



The Wedding Shop

Rachel Hauck

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From *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Wedding Dress* comes *The Wedding Shop*.

Two women separated by decades. Both set out to help others find their dreams when their own have crumbled.

It's the early 1930s, but Cora Scott is walking in stride as a career woman ?after having inherited her great aunt's wedding shop in Heart's Bend, Tennessee, where brides come from as far away as Birmingham to experience her famed bridal treatment. Meanwhile, Cora is counting down the days until her own true love returns from the river to make her his bride. But days turn into months and months to years. All the while, Birch Good continues to woo Cora and try to show her that while he is solid and dependable, he can sweep her off her feet.

?More than eighty years later, former ?Air Force Captain Haley Morgan has returned home to Heart's Bend after finishing her commitment to military service. After the devastating death of her best friend, Tammy, and discovering the truth about the man she loved, Haley is searching for her place in life.

When Haley decides to reopen the romantic but abandoned wedding shop where she and Tammy played and dreamed as children, she begins a journey of courage, mystery, and love.

As Cora's and ?Haley's stories intertwine through time in the shadow of the beloved wedding shop, they both discover the power of their own dreams and the magic of everyday love.

The Wedding Shop Details

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From Reader Review The Wedding Shop for online ebook

Bonnie says

"Two women separated by decades. Both set out to help others find their dreams when their own have crumbled." Location: Heart's Bend, Tennessee; 1930: Cora Scott; 1996 & present: Haley Morgan; primary setting: The Wedding Shop!!! At the time Cora is 30 which is then considered an Old Maid! A local boy is in love with her but she's in love with a riverboat captain. He writes her love letters but months go by before he's in town. In 1996, Haley (10 years old) & her best friend, Tammy, consider the deserted wedding shop their fort & 'pinky swear' that they will own the shop one day & that they are BFF's. After college & obtaining Captain's rank in the Air Force, Haley comes home to find that the WS is about to be torn down to make way for a parking lot!! I hope I have tantalized your interest enough to read this good, well-written book. ENJOY!!

Carole Jarvis says

Reviewed at The Power of Words: <http://bit.ly/2d95vwM>

With the Wedding Collection series, Rachel Hauck has created three enchanting stories that are uniquely different and can stand alone, yet all are linked by characters, setting, and a strong spiritual thread. Each story was wonderful and I connected with them all emotionally, but I believe The Wedding Shop was my favorite.

The fictional rural town of Heart's Bend, Tennessee is the perfect setting for a story filled with a sense of family and community. Southern fiction is a favorite of mine, and there's lots of southern charm to go around. A dual timeline propels the story, and Rachel has done this well throughout the series – connecting the characters with fascinating storylines that could stand alone.

The characters extremely well drawn and multi-faceted, easy to connect with. Cora, who owned a wedding shop in the 1930s, was unwisely in love with a charismatic and charming river boat captain. Cora was blind to what other people, the reader included, suspected about him – and isn't that often true in real life? But I was drawn to her courage, devotion, and ingenuity when it came to helping brides who couldn't afford a wedding shop gown. And there's so much to admire in Birch, a strong and tender man who backed up his feelings with caring actions.

Haley, a retired Air Force captain, followed God's prompting and returned home to Heart's Bend. "After years in the military, Haley needed to find herself again, her values and integrity, the tenderness of her heart. She'd become callous, hard." Haley carries a heavy load of past guilt, and I think her spiritual journey is something many readers can identify with. Wounded by his father's criminal actions in the past, Cole also has some soul searching to do, and I loved the sweet chemistry between these two.

Rachel has a unique way of weaving spiritual themes throughout the story, especially through the use of symbolism - sacrifice, obedience, patience, and divine interruptions being just a few. Through her love for the abandoned and soon-to-be-torn-down wedding shop, Haley reflects the theme of seeing value in something that others reject, a beautiful picture of Jesus.

My favorite scene would have to be when Haley tries on a wedding gown at Charlotte's shop and finally sees herself in God's eyes – pure, washed whiter than snow in the blood of Jesus. Charlotte's words to Haley that speak about the symbolism of the wedding dress are a message for all time in their description of the gospel of Jesus Christ . . . “It fits everyone who tries it on. It's timeless, never wears out, and never needs to be altered, always in style and always beautiful.”

Highly recommended.

Thank you to Celebrate Lit and Zondervan for providing a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Debbie says

I loved this book. Rachael Hauck has become my secret theologian writer, (I'm atheist) . Her books so inspire me. Yes, I have to read over the God parts and the scripture parts, but I like her meanings. I loved that she included the Wedding Chapel in this book. Yes, I already read that one.

There was a time when there was no way I would read book like this. I grew up where religion was hell fire and brimstone, its good to see there is another side.

I would read another Rachel Hauck book anytime, anyplace. In my mind, she is a great author and story teller.

Thanks Zondervan for introducing me to Rachel Hauck and approving my request and to Net Galley for providing me with a free e-galley in exchange for an honest review!

