



Harriet Beamer Strikes Gold

Joyce Magnin

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After a whirlwind cross-country move, Harriet and her donut-loving basset hound, Humphrey, have settled into a new life in Grass Valley, California. When Harriet learns that she's going to be a grandma for the first time and get a new suite with room for her salt-and-pepper shaker collection, she can't wait for her best friend, Martha, to come visit so she can share her good news.

But adventure is never far away when Harriet is around. After listening to the pleas of a desperate teen whose daddy needs money right away—and happens to have a gold mine to lease—Harriet falls hook, line, and sinker into the venture. Although she's nervous about her investment, Harriet chooses to keep it a secret from her son, Henry, and his wife. She can only imagine what she'll do if this turns out to be her ticket to a golden windfall.

When suspicions arise, though, it becomes clear that Harriet may never see an ounce of gold. But will she continue to trust and risk losing everything? The fate of the young teen and a family emergency show Harriet where her true treasure lies.

Harriet Beamer Strikes Gold Details

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From Reader Review Harriet Beamer Strikes Gold for online ebook

Suzie Waltner says

When I was growing up, we always lived at least two states away from both sets of my grandparents so I never had the relationship with them that some of my cousins have had. Joyce Magnin's main character, Harriet Beamer, seems like the type of grandmother that every child should have. She's quirky, a little bit silly and values her friends and family (and of course her Basset Hound, Humphrey).

In *Harriet Beamer Strikes Gold*, Harriet is feeling a little left out after her move across the country to live with her son and daughter-in-law. When Harriet is visiting a local café and runs into a teenage girl who tells her about a gold mine her father is looking for an investor for, Harriet feels this could be something she can call her own. She also finds out that she is getting a new Grammy Suite to call her own (with room for her collection of salt and pepper shakers), her best friend is coming to visit from Pennsylvania and she is going to become a grandmother for the first time (to twins). With all of this excitement in her life, will Harriet be able to see the truth behind the gold mine? Will she learn where the true treasure lies in her life?

The story was engaging and moved along pretty well because there was so much going on but I just couldn't get past the fact that the main character seemed to ignore so many warning signs. I was also a little bothered by the fact that when the characters said they would pray, I never read any prayers, just conversation between characters. Yes the conversation was often about God but I would have liked to have seen some prayer written into the book.

Over all, I would give the book three stars out of five

****Zondervan Publishing provided me with a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest and fair review. I was not compensated in any way for either a negative or positive review.

Janet Reeves says

Harriet's back! And I still want to be just like her when I grow up. Well, maybe I don't want to be quite so gullible or quick to jump to wrong conclusions. But I like her adventurous spirit--and her bright, red sneakers!

In the first book, in case you haven't read it yet, 72-year-old Harriet Beamer travels from Pennsylvania to California by rather unconventional means and learns all kinds of lessons along the way. In this second book, *Harriet Strikes Gold*, Harriet is now living with her son and daughter-in-law, getting used to her new town. Of course, Humphrey the dog is with her, and he's still eating all the donuts he can get his paws on. But Harriet is feeling a little bit discouraged. She hasn't made any new friends, nor does she want to. She wonders if her family really wants her there or if they feel obligated to care for her in her senior years. And worst of all, there is no room in their little house for her salt and pepper shaker collection.

Things change quickly, though, when a neighbor from down the street takes Harriet to visit a real gold mine, then tells her about placer mines for lease. Harriet is picturing herself panning for gold with Humphrey when a teenage girl and her father approach with the opportunity of a lifetime, and Harriet's new adventure begins.

This book was so much fun, I read it straight through. It ended just perfectly for everyone involved. I'll be watching for book 3!

Amanda says

Fun and silly yet a good read.

