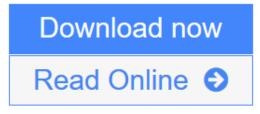


# **Finding Home**

Jackie Weger



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Librarian's note: This is an alternate cover edition for ASIN: B00D7WKQRA.

Twenty-four year old Phoebe Hawley is on a quest to find her family a home. On the road with two siblings, twelve year-old Maydean and five year-old Willie-Boy, Phoebe is out of money, out of gas and out of patience. Now the only things she owns in abundance are Hawley backbone and Hawley pride--neither of which she can trade for food or gas.

A collision with Gage Morgan puts Phoebe's mission in even worse jeopardy--until Phoebe discovers Gage Morgan owns the perfect place for the Hawley clan. But! Gage Morgan has a bruised ego, a tight fist on his land and an iron fist on his heart and is the unlikeliest man in the universe to succumb to her schemes. Phoebe wields all of the pride, backbone and country smarts she owns to claim his home, plow his land and pilfer his heart. Nothing works. With time running against her family, she plies one last inducement—her scarce feminine wiles...Will it be enough?

# **Finding Home Details**

Date: Published December 28th 2013 by Jackie Weger (first published November 1st 1987)ISBN:Author: Jackie WegerFormat: Kindle Edition 296 pagesGenre: Contemporary, Romance, Contemporary Romance, Business, Amazon

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# From Reader Review Finding Home for online ebook

### Linda Pirtle says

The story of a young woman trying to take care of her siblings only to be sidetracked by "love." She conquers severe obstacles melding the love of her life with her family. Great romance story with real-to-life characters.

#### Jacquie Biggar says

These characters will grab your heart!

Set in southern USA, the author does a wonderful job of immersing the reader in Phoebe Hawley's fight to do right by her family. Tasked with finding a home for her parents and handicapped sister, Phoebe drives to the next county with her younger brother and sister, with next to no money and an aging pickup.

A fender bender with a disgruntled, handsome junkyard owner gives Phoebe the opportunity to earn some money to pay him back while setting some aside for her family back home. When she falls for the gruff man she's been taking advantage of by insinuating her small family into his home, Phoebe comes up with a plan to make him marry her so that her parents can move in, too.

When Gage figures out he's been tricked, the betrayal runs deep. Will he forgive her and give their love a chance to mend his damaged heart?

Though some of the terminology is dated, this is a thoroughly enjoyable read. Many parts left me smiling and the happy ending left this romance lover contented.

I give Eye of the Beholder 4 lovely kisses

#### **Bukcrz** says

What can I say, this book is such a refreshing find among the dump of cookie cutter freebies. I one clicked this years ago but only managed to get to it this time.

The very reason I love this book is because it's not a love at first sight and the fact that the main character's focus are not in how beautiful or handsome the other is. I actually saw how they fell in love which made me very invested in their HEA.

The heroine is a character I'll not easily forget. First, if I read her in any other story, I wouldn't have liked her at all since she is what the hero pegged her to be, cunning. Fortunately in this story, the author put me right in her shoe, in her mind and in her heart that I can't help but root for her success. She's a young woman with practically nothing in her name except two young mouths to fee. I love her resourcefulness, her strength, and her heart. Basically she's the kind of heroine I'd love to read: with a purpose, with a backbone that can stand the test, and with a flaw I can relate with. Her action and motivations aren't always pretty yet her aplomb (?) in carrying them made me laugh and admire her more.

The hero....sigh...mysterious, prickly, challenging, and very very ripe for the picking. I love how the author

slowly peeled his cover. We meet him as a prickly jerk. Then as a man in his work environment and still prickly. Then as a father who can't seem to find his way towards his daughter and by this time we saw his vulnerable side, and oh by that time I was urging the heroine to hurry and hug him.

In most romance books, the hero and heroine's mind would be occupied on how handsome/beautiful they see each other. Which basically tells me that they are only attracted to how the other looks - boring. In this book, it's life that put them together, it's life that happens around them. It's the heroine's effort to secure a future for her family that finally attracted the hero to her and it's the hero's steady and loyal heart that finally puts the heroine in the right path.

The secondary characters are as captivating as the two lead. I like the fact that there is no filler for the characters. They are needed and made the story alive.

