose ends where she is concerned in this series, Ms. Henrie! Pretty please. ;-) Other than that, *Hope at Dawn* is gentle, sweet, and just what I needed to read in order to unwind this past weekend. A winner!

I receive complimentary books for review from publishers, publicists, and/or authors. 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.

Julia says

Christian romance is not usually my genre, but I received a copy of this book for review from NetGalley and who doesn't love a free book? I was instantly pulled into Livy's story. Worried about her brothers fighting in France during World War 1, she is mourning the loss of her college experience and dreams, as well as the change in her presumed fiancé who has returned from the front.

In a series of coincidences (or events arranged by God?), she meets Frederick and goes to teach in a nearby town. She will be teaching in a one-room school house which serves mostly German-American children, daughters and sons of immigrants or first-generation Americans. In taking the position and meeting the families, Livy has to confront her own feelings about the community and its inhabitants, as well as their prejudices about her.

The struggle to prove their allegiance was constant for German-Americans during both World Wars. Many families went bankrupt purchasing war bonds to demonstrate their loyalty (sometimes due to local pressures). In the first WW, German-American men who had military deferments for legitimate reasons were seriously questioned. This book shows the struggles this community faced and how many people were affected by the prejudices and hurts that cut both ways.

It is worth noting that we have not moved much beyond this kind of suspicion and community distrust. So many of our Arab and/or Muslim- American neighbors have experienced this kind of struggle in recent years and some still do. This gentle novel with its emotional ups and downs packs some serious lessons for what it means to be community and neighbor.

Lillian says

Hope at Dawn by Stacy Henrie is book one of the *Of Love and War* series and tells the story of Friedrich and Livy. With her two older brothers fighting in WWI, Livy Campbell wants a way to help her family. It comes in the form of a teaching position, but what Livy was unaware of is that she will be teaching German American children. With the war raging against Germany, Livy finds her values tested. Friedrich Wagner wants to fight for his home country America, but his German-American father dying, Friedrich is needed at home. Taking a farm deferment, he stays to take care of his father, two half-siblings, and step mother. But with his heritage in question and newcomer Livy, he finds that the war is closer to home than he realized.

I love these characters! Both are very relatable in their struggles and their values. Livy is the eldest daughter of her family and with her two older brothers fighting, she feels it is her duty to help her family in anyway she can. She struggles with what is right and wrong when teaching her German-American pupils. Her values come into question by not just herself but by those in the community. First from the German-Americans and second from the rest of the community who believes she's a German sympathizer. Friedrich struggles with his want to fight in the war and his need to take care of his family. With the prejudice against his family and friends rising, he struggles with anger and resentment against those that were his neighbors.

The relationship that builds between Friedrich and Livy is sweet and full of love and trials. When Livy's beau stands her up at the dance hall on her birthday, a handsome stranger who turns out to be Friedrich asks her to dance. During the dance, Livy opens up to him and he tells her of the teaching position. Both are smitten immediately, but when Livy learns of his German heritage and with the prejudice Friedrich already faces with his neighbors, both become hesitant towards each other. I hurt for them during their struggles to be friends and eventually more. Prejudice, pride, and more affect them, but it's this Bible verse that is the overall theme of the book:

and this one:

Overall, I loved this book and devoured it in a few days. The sweet relationship between Livy and Friedrich, the struggles against pride and prejudice, and the acceptance of God's plan for both of them make this story unforgettable. If you enjoy historical fiction, Christian or inspirational literature, and a little romance, I highly recommend you check out this book. A little note: there are a couple of scenes of violence related to the prejudice against the German-American community of this book, however it is a clean read and although it is listed as a part of a series, this book can be read as a standalone.

I received a copy of this ebook from the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Ash Wednesday says

2.5 STARS

There were other things as constant as the heavens - people's prejudice, for one.

I suppose, any story that is set in a small rural, American town in 1918 will come across as Christian Fiction in its attempts to be historically accurate, so that bit of oversight is on me when I requested this book. Because while I find the plot interesting, I wouldn't have read this to review had I known. Religion is a tricky thing to deal with in opinion pieces like a book review after all. That being said, it had nothing to do with how I rated this book.

Hope At Dawn is set in the fictional town of Hilden during World War I, when there's rampant discrimination against German-American settlers among its 'patriotic' townsfolk. Their loyalty is routinely questioned, their way of living constantly under suspicion, the law going as far as prohibiting them from speaking in German. Some are forced to buy Liberty Bonds under threat of violence in order to prove their commitment to the American cause. Friedrich Wagner suffers these and more for being granted a deferment from military service because his German father is dying. He meets and falls in love with Livy Campbell, a schoolteacher whose brothers are fighting the Great War in France while she teaches German-American children in American soil.

