

TO HAVE
and
TO HOLD



TRAE STRATTON

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April 23, 1994. The date is set. Colin MacLann is getting married. Growing up in the suburbs of New York City at a time when kids could still be kids and sometimes were for too long, Colin looked like he had it all: he was smart, athletic, had a voice for rock 'n' roll, and lots of luck. There were girlfriends too, five of them: Cindy, Haley, Cara, Monique and Tessa. Each of them burst into his life at different times to inspire him in their own unique way, and more often than not, broke his heart too. Still, fate has chosen one of them to be his soul mate. Will Colin grow up in time to earn a place at the altar beside her? Or must destiny deliver someone else? In *To Have and To Hold*, Trae Stratton takes the reader on a rare journey. By writing almost exclusively from the point of view of the groom and his family, a simple love story turns into an endearing family saga anchored to Colin's relationships. Through the deft use of flashbacks, the reader grows up with Colin just before the digital age in a time and place when your neighborhood could still be your whole world. As the hour of his wedding draws near, the witty dialogue keeps the plot moving at a crisp pace, while slyly preserving the identity of the bride until the final chapter. Whether you enjoy mysteries, happy endings or both, the MacLann family will work their way into your heart for a long time to come.

To Have and To Hold Details

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From Reader Review To Have and To Hold for online ebook

Michelle Durdaller wesley says

I loved the book. When a book draws me in I don't stop reading and hate when I have to put it down. That's what this book did for me. It takes me back to the 80's and keeps you on edge through most of the book. Live the life through Colin MacLann and his family. Evolve with them.

Synita says

i sooo loved this book... i was desperate to finish reading it to see who Colin ending up marrying. I enjoy reading the flash back to previous years that brought everyone to the day Colin got married.....

InD'tale Magazine says

3.5/5.0

“To Have and To Hold” is a family tale that walks readers through the wedding day with the point of view switching from the groom, family members and groomsmen.

Read full review in the 2015 February issue of InD'tale Magazine.

Mary Nee says

This book is the point of view of the groom and his family, a simple love story turns into an endearing family saga anchored to Colin's relationships.

Danielle Urban says

Trae Stratton's novel, To Have and To Hold is absolutely amazing! I highly recommend reading his fabulous novel. Trae Stratton definitely knows how to keep his readers intrigued and lured in from the first page onward. I loved his characters journey of romance unfolded right before me! A beautiful and simple love story told from the groom's point of view! This book caught my attention because most novels are told from the woman's or both the woman's and man's point of view. But Trae's dashing novel was strictly told from the groom's and the groom's family point of view. The chapter's switched point of views and kept me intrigued as to when the groom will be finally getting married. Collin MacLann has it all. A good life and many girlfriends that come in his life at different points in his life. Making the novel highly unique and interesting. Which one of the girlfriends will be his bride? Or will someone else be his bride? Whether you love reading a good mystery or a perfect romance, To Have and To Hold, has it all! A brilliant must read that will keep you reading all night long! I highly recommend getting a copy of Trae Stratton's book and start

reading it now! I rate the novel a 5 out of 5 stars!

Nancy Jones says

I voluntarily reviewed an Advanced Reader Copy of this book.

I really enjoyed reading To Have and To Hold. This was told from the groom's view. He is getting ready for his wedding and he flashes back to times in his past. You are left guessing who his bride is until the very end. I really liked the characters and their stories.

K.R. Thompson says

This book is definitely one of those stories that you can just "sink" into. At first, I thought this was going to be a story told entirely by the groom with flashbacks. I was pleasantly surprised to find that you also learn Colin and his bride-to-be's story through the eyes and flashbacks of his family and discover a few of their secrets as well. Through them, you'll learn about each of Colin's five girlfriends, and each one will leave you wondering who the bride will turn out to be. Every time I thought I had it figured out, I'd read the next chapter and change my mind. I didn't figure it out to the very last chapter. I definitely recommend this wonderful story to anyone who enjoys happily ever afters with a twist of mystery.

I highly commend Mr. Stratton on his wonderful debut novel. It is a beautifully written, rich story. I very much enjoyed my time with the MacLanns.

Kirstie says

Memories flood in for Colin McClann and all those dear to him, the nostalgia too hard to ignore on this big day, the day he finally married the one girl who truly stole his heart.

The story reminisces through the eyes of all those who were a part of Colin's life from childhood right up until the day of his wedding.

Every person who touched his life whether it be briefly or for the long haul had some impact on the person Colin had become.

There were many great adventures, and also many heart breaks, but if your any part of the McClann family, blood or not, they stood by you no matter what.

Just when you think you know all there is to know about the McClann's, Trae Stratton adds a new layer or twist in the story. This is a powerfully emotional story that pulls you in and truly makes you want to be a member of the McClann family!

Kat says

To Have and To Hold was awesome. It's not some cheesy romance novel. Usually you find books that are all about the woman. This is mainly from the point of view of the guy. Stratton keeps you engaged through out the whole book. If you pay real close attention, his clues as to who Collin will marry will blow your mind! I totally recommend this. And just an FYI, you'll probably shed some tears. I also think this would make an awesome movie.

Dianne says

Click on Banner to enter!