I would definitely look for this author's other book. I

#### **Georgia Woods says**

I love this story. In some books, colloquialisms are overused, and the dropping g's thing for Southern speak is annoying, espcially for me, a Southerner. But this is an all-time favorite. Phoebe is smart, savvy, and wonderfully funny and warm. Her interplay with her siblings is hilarious:

"What we'll do..." Phoebe said, shaking loose old thoughts, "is, we'll just go out to G. G. Morgan's

junkyard and get the bumper when he ain't lookin'."

Willie-Boy's eyes grew wide. "Ain't that stealin'? Ma said—"

"Stealin' is when you take something that don't belong to you. That bumper is ours."

"You should let me handle it," said Maydean. "I have sultry eyes. Everybody in Cottontown says so. G. G. Morgan would looked into my eyes and I could a made him give us our bumper. And, speaking of my eyes, Phoebe, first chance you get, buy me some mascara."

Phoebe bit down on her tongue to keep from screaming. "Maydean, when you bat your lashes all you look is cross-eyed. Besides, G. G. Morgan didn't strike me as the swoonin' type. Now get out and watch traffic so I can back out. That is, if you can see anything besides pants with your sultry eyes."

Maydean sniffed. "You're just jealous 'cause my lashes are longer'n yours and I poke out more in front." "Stand behind the truck, Maydean. Then I won't have to worry 'bout feedin' you."

This is one delightful story, and one I can enjoy again and again.

#### **Scarlett Jensen says**

The first edition of this book was published in 1987 with title "Eye of the Beholder". The digital edition was published in January 2014. Jackie Weger has put her books on the virtual bookself. She has been writing for the past 30 years. The reader meets the characters of this well seasoned writer whose mature storytelling depicts witty, clever dialogue in an unique speec, stemming from Chaucer's Elizabethanism 200 years prior as adapted through 6 generations by the secluded tribe of swamp settlers in America. The setting chosen for this story is the tiny fishing village of Bayou, La Batre, Alibama.

The protagonist Phoebe, 24, beams with her ancestors' sharp wit, intelligence, strong will. With her pride and independent spirit, as out of work cotton mill girl, she takes the road to find home for her two younger

siblings. She commits to work and experiences life with a reluctant host who is a junk yard owner.

Gage Morgan owns home and land but has a bruised ego as a result of a failed marriage. Phoebe's attraction for the man creates moments of intimacy and seductive magic. He appreciates the family spirit and order Phoebe brings to the household, but he feels tricked as she digs into his soul with her strong willed grip. The author uses a playful scarcastic dialogue which delights the reader. The reader sees how Morgan's vulnerability and loneliness melt away.

The reader is also offered " a mindscape of visions" while she describes the thoughts of Phoebe on how she tracks down " the man and his house which is for her "a treasure trove of good things. Does her feminine power win? Simply a search for harmony.

Scarlett Jensen author of The Angel with Burnt Wingsl

#### Julie says

Eye of the Beholder by Jackie Weger was originally published back in the 1980's. This book has been reissued in e book format and is self published.

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Set in the rural south, Phoebe and her younger siblings are out on their own, looking for a place to stay, when a minor fender bender puts Phoebe in debt to Gage Morgan.

He insist Phoebe pay him for the damage done to his truck, even though she is a very young woman out on the road with two younger children and obviously has no money or means to obtain any. Gage keeps Phoebe's bumper with the tags in his truck and won't return it until she pays him.

So, being proud and resourceful, Phoebe moves right in with Gage. She discovers that Gage is a widower and has a daughter. His house and yard are a mess, so Phoebe starts cooking and cleaning and taking care of Gage's daughter. But, life is hard on Phoebe because as each day passes, the more attracted she is to Gage, and meaner he is to her.

Gage's marriage was not a good one and he doesn't trust women, especially when it comes to money. Phoebe and Gage trade insults, argue and before either of them has a chance to think about it too hard, they are in love.

But, can Gage learn to trust Phoebe?

This book as I stated in the beginning was originally published in the 80's. If you keep that in mind you will be able to put some of the vernacular in context. Phoebe is obviously uneducated and poor with little opportunity to advance herself. She has old fashioned values and I do mean old fashioned. She thinks the way to win Gage over is by keeping the kids taken care of, cleaning the house, and cooking good meals. She isn't opposed to working outside the home and does hard labor to earn money. But, she has a terrible vocabulary and talks like she just crawled out of a cave.