Deanna Gottreu says

Harriet Beamer Strikes Gold by Joyce Magnin is a most delightful story about a seventy plus widow and all the adventures she has and all the scrapes she gets into. Harriet is living in Pennsylvania but her son, Henry, convinces her to move to Grass Valley, California to live with him and his wife, Prudence. Harriet has reservations about moving but she and Humphrey, her basset hound that loves donuts, make the move across the country. Shortly after arriving in California, Harriet learns that she is to be a grandma and that a "Grammy suite" is going to be added to the house. Harriet is almost as excited about the suite as she is about the expected grandchild for now she will have a place to display her enormous collection of salt and pepper shakers. Harriet is always getting involved in one adventure or another and she gets drawn into the life of a young girl after listening to her explain that her dad has a gold mine to lease but he needs money right away. Harriet falls completely and gives money to the man but she decides to keep the venture from her son. When her best friend, Martha, comes to visit, she has doubts about the mine and convinces Harriet to go to the police. Both women are fond of the man's daughter and do everything they can to help her.

All the characters were very well developed and they came to life as I read the book and I felt as if they were friends of mine. Descriptions of scenes were so realistic that I could see them clearly in my mind and even see myself in the middle of what was going on. There was even a good bit of suspense in the story. Prudence has had two miscarriages and at one point it seemed that she was going to have a third. There was a surprise when they learned there would be twins. The biggest suspense was if Harriet would ever see a speck of gold and would Martha decide to sell her home in Pennsylvania and move to California? I do not want to spoil the ending but I will say that it is a happy ending.

I highly recommend this book to everyone who enjoys a good Christian story and especially one that has an adventurous female senior citizen as the main character.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Zondervan as part of the BookSneeze.com book review bloggers program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own.

Rayleigh says

"After a whirlwind cross-country move, Harriet and her donut-loving basset hound, Humphrey, have settled into a new life in Grass Valley, California. When Harriet learns that she's going to be a grandma for the first time and gets a new suite with a room for her salt-and-pepper shaker collection, she can't wait wait for her best friend, Martha, to come visit so she can share her good news.

But adventure is never far away when Harriet is around. After listening to the pleas of a desperate teen

whose daddy needs money right away-and happens to have a gold mine to lease-Harriet falls hook, line, and sinker into the venture. Although she's nervous about her investment, Harriet chooses to keep it a secret from her son, Henry, and his wife. She can only imagine what she'll do if this turns out to be her ticket to a golden waterfall.

When suspicions arise, though, it becomes clear that Harriet may never see an ounce of gold. But will she continue to trust and risk losing everything? The fate of a young teen and a family emergency show Harriet where her true treasure lies."

First, I thank Zondervan Publishing for sending me this book for this honest review.

This was a very enjoyable book. Lots of humorous moments that made me laugh. Harriet is lovable character that you would love to meet and listen to her tell stories from "back in the day".

Henry and Prudence were also very good characters. I really enjoyed the parts where it described Henry writing, how he would use things that had happened to him and weaved them into the story. I also enjoyed the families they mentioned that had 5 or 6 kids, and how Henry reacted to such a great number! Of course, you have to know me and my family to know why that is humorous.....

The dog, Humphrey, also made the book that much better, because he was a part of the family! This book is very highly recommended and I encourage you to read it! Have a wonderful day!

Create With Joy says

Last summer, I fell in love with Harriet Beamer – that irrepressible senior citizen with a zeal for life who agreed to move across the country to live with her son Henry and his wife Prudence when they became concerned for her health – but did so on her own terms in *Harriet Beamer Takes The Bus*.

This summer, Harriet Beamer is back – and the love affair continues in Joyce Magnin's latest book, *Harriet Beamer Strikes Gold*!

In *Harriet Beamer Strikes Gold*, Harriet now lives in Grass Valley with Henry, Prudence, and her beloved Basset hound, Humphrey – but, she's having trouble adjusting to her new life. She misses her friends from back East – especially her best friend Martha. She's finding it difficult to meet people and make friends on her own. Exploring the town is impossible because she can only travel so far on her Vespa scooter. And, worst of all, her prized salt and pepper shaker collection is collecting dust in the garage!

So, Henry arranges an "accidental" meeting with a neighbor, who takes her on a local tour of a gold mine. Harriet is enthralled! This sets the stage for what's to come: a chance meeting with a down-on-her-luck teen whose father, "Win", is trying to raise some quick cash for a "guaranteed" investment. Before long, Harriet finds herself leasing a gold mine! Will Harriet's investment pay off – or has her luck finally run out?