I suppose I ended up appreciating the historical fiction aspect of this book better than the romance overall. The idea of a 6-foot-3, blonde, blue-eyed German-American man suffering from discrimination; of German-owned business establishments being painted bright yellow to warn people off; the racial slurs they openly suffered in 1918 were simultaneously eye-opening and harrowing in so many levels. I liked that this portrayed prejudice both ways, capturing the complexity in that dynamic. Bigotry is such an ugly aspect of humanity to confront from any standpoint and it is a tragedy to acknowledge it being alive and well at a time when you can talk to people halfway around the world with the press of a button. These people rode horse-drawn carriages and drew water from a deep-well FFS, what's our excuse?

I was very hopeful from the blurb, the kind of romance this would deliver. An honourable man left to prove his worth outside serving his country in the battlefield, falling in love with a woman whose family has been torn by the very war he's not serving. It won't even take much for me to get emotionally invested from that premise alone, I was expecting a sweeping saga of love breaking boundaries and conquering the ugliness of prejudice.

Unfortunately, the delivery felt desperately lacking. The storyline's progression was very cliched, there were endless sighs of longing, beauty that can't be diminished by sickness or pale cheeks illuminated by

moonlight... it just hasn't been the kind of romance I've been looking for since I was in high school. The writing was serviceable but the emotions this meted out were lukewarm at best.

Friedrick stared unabashedly at her, her hair and face lit by the light from the fire. She couldn't be more beautiful, both inside and out. He'd never loved another person as he did her. He lifted his hand with a sudden need to touch her.

While I didn't fall in love with him, I did like Friedrick as a hero, a little too perfect for my tastes but not to the point of offense. On the other hand, I was constantly annoyed with Livy throughout her evolution. By the end, it felt like her ability to overcome her own biases was rooted to her feelings for Friedrick and not something she's come to terms on her own. There's a certain degree of calculating coldness in her character, leading me to question her ulterior motives in her acts of kindness.

The characters were perfectly nice and good, but with very little complexity and depth in their personalities. The good guy never loses his temper and the bad guys do nefarious deeds with the circular reasoning of because they're bad. I was always on the brink of disinterest, almost giving up on the story altogether. Seeing as the roadmap to the Epilogue is apparent from the first chapter, this hardly delivered on the aspects of swoon, excitement or intensity.

This is one of those books that I feel it is my complete fault for not enjoying. It has evident sincerity in its intent but the delivery just didn't appeal to me overall.

Review Copy courtesy of the publishers. Quotes taken from an uncorrected proof.

Also on Booklikes.

Tressa (Wishful Endings) says

Loved!

Melanie says

Review on Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/review/RC1AJ289...>

Review on my blog (to be posted 7/19): <http://christianbookshelfreviews.blog...>

Hope At Dawn was a great read. I really liked the history and that this book was set during WWI (I haven't read many books in this time period).

The writing was fantastic. I really felt for the characters and all they had to go through - especially Friedrick. The romance story was sweet and I liked how the ending had closure.

Overall, I loved Hope At Dawn. The story moved at a slower pace, but I still loved it. A great book that made me learn new things about WWI and what life was like back then. I definitely recommend this book and I'm looking forward to this author's next book!

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention/review it on my blog. I was not required to give a positive review, only my honest opinion - which I've done. All thoughts and opinions expressed are my own and I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Ashley says

If your copy has the Author's Note BEFORE the story like mine did, then skip that and read it later! It has spoilers! I wasn't in much of a mood for a romance, but I loved the historical part of this book. I learned quite a bit about a time period that doesn't have as much historical fiction as some. It made me think without making me crazy, which is a hard balance to find.

Shauna says

I have read quite a few books about World War II...

So I was VERY INTRIGUED to read about World War I.

So many things I didn't know or understand...very eye opening!

A TENDER story of love and hope amidst a backdrop of fear and despair.

Livy has two brothers "fighting the Great War overseas."

She wants a chance to help and she also needs to get away from Robert and be on her own.

When a "handsome stranger" tells her of a teaching job she jumps at the opportunity.

"But the war casts a long shadow over the German-American town that Livy now calls home—and the darkness will test everything she thought she knew about family and love . . ."

Friedrick is caught in the middle...

He was born in America, but his parents are from Germany.