Dawn says

I don't think I've yet to read a book of Rachel Hauck's that I didn't love, and this one was no exception. This one is in the style as the Wedding Dress and the Wedding Chapel.

There are two stories - a modern one involving Haley, and Cora's story from the 1930's. I loved this book. It was beautifully written, and captured me from the first page. I don't know for sure which story I enjoyed more, but both were wonderful.

I can honestly say that this was one of my highly anticipated books for this year. If you've never read any of Rachel's books before, why not start with this one? There are some minor characters from the Wedding Dress and the Wedding Chapel, but I honestly don't think that this book is technically part of a series.

I received the Kindle copy of this book for free from Booklook Bloggers for the purpose of reviewing. My thoughts and opinions are my own.

Recommended to fans of Laura Frantz, Rachel Hauck, Karen Kingsbury, women's fiction

Rating - 5 stars

Karen says

Another winner by one of my favorite authors!

The dual timeline story ties together the past and the present surrounding a very special shop where women came to see their bridal dreams come true. It resonates still with many of the brides who passed through its doors, despite its decrepit state, and Haley's fight to preserve it becomes her own path of renewal.

The theme of forgiveness, especially forgiving oneself, and learning to trust God, putting hope in Him and His love, came through loud and clear in both Haley's and Cora's lives. Some very inspirational faith talks are threaded into the story at key moments, making it quite uplifting despite the difficult situations they faced. The wonderful, kind, hardworking, faithful, patient men who love them are stellar heroes. Birch was my favorite character for how he demonstrated to Cora how much he cared for her. What a great guy! Loved too how the author ties together the people and places from her other books. It was like coming home to Heart's Bend to have them connect in Haley's story. Some interesting twists and turns kept me wondering how things would turn out on both ends.

A very satisfying read! Recommend to readers who like a redemptive Christian romance. Easily reads as a stand alone, however it is especially fun if read following *The Wedding Dress* and *The Wedding Chapel*. 4.5 stars

(Book provided by NetGalley and the publisher in exchange for my honest, original review.)

Rebecca says

On a collision course, separated by decades of time, two women have much in common. Gifted with strong wills, they have both made grievous mistakes of the heart, yet serve the God of second chances. Included in those chances is the mysterious legacy of an old, historic wedding shop.

Haley Morgan has heard the whisper of the Spirit to, "go home". After resigning as a captain in the United States Air Force following a foolish affair, Haley returns to the picturesque town of Heart's Bend, Tennessee envisioning a "pinkie-promise" dream from her childhood. She is determined to renovate and re-open Heart's Bend's wedding shop; after all, her dearest friend Tammy would have wanted it that way. Sadly, Tammy has been buried in the local cemetery, but her ex-fiance Cole Danner is still very much alive. How will Cole fit into Haley's dream?

Cora Scott and her family have been caught within the tentacles of the Great Depression, but Cora's despondency is scarcely limited to monetary issues. She is the successful proprietress of *The Wedding Shop*, where brides from through-out the Nashville, Tennessee region travel to purchase her exquisite gowns and accessories. However, on a personal level Cora is beginning to wonder if the amorous river boat captain, who whispers "sweet nothings" every time he docks, is ever going to propose. Meanwhile, a local farmer continues to shower Cora with unconditional kindness, despite her obvious infatuation with another man.

"*The Wedding Shop*" is blend of previous titles in the most subtle of ways, and if there was ever a story in

which the "Spirit of the Living God" could choose to show up, this lovely dual time- lined book provided the perfect scenario. Once again, Rachel Hauck has proven herself to be an outstanding writer.

Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower) says

Oh! Oh! This book! I love!

In this latest novel, Rachel Hauck continues her Wedding Collections series, as well as returning to Heart's Bend, Tennessee, but *The Wedding Shop* can easily be read as a standalone. If you **HAVE** read *The Wedding Dress* and *The Wedding Chapel*, however, you are in for an extra special treat.

One of my favorite things about *The Wedding Shop* is the gorgeous dual timeline narrative. Watching Hauck start with two women – one in the 1930s, one in the present day – who seem to be quite different from one another at first glance and then watching her seamlessly weave parallels between their stories is truly a delight. Tying them both together right from the beginning, and cementing those ties as the novel progresses, is a quaint wedding shop on the brink of destruction... and a theme of seeing the value in others, even ourselves.

The tenderness of this theme (Jesus values you – no matter what!!), matched with the masterful handling of a dual timeline narrative and two deliciously toecurling romances, make this one of my very favorite books this year. In *The Wedding Shop*, Rachel Hauck gives us characters we can embrace with our whole heart as well as a peek into history and a mirror on the present. It is gentle and bold all at once, and grace rests on every page like a lacy veil. A definite must-read!

(I received a copy of this book in exchange for only my honest review.)

See my full review at [Reading Is My SuperPower](#)

Letitia says

Wanted to hold on to this story as long as possible but yet couldn't put it down! A beautiful multi-generation love story. I have also read "The Wedding Dress" and loved it and am starting "The Wedding Chapel" later today. Keep them coming!