Harriet Beamer Strikes Gold is the perfect summer read – it's light, bright and fun! If you're already a fan, you will enjoy catching up on Harriet's latest adventures! If you're new to Harriet's world, you'll enjoy reading about her family and learning what makes Harriet tick!

This review was written by and originally published at Create With Joy.

Disclosure: I received a copy of this book from the publisher for review purposes. I was not compensated or required to write a positive review. The opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own.

Monique says

Quick reading, easy read.

Becky says

This is a fictional story about senior citizen Harriet Beamer. She has recently given up her independence by selling her home on the east coast. She and her dog, Humphrey, have moved in with her son, Henry, and daughter-in-law, Prudence, in California. The move has left Harriet feeling anxious and alone.

One of her passions has been collecting salt and pepper shakers. Unfortunately, there isn't room for them in her new abode, and they all remain packed in boxes in the garage. She doesn't feel at home with her children, instead she feels like a guest—that she must ask permission to do anything in the house. Harriet hasn't met any new friends, and she misses her best friend, Martha, from her old hometown. She doesn't feel at home at her kid's church, either. There is no one her age there, and whenever she goes, they always give her “the bum's rush” to do nursery duty.

Henry has been encouraging Harriet to get out of the house and try to meet people. During one of those attempts, Harriet meets teenager, Lily, and her father, Win—a gold miner. Win attempts to convince Harriet to invest in a venture that he promises will pay well.

Harriet's life goes from dull to over-the-top. Prudence has become pregnant, an exciting but stressful event because she has miscarried her previous pregnancies. Prudence and Henry surprise Harriet with plans to build a home addition for an in-law suite. Her good friend Martha comes for a visit which brings comfort, but also some unexpected news. Both Martha and Harriet find themselves really connecting with Lily and are very concerned for her.

Will Prudence be able to carry this baby to term? Will Harriet get fleeced by a con artist? Will Harriet ever feel comfortable living under her children's roof, or will she start over someplace else? And lastly, is Lily a nice girl, or a wolf in sheep's clothing?

This is a fun, light-reading book with humor spread throughout. However, it does cover some real issues such as con men preying on the elderly, and the problems of trying to blend two families together under one roof. Also addressed is the plight of some churches concentrating so much on younger crowds that the seniors are forgotten or “shoved” into nursery duty, or some other area where they will be out of the way.

The title definitely fits this tale. This is entertaining fiction that is easy to read. Although this is the second book in a series, I felt this book could stand alone. I do want to read the first book, however, because I liked the characters, and would relish a new adventure with them. I enjoyed this book, it is a good, clean story. It receives my recommendation and five stars.

The publisher has provided me with a complimentary copy of this book through Thomas Nelson/Zondervan

Publishing for the purpose of review. All opinions expressed are my own, and I have not been compensated in any other manner. Despite my receiving the book free, it has not influenced my judgment, and I have given an honest opinion.

My Blog: <http://fushiacat.wordpress.com/2013/0...>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/joyce.magnin.7>

Author's Blog: <http://joycemagnin.blogspot.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/joycemagnin>

Liz Terek says

When the world first met Senior Saint, Harriet Beamer, she was traveling in 'Harriet Beamer Takes the Bus'. With her cross country journey finished, she's joined her son & daughter-in-law in Grass Valley, California. Initially, she hadn't been all that happy about the move, but gradually realized the benefits. Now, Harriet's set to be a first time grandma.

If we though Harriet had experienced true adventure in her first outing, we haven't seen anything yet. Approached by a teen with family issues, Harriet is hustled into an investment in, of all things, a gold mine. Harriet may be a smart cookie, but she falls for the scheme anyway. Of course, she doesn't tell her son. Now things aren't quite as she thought they were & her investment doesn't seem all that genuine anymore. What will happen to Harriet's golden goose? There's more to the teen than meets the eye, too. Can soon-to-be grandma Harriet save the day?

