



The Comforts of Home

Jodi Thomas

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***New York Times* bestselling author Jodi Thomas returns to the small town of Harmony, Texas, where the threat of a powerful storm inspires heartfelt revelations...**

Twenty-year-old Reagan Truman has found her place, and found her family. But with her Uncle taken ill and her friend Noah lost and disheartened with his life, Reagan is afraid of ending up alone again, and she's not the only one. Harmony seems to be full of people yearning for connection. Like funeral director Tyler Wright, who longs to take his relationship with his friend Kate to the next level, but doesn't know how. And Ronelle Logan, a woman frightened of everyday human interaction, until she meets an angry, lonely man-- someone just like her.

When a terrible storm threatens the town, the residents of Harmony are forced to think about what they really want. Because making the connections they so desperately desire means putting their hearts at risk...

The Comforts of Home Details

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From Reader Review *The Comforts of Home* for online ebook

April says

Kudos to Jodi Thomas. This lady can write for me any time! I love to settle in, relax at the close of a long day and return to Harmony, the town that this author has created. Her characters are well-crafted, complex and real. She's given them emotions and fears--sometimes for good reason. You never know where one of her stories will take you.

With the character Reagan, the petite fiery-haired young woman who has been through so much, a reader gets to see the world from her perspective. Taken in by a surly old man belonging to one of the town's founding families, the interaction between the two is most interesting. The town's female sheriff has her own foibles--and Tyler Wright, the seemingly lonely overweight undertaker is not to be forgotten.

At the risk of giving any portion the story away, I will simply say, if you want to 'meet' good down home folk, if you want to get involved in their lives, if you want to leave the city and travel at a slower pace, then pick up a Harmony novel. Hopefully, you will love each as I do.

mad4rombks says

Had to DNF it. One of the secondary characters was just ruining the book for me which is sad as I read and enjoyed the first 2 books in this series. I just couldn't get past her actions and her treatment of another character.

ETA -- 4/11/12

Have been in a weird reading mood. Went back and read/skimmed the rest of this one last night. Still hated Claire and her attitude towards Denver and how she was just using him for sex while he, the sucker, seemed to really love her.

There were 4 or 5 different stories going on. Ronny & Marty. Reagan & Noah. Claire & Denver. (If you can even call their story a "relationship". Tyler & Kate.

We can go ahead and mark off Reagan & Noah because both were 20? 21? Too young to really decide anything more than the back and forth that was going on between them.

Claire & Denver, skimmed through most of their scenes after Claire annoyed me so much.

Tyler & Kate, didn't think they'd ever decide to finally take the next time and make the choice to go to the next step, the emails, will she reply, when will she reply, were getting old, seriously old. Almost to the point of wanting Tyler to just move the heck on and just forget about her.

Then we have Ronny & Marty. Ronny is 26? Lives at home and her mother is the rudest person alive, IMO. The way she treats her daughter is horrible. Ronny grew up basically not wanting to be noticed. Didn't talk much, hated to be touched, etc. Marty was 30? Had been in a accident that put him in a wheelchair and he was grumpy at first. But they met one day when Ronny delivered the mail to his apartment. They struck up a

friendship where they would have lunch once a week where Marty would give Ronny "lessons" (kissing lessons to begin with) and it seemed the book was focusing on their relationship, even though each chapter was about one of the couples.

The last 10% of the book had a storm come through, blah blah blah. Tyler & Kate decide to marry (Thank you, God, they finally decide to take that step after 4 years of being friends). Noah decides to tell Reagan to wait for him until he was done from being part of the rodeo. Said he saw them married with 3 kids blah blah blah. Claire & Denver? Honestly, I have no idea what happened with them. Was hoping the storm would snatch Claire away like the wicked witch she was and just make her go *poof*, that's how much I cared about her.

Then we have Ronny & Marty. Ronny was injured one night and ended up at Marty's place where he helped take care of her injured leg. She ended up falling asleep on his bed and by the time she got home, her mom had basically called her trash and kicked her out (or Ronny may have just walked out before she kicked her out). After the storm, Ronny goes to Marty's to see him and he's not there. Somehow he's moved out, something having to do with his father, but he's not there when she goes and she ends up renting his place for herself. The book ends with her finding a paper that Marty left for her saying "Grow". No goodbye. No nothing, just "Grow" and the book ends. Just like that.