For the contemporary reader today, this book will probably appear dated. If you give the book a chance though, you will see that it is a charming old fashioned romance. Yes, the rural locations and obvious backwards living is silly, since today most people, even in the most extreme rural areas have internet access and cell phones. Things simply aren't done this way anymore. But, for me this made story more charming, since it reminds us of a time when life was simpler in some ways, sort of like a Mayberry kind of feeling. There were no college educations, and the thought didn't even enter the minds of many people at one time. But, if you strip all the dated material away and focus on the story, you will see that love is ageless and

timeless. There were some really funny moments in the story and of course there was a rather unconventional HEA.

There is some sexual content, but it's mostly a sweet love story with children making the situations funnier and showing the difference that a strong man and woman could make in their lives. Overall this is a B.

About the author: Jackie wrote for Harlequin during the 80's and then her life took a different path. She now interested in getting back into writing and has found the times have really changed. Jackie has several different e books available in the kindle store. These a romances are varied in style and context.

#### S.M. Johnson says

This one isn't dark or dreary or erotic. It isn't my usual fare whatsoever.

And yet - delightful! I'm not going to rehash the plot, you can read the blurb or other reviews for that, but imagine if Dicey from Homecoming and Dicey's Song (Cynthia Voigt) had been an adult searching for a good man to fall in love with her and take her and her siblings into his humble home.

Phoebe's voice took a bit for me to get used to - or rather, took a bit for me to embrace her as an adult, because honestly, she sounds enough like I remember of Dicey to trip me up. I say this as a compliment - so don't go thinking this is a cheap knock-off - because Finding Home is definitely a story all it's own.

This book has spit and vinegar and and character and wit. I found myself laughing out loud several times. I read it in one extremely enjoyable sitting, and I highly recommend it for that moment when you're looking for a fun, engaging, and humorous male/female romance.

I won't be forgetting Phoebe and Gage anytime soon.

#### **Jacqueline says**

What was this lunacy I just read? This book was obviously fairly modern since Dora the Explorer was mentioned but other than that I would have thought this maybe took place in the 1910s or 1920s. The heroine had a car but was amazed that the hero had electricity. She talked like a girl from back in the hills in the 1800s. She called his penis a tallywhacker. All of her vocabulary was just as looney. Basically she was looking for somewhere to live with her whole family and decided on him. She basically just moved into his house with her brother and sister and wouldn't leave. He was hopeless against her. She sent off for the rest of her family and then hopped into bed with him and basically forced him to have sex with her. He was so beta that he just went along with it and fell in love with her. But I think he gave up and let her steamroller him and pretended it was love.

Whackadoodle. But still readable and it went pretty fast so I guess I'm not sorry I read it.

# Jada Ryker says

Sweet, Cool, and Refreshing as a Tall Glass of Southern Iced Tea

Responsible for her brother Willie-Boy and her sister Maydean, Phoebe didn't think her day of failing to find a job could get any worse. She was wrong. When she backed her pickup truck into the truck of a handsome stranger, her heart sinks. Thankfully, such topics as insurance and money are too personal to discuss.

After a terrible experience in his first marriage, Gage is as leery of Phoebe as a chicken faced with a fox in the henhouse. Eye of the Beholder, by Jackie Weger, is a wonderfully plotted and written book. With plenty of action to keep the reader engaged, the story takes the reader through the adventures of Phoebe and Gage, as they learn what love, family, and traditional values are all about.

Don't miss out on this great book!

#### **Diana says**

So, this is possibly the most bizarre romance novel I have ever read. The hero is the hero because his "tallywhacker" fills out his jeans nicely and he has electrical appliances and lots of land from which to run his junkyard. The heroine comes with her sister Maydean and brother Willie-Boy, looking for work because the cotton mills have closed. Most of the plot is fairly typical romance novel fare ("Will her lurv cure his lack of trust?"). What was most interesting to me, however, was my response to it. As I giggled and snorted through the first part of the novel, I realized that what was so funny to me was precisely what made this book different. It actually presented people from lower class America as people, as having the potential to be the main characters in a romance novel. In that, the novel made me re-evaluate some of my own perceptions about people from life circumstances that are different from my own.

And, to be honest, "tallywhacker" is pretty dang funny.