I adore Harriet & her creator, Joyce Magnin. Joyce's first Harriet novel was priceless. It doesn't hurt that both Harriet & I collect salt & pepper shakers which we've grown into huge collections. But, this character reminds me so much of my own mom that I made mom into a Harriet fan as well.

Good, clean fun is probably the best way to describe it. I've read both novels in one sitting because they are just that good! I hope wholeheartedly that we will see more of this spunky grandma in the future. Joyce Magnin & her character are a true winning combination. If you've not read Joyce's work, you simply don't want to miss it. I recommend the first, 'Harriet Beamer Takes the Bus' & 'Harriet Beamer Strikes Gold' be read consecutively. You'll be glad you did. Both are absolutely 5 out of 5 star novels!

I received 1 copy in exchange for an honest review. ALL opinions are mine.

Margaret says

Seventy-two year old Harriet Beamer, after selling her home in Pennsylvania and taking a bus trip across the country is now in Grass Valley, California; living with her son Henry and his wife Prudence. They welcomed her into their home but it isn't the comfortable arrangement Harriet was hoping for. Her bedrooms is small, her precious salt and pepper shaker collection has been relegated to the garage, and Prudence is extremely fastidious with the house-keeping. She feels like the guest who never leaves or the stinky fish left in the refrigerator. She harbors a resentment toward her son who sold the family construction business without telling her and instead of following his father's footsteps, he became a writer. What kind of "job" is that? She

is also a bit jealous of Henry's relationship with Mrs. Caldwell down the street who bakes him pies.

Henry senses his mother's restlessness and suggests that she get out and about more; make friends with Mrs. Caldwell, find a salt and pepper shaker club, join a community group....well, Harriet does just that. She meets a down-on-his luck man by the name of Win Jumper and his 17 year old daughter Lily. The next thing you know Harriet has leased a gold mine, pulled out her savings, and is backing Win to mine the gold as she waits to see the profits. The reader sees where this is going but Harriet doesn't.

I may have just outgrown this series. I like Harriet and her quirks: her Chuck shoes, her Vespa, her love of doughnuts, her love of her Basset Hound, Humphrey, and even her annoying habit of saying "Anyhoo" when she wants to finish what she was saying. But this book was just off for me.

The dialect and the phrases that were used just seemed too contrived. Win was fond of saying "Hot Diggity Dog" and "pretty lady" which just seemed too forced to me. The reader, even if Harriet didn't, already knew that Win was a con. It would have seemed more believable had Win come off as a little more sophisticated, because yes, there are people of all ages every day getting scammed and that is a worthy topic for a cautionary tale. I also thought Henry's remarks, "This is so cool," he said. "The FBI." and the phrase "As worried as he was for his mother, he was having a blast." just didn't fit the situation.

For now I will say good-bye to Harriet and her antics. This one just didn't make me laugh or snicker the way the other books in the series did. But, Harriet, I wish you good luck and plenty of Converse shoes to coordinate with your outfits in your future adventures! I'm sure we will meet up again someday.

Alison Roybal says

What a fantastic book, I could not put the book down!!! So glad I discovered Joyce Magnin as I also read another one of her novels...both in the same day they were that good!!!

Brandi (Rambles of a SAHM) says

She's baaa-aaack! The zany yet lovable Harriet Beamer is back in all her glory! She has completed her cross country move and is settling into her new place with her son and daughter-in-law. The problem is that it has been three months and she still feels like a visitor. Her room is tiny and her daughter-in-law just doesn't seem to share her sense of style. Harriet is missing her own space and her best friend Martha.

It doesn't take long for Harriet to get mixed up in her next adventure. When Harriet meets Lily and decides to become an investor in the gold mine Lily's father Winslow is involved in, the shenanigans begin.

From her red high top Converse All Stars to her hip yellow Vespa scooter Harriet Beamer is a force to be reckoned with. Her son Henry, daughter-in-law Prudence and her friends Martha and Florence have their hands full just keeping her out of the trouble that just seems to fall in her lap.

Joyce Magnin has put together another rollicking adventure for her readers. Her characters are quirky, funny and delightful all rolled together. While this is book two in her current series I think that you can still enjoy

this book as a stand-alone but of course you'd really be treating yourself if you went back and read Harriet Beamer Takes the Bus.