**Here's YOUR chance to win a print copy or 1 of 2 Kindle copies of
TO HAVE AND TO HOLD
International
Ends April 27, 2015**

Colin MacLann is getting married, today is the day and in just a few hours he will begin to “write” another addition to the “books” of his life’s journey. Reflecting back on the story of his life through his thoughts, we are invited to witness a young boy, his best friends and joy of their youthful imaginations. Always called the Lucky One, Colin was a gifted athlete, a talented singer and seemed to get whatever he wanted, the girls, the attention, that hidden niggling of self-doubt was always there. As his childhood friends grew, their bonds remained strong and lives changed, some for the better, some hit major roadblocks along the way only to hurdle past them in directions they only dreamed about. But these young men are not the only ones reflecting on events of their pasts; his parents have their own secrets, flaws and mistakes hidden deep within.

What of the girls in Colin’s life, how did they impact the man he has become as they walked into and out of his life? His bride awaits him, the one he needed most, and how did she know she was to co-author his next story? Masterful storytelling, riveting and, well, simply breathtaking!

This could have been written about any family, anywhere and that is part of the charm of this tale. Trae Stratton has created a story of introspection, revelations, truths, pain and joy in a way that welcomes his readers into the fold of the MacLann family. They're far from perfect, have overstepped boundaries, have loved and lost, been wounded and have healed, but always they are a family of the heart, mind and soul, a solid unit that often defies explanation.

The undertones are decidedly masculine as the memories and flashbacks are told from a mostly male perspective. An emotional rollercoaster, you will soar with the characters, feel their self-doubt and crash and burn alongside them, but throughout, you will feel hope for the future based on events and actions from the past, and love, a lot of love.

Trae Stratton writes from his heart, it’s in every word on each page as they come to life in your mind’s eye. I suggest keeping tissues nearby, because Mr. Stratton not only gives you a couple of laughs, but he will scrape your heart raw just when you least want it. If that isn't magical storytelling, nothing is.

I received this copy from author Trae Stratton in exchange for my honest review.

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Stephanie Lasley says

Nostalgic, Uplifting Read

“To Have and to Hold” is a heart-warming story of a large family growing up in Queens. Although there are five children in the MacLann household, the story is based around Colin, the second child in the family. Its Colin’s wedding day. As he sits in his favorite chair in his family home, he reflects on his childhood. His mind is instantly flooded with memories. He ponders on all the trials and tribulations he has gone through in his life that has lead him to be the man he is today.

Colin has had five major girlfriends. The intriguing part is that he marries one of them, but you don’t know which one until the end of the book. That in itself was an added thrill.

Being the mother of a thirty five year old son, this book spoke to me on a personal level. After finishing the story, I sat thinking of the similarities between Colin and my own son. The references of plastic army men, Star Wars, cars, girlfriends, football and the music of the 80’s and 90’s brought tears to my eyes. I immediately picked up my phone and called my son, just to hear his voice and to tell him how much I love him.

Author Trae Stratton has been able to capture the essence of happiness in the pages of this book.

I felt comforted, satisfied and truly touched after reading this novel.

5 Stars easy!

Heelqueen says

I like this book as its told from the grooms point of view.it tells the story of the mclanns on the day of Colin's wedding. As he thinks about all his ex girlfriends he's had before his wife to be.

We get to see each character and their back story's and how everything has lead Colin to this moment in time. And it keeps you guessing till the end who is the one he ends up marrying.

Ginger Ryan says

A wonderful "Hallmark" type story that will leave you feeling uplifted and hoping you'll be "invited" to another MacLann wedding sometime soon.

Patricia Kajihara says

There are just those books that gets you right at the first page, this is what this book made me feel.

I would rate this book 4.5 over 5 stars

Blurb:

"April 23, 1994. The date is set. Colin MacLann is getting married. Growing up in the suburbs of New York City at a time when kids could still be kids and sometimes were for too long, Colin looked like he had it all: he was smart, athletic, had a voice for rock 'n' roll, and lots of luck. There were girlfriends too, five of them: Cindy, Haley, Cara, Monique and Tessa. Each of them burst into his life at different times to inspire him in their own unique way, and more often than not, broke his heart too. Still, fate has chosen one of them to be his soul mate. Will Colin grow up in time to earn a place at the altar beside her? Or must destiny deliver someone else? In *To Have and To Hold*, Trae Stratton takes the reader on a rare journey. By writing almost exclusively from the point of view of the groom and his family, a simple love story turns into an endearing family saga anchored to Colin's relationships. Through the deft use of flashbacks, the reader grows up with Colin just before the digital age in a time and place when your neighborhood could still be your whole world. As the hour of his wedding draws near, the witty dialogue keeps the plot moving at a crisp pace, while slyly preserving the identity of the bride until the final chapter. Whether you enjoy mysteries, happy endings or both, the MacLann family will work their way into your heart for a long time to come."

I have no words on how robust this book is. The book is a story in the point of view of the second son Colin, as he comes and reflects on his past before his marriage. Memories start wheeling through his head, laughs, smiles, and even the idea of falling in love emerges. That love that made him the Colin McLann he is that very day.

I guess what made this a great read is the witty way the story was told, emotions get to you each page and you just stop and smile on how amazing this book is. You see, Colin has 5 girlfriends and what made this more astounding was how he marries one of them. Each chapter gives up a clue, and you find out who the bride is at the end of the book. It was hard to bring myself into a halt, and because of my longing to find who the lucky one is, I read the book in a day and a half with short breaks. It has such a captivating plot that gave me a rush of emotions.

A wonderful tale of friendship, true loves, and family. Truly a great read. What are you waiting for? Are you ready to journey with the McLanns? Grab your copy now!

I would like to thank Trae Stratton for sending me this book in exchange for my honest review. Your trust means alot to me and I'm looking forward to more amazing reads from you!

blog post: <https://wordpress.com/post/68957935/423/>