I'm slightly puzzled. I know the previous two books also featured several storylines but we went in knowing who the h/h of each book was. This one, I **thought** it was about Ronny & Marty but the ending confused the hell out of me and my skimming most of it didn't help any but damn, I couldn't take much of Claire. Does this mean Ronny & the absent Marty will be in book 4? I have no clue and right now I'm very leery about giving that one a try. Might have to wait a bit before I dive into that one.

Crystal says

Coming back to Harmony with each book is like coming home to me. Jodi manages to make the town of Harmony, Texas feel like my own home town and it's inhabitants like people I know and run into at the store. Even though there are usually six months between installments, I fall right back into town life and the life of the people the story focuses on. Yet if this was the first Harmony novel you were to pick up, I think that would be fine as well. Jodi goes into enough back story to familiarize you with a character so a new person to the Harmony books wouldn't feel lost.

The Comforts of Home is different from the first two Harmony novels which focused mainly on one couple while focusing on the town too. Now of course those two couples are settled down and we get to see some of them in this book which is a real treat. But in this installment, several story lines are focused on. Here several romances are given the spotlight and several characters with minor roles in earlier books are also given the spotlight. Reagan and Noah are ever-present and I am glad for that - I want to continue to see them grow up in the town of Harmony. I also love how Jodi uses people of all different ages in her books. She doesn't focus on 20-something couples or even 30-somethings. There is even a couple who broke up in WWII in this one who are either trying to reignite the fire or keep it going, depending on who's gossip you believe.

So there is romance, and that is wonderful, but the characters are what really make these books and The Comforts of Home is no exception. Getting a closer look at Tyler, Kate, Ronelle and several others was great in this book. Such different people with different lives, yet they can all come together when needed. And of course some new faces are introduced and there are some definite interesting ones there as well that I can't

wait to see more of in future books.

I won't give too much away but suffice it to say that the plot moves along swiftly. I never wanted to put it down and I didn't want it to end. I definitely don't want to wait until April for the next book, but I guess I will have to. Until then I have the various stories going through my head and hopes and dreams for the characters to come. So far Ms. Thomas has not disappointed and I don't expect her to anytime soon. The Harmony series is like a roaring fire on a cool fall or winter day, comforting and relaxing, something that just makes you feel like you are at home. That's what *The Comforts of Home* is like and it's perfect for these coming late fall/early winter days so make sure you get a copy and see for yourself.

DemetraP says

A wonderful small town romance. Everyone knows who everyone else is, there is slow build and you really learn to love the characters. Comfort read for me.

I was worried about reading Tyler Wright the funeral director's story. I thought it'd be gross or weird. But he's just a guy doing a job that needs doing and he enjoys his job and helping families through one of the most difficult times in their lives. I liked him as a character.

I thought Kate, his heroine, needed to get her act together. Her hot and cold routine got annoying. I liked how Jeremiah (Reagan's uncle) and Aunt what's her name got together in their nineties.

Ian says

Very good. Probably the best in the series so far. The story centers around 3 relationships. Ronny who has been told she is ugly and worthless so often that she accepts it as a fact until she meets Marty, a man angry with the world.

Tyler the town funeral director who has just about given up any hope that Kate will ever return his love; and Denver and Claire. Denver has finally found the woman he wants to spend his life with, but she is determined to make him work for every stolen kiss.

This book has a little passion but no sex. I know there are people out there who don't like books with detailed descriptions of sex and if you're one of them I think this series might be for you.

Jo (Mixed Book Bag) says

I think everyone would like to live in Harmony, TX. It is the ideal small town filled with people who care about each other. Of course there are some not so nice people as well. It would not be a story without them.

Like the other Harmony books *The Comforts of Home* is character driven. All of the original characters are back and some new ones have moved into town. In *The Comforts of Home* there are two couples that finally get their HEA's and there are some new characters that are still working on romance. I don't like spoilers so I will only say that there are two people I am hoping work out in the next book. There are also plenty of interesting side characters waiting for a bigger role.

This is one of those series that gets under my skin. The characters become such good friends I laugh and cry for them and want everything to work out in the end. Jodi is very good at gently torturing her characters and keeping the tension going in her books. That makes for a very good read.

You can read *The Comforts of Home* as a stand-alone but I recommend reading them in order. Start with *Welcome to Harmony* followed by *Somewhere Along the Way* and finally *The Comforts of Home*.