I received a copy of this book to facilitate my review.

PeggyAnn Smith says

All that glitters could be gold!

A funny story about an Older Woman who wants a bit of excitement and adventure in her life before she dies. No way does she want to leave this earth having never done anything but go to The Beach once a year with her husband. Now that he has passed on she is determined to find out what she has been missing her entire life. Humorous and Sweet!

Lisa Johnson says

Title: Harriet Beamer Strikes Gold

Author: Joyce Magnin (<http://joycemagnin.blogspot.com/>)

Pages: 320

Year: 2013

Publisher: Zondervan

Reading this novel, which is the second in a series, was absolutely delightful! The first novel Harriet Beamer takes the Bus, which I haven't read yet, starts the Harriet Beamer series written by a very talented author. Joyce Magnin has written other adult novels as well as those for middle grades children according to her website. She also does editing, speaking and teaching in addition to raising her son, Adam, who is still at home. You can visit her site to learn about her various novels published and about herself as she shares in a way that is sure to make you laugh.

In Harriet Beamer Strikes Gold, I was introduced to a lively widowed senior citizen character that collects salt and pepper shakers and has recently moved in with her son and his wife. She has had to leave behind her best friend, pack up her stuff and move to a place where everyone is a stranger to her. She has a wonderful sense of humor, faith, and longs for adventure every day. While realizing she is older, she can't think about getting old as it brings her down. Instead, she looks for ways to do new things and one day hopes to become a grandmother.

As Harriet learns about the history of where she is now living, her interest in gold mines peaks. From here on out, Harriet is on one adventure after another while learning to change and adapt to her new environment while making friends. When her best friend, Martha, comes to join her for a couple weeks, the two of them discover even more.

I liked that I could laugh at what this character Harriet said and did. While I am not in this particular season of life, I couldn't help but envision myself being like her when I get there. Harriet didn't want to focus on growing old or letting moss grow under her feet just waiting for her time. Nope! The character seeks life, adventure, God's hand, and all the while with her Basset Hound, Humphrey, in tow who likes warm glazed donuts to eat. Harriet is created to show us how no matter what age we are there are new lessons to learn, people to know and places to see. I guess I want to be like Harriet Beamer "when I grow up" is what I am saying. When you read the book, I hope you catch the sense of living every day to its fullest.

My rating is 5+ stars. Oh, I am buying the first novel to read as soon as this review is written ?!

Note: I received a complimentary copy for an honest review of this book. The opinions shared in this review are solely my responsibility. Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyurheart.blogspot...> . Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

Sue says

Want fiction loaded with eccentric characters whose lives provide more than a slight flash of humor? Want stories that examine human frailties and problems with sensitivity and a fresh approach, but still with Christian values? Then you need to discover author Joyce Magnin. I've already reviewed a couple novels from the Bright Pond series(Prayers of Agnes Sparrow and Charlotte Figgs Takes over Paradise). I hoped I wouldn't be disappointed when I started Harriet Beamer Strikes Gold and I wasn't.

Harriet whose cross country trip to her son and daughter in law's home in California is told in the book Harriet Beamer Takes the Bus has now settled in with Henry and Prudence. Well, maybe her doughnut-eating basset hound has accepted their new home more than she has. Harriet wishes she could set up her precious salt and pepper shaker collection (did I mention that Magnin is a quirky writer?) and she also misses her best friend Martha. Plus she seems a little jealous that her writer son has a close relationship with an elderly neighbor lady. But when Martha finds out that she will soon be a grandmother, life begins to look up. Maybe it is that blossoming grandmothering instinct that causes Harriet to listen to a young teenage girl's woeful story and then secretly invest money in a gold mine venture offered by the girl's father.

As I've said before I am drawn to stories that provide protagonists of varying ages and backgrounds. Not too many books offer heroines who have seen more than 70 summers!

I did not read the first Harriet book, but I am ready for book 3 of adventures. Wonder if she'll be driving her son's beamer (BMW) or her yellow scooter?

I received a copy of this title from Book Sneeze for review purposes. All opinions are mine.