How can he stay loyal to both HIS COUNTRY and HIS HERITAGE in this time of war?

When he meets Livy he is struck by her beauty and loves the fact that she accepts him as he is.

"As tragedy—and dark secrets from the past—threaten their future, Friedrick and Livy have one chance to stand up for what's right . . . and one chance to fight for their love."

AN AMAZING STORY!

TOLD BY AN AMAZING WRITER!
SO. SO. SO. GOOD!
A MUST-READ!

Dottie Legatos says

A touching and heartwarming account of American life in World War I. I'm so glad to have read this book, as I wasn't aware of the fact that in some states it was illegal to speak certain foreign languages (in this case, German), during our involvement in the "Great War". Stacie Henrie tells a story of forbidden love between Livy and a patriotic , decent family loving, German American in such a sweet way, that I was ashamed of the practice of discrimination toward these God fearing people. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys historical fiction, and/or historical romance. I've found a new author to follow! Thanks to Netgalley for approving me for this book.

writer... says

Captured by the evocative cover,

I was pleased to discover content offered as captivating a story.

March 1918, we meet Livy waiting to celebrate her 20th birthday at the town dance.

The promised date with her boyfriend, Robert, never materializes. And Livy has good reason to know why.

A soldier, returned wounded from the Great War, chooses the company of alcohol over her and their anticipated future.

So when a handsome young man notices her tears and takes the opportunity to invite Livy to the dancefloor, she decides against her original regrets and allows him to escort her to the floor.

Thus begins the enchanting story of Hope at Dawn.

Through this meeting with Robert, Livy has a teaching job connection and independence in a new community. When government laws are introduced that jeopardize the German American inhabitants of that community, the fragility of life and relationships come to the fore. A horrifying and unknown component of the cost of war as Ms Henrie so aptly describes this aspect of the American homefront.

The entire story is gripping with romantic tension, wartime realities, and social injustices.

First in the series Of Love and War, readers are introduced to the Campbell family members via Livy's story.

We are made aware of two brothers away on the warfront, one of whom features in book 2, Hope Rising based in WWI France, and due to release December 2014.

Book 3, A Hope Remembered, to release March 2015.

I am anticipating more exquisite reading, having completed this beautifully written first entry

Of Love and War. Hope at Dawn has certainly lived up to its theme.

I full heartedly recommend Stacy Henrie's series to wartime romance fans everywhere.

A story and characters you'll remember long after you've reached 'The End' ...

*Appreciation to Forever [Grand Central] for providing an ecopy to read and review without cost or compensatiON

Jamie says

Ever since I started listening to Dan Carlin's Hardcore History podcast, specifically his podcasts on WWI, I've been interested in all things WWI. From how it started, to the utter horror of trench warfare to the aftermath, it's 100% fascinating. Hope at Dawn by Stacy Henrie takes a look at another part of WWI - the home front and how Americans dealt with German Americans.

Humanity makes me so sad sometimes and, much like the Japanese internment camps of WWII, it's a hard reality to look at how Americans treated native born Americans of German ancestry during WWI. I haven't read much about this part, fiction or non-fiction, so I really enjoyed this story. I really loved Frederick's character, for his commitment to his family and dealing with unjust prejudice because of who he was born.

Then there's Livy - spirited, generous and willing to open her heart to what's right, even when it becomes costly. Written in a way that immediately engages readers and keeps you turning the pages, this is a story that sheds light on hurt, but also on what it looks like to overcome and let love (all kinds) win.

If you're interested in WWI, I think you'll like this one!

Have you read many books about WWI? If so, what are some you'd recommend?

Originally posted at <http://booksandbeverages.org/2015/06/...>

Rachelle Cobb says

What I Liked

The history. Oh, wow, does Stacy know her history. I mean, her Facebook posts and Pinteresting reveal the fact that she is passionate about this time period, but she writes it well, too. And she takes an interesting stance in this book, writing about a hero with German ancestry in an American small town.

And the woman who is changed by him, having much to learn about prejudice and believing in herself--and love.

Friedrick is sweet to her, gentle to his family, and conflicted about his part in a war he doesn't want to tear him from the country he loves. Livy is unsettled, restless, worrying for her brothers away fighting. They slowly come to love each other, then face the threat tragedy and secrets always bring.

What I Didn't Like As Much

This book was hard for me to fall into. The beginning slightly drags, but for those addicted to historical fiction, eager to explore a new facet of a favorite time period, check out *Hope at Dawn*.