Anne OK says

I've loved the Jodi Thomas's Harmony Series from the first book. Each book has deepened my feelings. I feel a bond with the characters and I want everyone to be happy and safe. I believe it's true what they say about "three's the charm" because this book certainly was for me. I was in a lull and needed a pick-me-up and I definitely got it. Tyler, Reagan, Noah, Gabe, Uncle Jeremiah and his old girlfriend Pat and all the others, along with new characters who come alive in this series will grab your heart and not let go. Now I've seriously got the ho-hums and need another pick-me-up. I'll have to find it somewhere else because the next Harmony addition won't come for awhile . . . but I know it will be worth the wait when it arrives. If you like small town charm, characters with lots of personality, and a captivating fun-filled read, you might want to make a visit to Harmony, Texas and visit all the wonderful people who bring the town to life.

Laura (Kyahgirl) says

4/5; 4 stars; A-

I enjoyed reading another story set in Harmony Texas. I think a person would not enjoy this book as much if they hadn't read the previous books and gotten to know the characters and their history but it would still be a good read.

The characters drive all the Jodi Thomas books I've read and this one is the same. Like Robyn Carr, this author can build a community and intertwine several story lines without making a jumbled mess.

Recommend this to anyone who enjoys stories about family, community, and personal growth.

Garth Mailman says

Interesting choice of title. Harmony seems to be disaster prone. Last outing it was a prairie grassland wildfire, this time a tornado. Harmony seems not so Harmonious. (groan)

Of the original romances alluded to Noah has declared an intent to settle down with Reagan when he finally gets the rodeo circuit out of his system. His sister Alex married her fire chief Hank. Ty, the funeral director is on the road to making his online romance a reality.

Strays keep showing up in Harmony to enhance the gene pool lest the three founding families get overly inbred. There have been a few more marriages and old romances renewed and new ones sprouted up.

Cowboys of the Texas Panhandle tend to be tall and wear big hats, belt buckles and boots but few are three hundred-pound mountains of muscle like the Biggs Brothers. There seems to be a place for everyone who

would find a home in Harmony.

Tara says

The third book in the this series and I loved it! This series is SO good. Read it, it makes you happy, and is such a comfort read.

I love coming back to Harmony to visit old friends we met in previous stories and see how they are doing, and to see new stories, loves, relationships develop and grow.

Reagan and Noah tug at my heartstrings and I can't wait to see what awaits them next. And dear me, I was so stinky proud of Ronny in this book. I hope we see her story develop as well as Marty's.

This is a series that I read and almost crave the next book. This is an amazing series, a magical town created by an extremely talented author. Read this series and enjoy!

Cheryl says

Reagan Truman has grown since; she first came to Harmony, Texas. She is now a young woman has a grandpa, friends and a place to call home.

Ronelle Logan works for the post office. Her first delivery is to Mr. Marty Winslow. Ronelle was not prepared for Marty's abrupt attitude. This would explain why on her first meeting with him, she called him a cripple.

Tyler Wright is the local funeral director. He is finally ready to make the leap from friends to more than just friends, with Kate. Though, is she ready for the same thing?

Everyone in Harmony is friendly and people that I want to hang out with. Well most of the people. There was Marty. I could not believe how grown up Reagan was. She now had to contend with boys and prior she was just happy sitting on the front porch with her grandpa. It was nice to see Noah again. I do believe that he and Reagan belong together. Ronelle became an instant hit with me. She was shy but around Marty she opened up and could be herself. Even if that meant sometimes just blurting out things.

I so love this series from author, Jodi Thomas. I have to compare this series to another one of my favorite author's, Robyn Carr and her Virgin River series. They are both great, the characters are more like friends, and I can not read these books fast enough. The Comforts of Home is like eating a slice of Grandma's homemade, warm, apple pie...it is delicious and makes you wants seconds and thirds!

April says

4.5)THE COMFORTS OF HOME by Jodi Thomas is an interesting contemporary romance set in Harmony,Texas. This is #3 in the "A Harmony Novel". See "Welcome To Harmony",and "Somewhere

Along The Way". Come meet the characters of Harmony, Texas you will not regret the visit. This is a compelling, heartfelt, powerful, gripping story of love, romance, family, community, with secrets, danger and finding home. The characters will tug at your heart strings as they each find their way, and learn the meaning of love, peace and happiness. Harmony, Texas is a town with likable townspeople, who are human in every way, and jump off the pages. An emotional story, that will keep you turning pages. A must read for any romance readers and any reader who enjoys a heartwarming story. I can hardly wait for the next installment. Received from the author and publisher for review. Details can be found at The Berkley Publishing Group, published by Penguin Group and My Book Addiction and More.

Coming soon "JUST DOWN THE ROAD" from The Berkley Publishing Group

Ririn says

Finished the third one!