Jess says

This had a delightful premise. Back and forth from the present day to the 1930's in Heart's Bend, Tennessee, it follows the path of a wedding dress shop and its owners. I won't recap the book because you can read the synopsis. Here's a few of my thoughts:

-I didn't realize it was Christian fiction. Which I can read.. but there's only so many metaphors to a wedding dress being white as snow with redemption I can repeatedly read. It just seemed like a superficial nod to

Christianity to get it passed as a Christian fiction novel.

-the secrets of the characters were something out of a soap opera or telenovela. Honestly, eye roll worthy a couple times.

-the ending was also something out of a soap opera. But if you can just roll with it and read this on the beach or something... you might get on ok with it.

-it just fell flat for me. So many little things that just made it an ok story that I finished and probably will forget about.

-I did like the descriptions of the town and the shop.

-The details of the wedding dresses and the shopping parties for the dress were lovely as well.

-It has a pretty cover.

That's about all I got on this one.

Susan Snodgrass says

Every time I see Rachel Hauck has a new book out, I can't wait to grab it! And usually devour it. She is a master at what she does. Anointed, is what she is, to write the books she does. A reader feels the hand of God in her books. I know I do. Rachel has that supernatural touch of the Divine floating throughout the story. Always. God speaks to characters in her books. Just like He does in the real world. I appreciate that she includes the Divine touch in her books because I can feel it when I read her stories. I have been blessed so many times I can't even count them during my reading of a Rachel Hauck book. This one had just two sentences that spoke to a situation in my life and literally set me free from something that had troubled me for 5 years!

The Wedding Shop is about a young woman, home from the Air Force, and struggling with problems of her own, who decides that she will try her best to open up the old wedding shop that has been in the town of Heart's Bend, TN for over 90 years. Worn out and needing many renovations, about to fall apart in places, and closed down for many years, Haley believes it must be reopened. She can't explain why she feels this way, but she does.

The story goes back and forth between the 1930s, 1940s, and briefly in the 1950s and the present day. We also meet characters from previous books. The entire book is awesome. I had leaky eyes many a time, once had my heart plunging into my stomach, then soaring again with happiness. This is a tale of many people, their heartbreak, their joys and their walk with God. Please don't miss it.

*I was provided a copy of this book by the publisher via Net Galley in exchange for my honest review, which I have given.

Brittany says

The Wedding Shop absolutely grabbed hold of my heart! This novel easily ranks among my favorites of this year. It is a dual timeline story, with both the present and the past being equally enthralling to me. And, wow, the author truly did such a great job of weaving the two stories together. There are so many amazing connections between past and present that slowly show themselves the farther you read. I found myself catching my breath at times, especially with Cora Scott's story from the past, as she worked to find the right

path for her life, while also providing a special bridal experience for every young woman who came to her.

There is a beautiful story of grace and forgiveness nestled in these pages! Both Cora Scott and Haley Morgan battle with their hearts regarding love, God's forgiveness, and following His leading. I absolutely adored the beautiful love stories that unfolded for both women. The Wedding Shop is a powerful story that I truly loved.

I received an Advanced Reader's Copy of this book. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

You can read this review on my blog at:

<https://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.c...>

DeB MaRtEnS says

When I requested *The Wedding Shop*, my expectation was for a light well-told tale with the features described in the summary. I'm a bit of a sucker for anything cheerful surrounding wedding stories, and looked forward to Rachel Hauck's spin on a favourite theme of the old wedding dress store, its story and the transformative power of love through time and dresses. Hauck managed to deliver that part fairly well, switching between 1930's Cora and present day Haley and maintained the narrative nicely. However, the novel deviated substantially from its categorized genre of "General Fiction" and the summary which gave no hint that its correct genre is "Christian Fiction". Since this is not my area of preferred reading, I was rather overwhelmed with the religiosity and reliance on Divine Intervention that was a huge part of the plot. For those who prefer faith-based novels, I'm sure that it would be fine. I simply feel annoyed that the publisher did not include this information anywhere, for me to accurately choose and review based on my preferences.

Zondervan Publishers & NetGalley, free ebook copy

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Jerry says

What a touching story of overcoming adverse circumstances! I enjoyed it!

Staci says

What a sweet time slip novel! Both the current day story of Haley and yesteryear story of Cora were engaging. I loved how the author tied the story back to *The Wedding Dress* with Charlotte and Tim.

My favorite character by far was Birch Good. His last name is right on track. Birch was a good and patient man.

The entire series was delightful.

Stefanie says

Rachel Hauck amazed me with this elegant story. The Wedding Shop was a heartwarming tale about Haley Morgan and her dream of restoring an old, rundown, abandoned wedding shop. The dual timeline with Cora Scott gave some added romantic, whimsical flair to the story. Cora was the owner of the shop starting in the 20s/30s.

I loved the historical perspective from Cora's storyline and then the modern day presence of Haley and Cole Danner. The fact that Charlotte (character from the other wedding series novels) was also brought into this story was just another touch of sweetness to this beautiful book.

I highly recommend this read and this author! So beautifully written!