# Kerry Reis says

Twenty four year old Phoebe Hawley has come to the Gulf Coast town of Bayou Le Batre with her younger twelve year old sister and five year old brother, looking for work and a home, when she gets into a fender bender accident with widower Gage Morgan, a junkyard owner with a young nine year old daughter. When Gage takes her bumper and license plate to assure she covers the cost of the damages in the accident, Phoebe wrangles her way into his home determined to prove her Hawley pride and grit. There is very little plot and the ending is exactly what readers of this type of backwoods romance and family drama want; however, this story finds its strength in the characterizations of two individuals searching for respect and security for themselves, while trying to overcome the physical and emotional road bumps in their past, blend in the responsibilities of family and parenthood, and deal with the romantic attractions that begin to well up within for each other. The novel is well written and edited, although I cannot claim to be an expert on Louisiana Cajun swamp diction. There are some sex scenes, but they fit within the path of two souls who clash, banter, hold back and then begin to mesh over the course of a few weeks in their lives.

### **Carmen Blalock says**

GUMPTION ~ courage and confidence. This is a word that is not commonly used in everyday language and some might even say that it is regional but it is a word nonetheless that is for a person with spunk! Basically people are saying that you are very determined and will achieve what you are attempting if you put your mind to it. A person can not be swayed and will do whatever it takes to reach their goal.

Phoebe Hawley is a twenty-four year old woman with gumption! She has set out to be successful so that she can help her family live a better life. The only issue that Phoebe is facing is the fact that she is toting around two kids with her and she has nowhere to go. That fact doesn't stop Phoebe but running into Gage Morgan is a roadblock that she hadn't anticipated! When Phoebe and Gage butt heads it is sheer will and Hawley pride that keeps Phoebe on her feet, but for how long will that pride last?

G. G. Morgan is a man of few words but when he gives you those few BOY does he give them to you! Gage is a widower with one small daughter and the both of them are lost. They don't know how to relate towards each other but they need each other. In walks Phoebe with her ulterior motives and turns the Morgan household on its ear. Will Gage be able to deal with raising his daughter and this hellcat that has invaded his personal space? Only time will tell.

Finding Home is a feel good story. It is one of those stories that you read and wonder what is going to happen next because you know if it was you then you would do it this way. Weger has found a way to have us so consumed in the story that you are almost taking sides and that is a good thing because these characters need our guidance (according to us readers, lol). This story is easy to follow and the dialect is regional to the area so some of the phrases used might not be common phrases but you know exactly what the meaning is. I thoroughly enjoyed this story and I look forward to reading more from this author. The original name of this novel was Eye Of The Beholder and in reading this story I know exactly what was meant by that. You will not be disappointed.

# C.B. Pratt says

If this book had Debbie MacComber's name on it, it would be another million seller and probably a Lifetime movie as well. Hayden Panettiere ought to option it. This is a book for anyone with a soft spot for Southern Charmers and appealing, feisty heroines. My only complaint is that it was just too short. Another 20,000 words, a little more development of the secondary characters, especially Phoebe's family, would have won that extra star. If, however, you are looking for something that won't take hours to read, a refreshing break from the exhaustions of the day, you should sit down with Eye of the Beholder.

# Cathy Geha says

One of my absolutely favorite books. I once lent it to a friend (with some other keepers) and she never returned it. I had to find one on a trip to the States and replace it. I love the characters, story and would love to meet these characters in real time...if I could. Better now than when I read it decades ago. A keeper and now in my Nook to keep without worrying about pages falling out.

#### **E.L.** Farris says

The first thing that struck me in Jackie Weger's Eye of the Beholder was the brilliant dialogue, and by brilliant I mean realistic and true to life. I'm not from the South, but I've lived South of the Mason-Dixon line for the last 20 years, and Weger captures the rhythm and dialect of a proud but poor Southern woman, Phoebe Hawley, with verisimilitude. I reckon I could listen to Phoebe talk all day, and today, I did. I read Eye of the Beholder practically in one sitting.

And for me, that's saying a lot. I don't have much time to read. Moreover, I don't usually read romances, but I'd heard great things about Weger's work, so I decided to give this novel a try, and I'm sure glad I did.

Phoebe is a hotheaded, hard-working redhead who is desperate to provide for her siblings. Desperate to find a better way. She ends up running into (quite literally) a similarly-hardworking, proud widower, and from the very first moment Phoebe and Gage Morgan meet, they argue like crabs tossing around in a boiling pot. Eventually, they quit fighting, because this is a romance, but it's also one with a conclusion I found believable.

I'd be amiss if I did not comment on two more things: the writing is as solid as the plot is well-constructed. And the editing is professional, both on a developmental level and a copy edit level.

An enthusiastic five stars from me.

E.L. Farris