I love that Reagan and Noah finally got together. They are the sweetest couple in Harmony (or could it be Uncle Jeremiah and Aunt Pat? ;))

I love that finally Tyler got his Kate and his own HEA. I'm afraid I have lost a little hope seeing that Kate was ignoring him for about third half of the story.

But... I am angry at Marty for the way he left Ronny. After pursuing her and giving her hope, he just walked away without a word. Not romantic, okay! We lived in the world where mobile phones is a necessity, almost everyone have it. Can't you drop a message or a word yourself? Argghhh.....

Can't wait to visit Harmony again...

Aly says

Another absolutely fabulous addition to this series! And I wish I wasn't done b/c now I am dying for more and more and more!

Nath says

4.5/5 (A-)

I loved this book!! Just loved it :) I really enjoyed Somewhere Along the Way and was a bit anxious to read The Comforts of Home... but once I finished this book and re-read it immediately LOL. Yep, that's how much I enjoyed The Comforts of Home :)

So far, I've loved following Reagan's journey, seeing her grow and dealing with life. It's really been heartwarming to see the relationship between Reagan and her great-uncle, Jeremiah. They are not blood-related, but blood doesn't matter. It's the heart that does. I've also been very anxious to see what would happen to her

relationship with Noah. It was sad to see that Noah has lost his joy and love of the rodeo world. That the injuries and the reality of the rodeo world have toughened him up, but also eroded his spirit. At the same time, it makes Noah's promises to Reagan at the end even stronger, meaningful. I think that Noah will turn into a really fine man and as such, I'm glad that the fractures in their relationship were mended.

Another relationship that I'm happy with the outcome is Ty and Kate. I think Ty is an awesome man. Definitely not your typical hero in romance - a chubby 40-ish y.o. funeral director - and yet there is something about him. His gentleness, the way he cares for people and his job, his sincerity. Tyler is really a genuine person... While I think he deserves much better than Kate, in the end, it is the woman he wants to spend the rest of his life with and I'm happy that he finally gets what he wants :)

I have to say though, my favorite storyline in *The Comforts of Home* was Ronny's story. She's been mentioned in *Welcome to Harmony* if I'm not wrong and she seems such a strange woman... but Ms Thomas was able to turn her into an interesting character, one that you came to love and couldn't help but root for :) It was just amazing to see her bloom and spread her wings, to come out from under her mother's thumb, starts making friends and affirming herself.

Ronelle knew Dallas would not stay to eat. She often reminded Ronelle never to eat anything at potluck dinners or bake sales. One person hating the town could wipe out the entire population with poison.

Looking around, she saw everyone eating and had a horrible thought. If they all died, that would leave only her mother and her in town. While her mother stopped to talk to Willie Davis, Ronelle slipped a piece of corn bread into her pocket. It would be all in crumbs by the time she got home, but she planned to eat it. Just in case.

When I first read this passage, it made me chuckle LOL. At the same time, can you imagine the situation Ronelle finds herself in? Also the stunt that her mother pulled at the end of the book. Really, I don't know how Ronelle did which shows that deep down, Ronelle is really a strong woman.

Anyway, I really enjoyed Ronny's relationship with Marty, because it was so strange. However, I think that both of them really connected and really understood each other. I thought that the romance developed a little bit too fast, so it's a good thing that Marty leaves to get better at the end... But I have to say, I cannot wait for the next book!!! I want to see what happens to this relationship and how things turn out!!!

So yes, I really enjoyed *The Comforts of Home*, but there were two flaws to it. First, there is another couple - Denver and Claire. I really didn't care about them... I just don't like Claire and can't warm up to her. However, I can say she's lucky to have Denver. The other issue I had with this book was the big storm. I just wished Ms Thomas would not use the disaster plot device in all the books ^_^; It's just becoming a pattern and I think patterns when they are too obvious are not good. Good thing these were small issues and did not affect my enjoyment of the book too much :)

Finally, but not least... I've said it often, but it's worth to mention it again: there is something special about Ms Thomas' writing :) The best way I can describe it is gentle, delicate and it really suits this series. The *Harmony* series is not your typical small-town contemporary romance series... instead, it's about characters in a community growing and falling in love, but not in a straightforward way :) I liked that life for these characters is not all pink, because it makes it more believable, more realistic... but at the same time, it's not always tragic. It's just life. And the way Ms Thomas writes it... it's not heart-breaking because that would

imply it's sad, but it definitively tugs hard at your heart :)

The Comforts of Home made me smiled, made me chuckled, made me laughed and definitively warmed my heart :) I can't wait for the next book!
