



# Head in the Clouds

*Karen Witemeyer*

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## **Head in the Clouds** Karen Witemeyer

Adelaide Proctor is a young woman with her head in the clouds, longing for a real-life storybook hero to claim as her own. But when a husband-hunting debacle leaves her humiliated, she interviews for a staid governess position on a central Texas sheep ranch and vows to leave her romantic yearnings behind.

When Gideon Westcott left his privileged life in England to make a name for himself in America's wool industry, he never expected to become a father overnight. And five-year-old Isabella hasn't uttered a word since she lost her mother. The unconventionality of the new governess concerns Gideon--and intrigues him at the same time. But he can't afford distractions. He has a ranch to run, a shearing to oversee, and a suspicious fence-cutting to investigate.

When Isabella's uncle comes to claim the child--and her inheritance--Gideon and Adelaide must work together to protect Isabella from the man's evil schemes. And soon neither can deny their growing attraction. But after so many heartbreaks, will Adelaide be willing to get her head out of the clouds and put her heart on the line?

## **Head in the Clouds Details**

Date : Published October 1st 2010 by Bethany House Publishers

ISBN : 9780764207563

Author : Karen Witemeyer

Format : Paperback 366 pages

Genre : Christian Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, Romance, Christian, Historical Romance, Westerns

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# From Reader Review Head in the Clouds for online ebook

## Ann Jones says

Cute story, entertaining and a light fast read. If you like clean romance, Head in the Clouds is a good choice.

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## Kim says

These characters are the sort of people I might befriend in real life---to watch my plants when I'm out of town, if for no other reason---but they're too perfect to be really interesting as fictional characters. And since God makes all their decisions for them, they can't even really claim some of the virtues I enjoy in my heroes and heroines: courage, intelligence, common sense. Don't get me wrong: I appreciate strong faith in my characters, but if God is going to send them signs and wonders to keep them on the right track, where's the challenge? How do they grow as either characters or Christians? And why aren't they studying their Bible instead of going on what they "feel" God wants them to do? YMMV, of course---especially when it comes to religious novels---but this just isn't my sort of Christian fiction.

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## Maria says

When Adelaide Proctor finds herself in a new town, jobless and heartbroken, she decides to apply for a position as a governess. After spending many years reading enchanting novels and dreaming about her perfect hero, she realizes that it is time to stop dreaming and start living a real life. She does not imagine that sometimes real life may be more fascinating and breathtaking than her books.

The thing I always like when I read a Karen Witemeyer book is that I feel exactly all the emotions the characters are feeling. I find myself smiling when the hero tells something sweet to his beloved one, I am scared when something bad happens, and I am upset when the villains do something that let me think they are going to win. Every time I read one of Ms. Witemeyer's stories, I know that I will enjoy it. And it happened this time around as well! I think she has a special way of conveying what she has in her mind and heart, and she is great at it.

I really loved the sweetness in the relationship between Gideon and Adelaide. They were a lovely couple! Every time he smiled at her or simply looked at her, Adelaide's heart fluttered, and it was wonderful to read those pages and witness their friendship turning in something more. Gideon was the perfect English gentleman who could also fight to save his beloved damsel in distress, and that was just exciting! Plus, his little daughter, Isabella, added something so lovely to the story that it was a real pleasure to see how her life changed as soon as Adelaide arrived in her house.

Then why did I not give it five stars? Actually, I wanted to. But there was a scene that was quite distressing and, sadly, influenced my rating. A man tried to abuse the heroine and I know that I am probably overreacting, but I did not expect that kind of scene in a book like this one. Nothing bad happened in the end and the scene was not particularly descriptive, but I did not like how I felt while reading it and afterwards. It left me sad, upset and a little disappointed.

Overall, “Head in the Clouds” is a novel I highly recommend to everyone. Not only to all those readers who enjoy love stories mixed with a little action, but also to all the people who like to read sweet, touching books. Karen Witemeyer’s books have a special power: they lead you through a fantastic journey!

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### **Casey says**

HEAD IN THE CLOUDS is a charming story filled with believable characters, a page turning story line all complete in a lovely little package that I loved!

First, have you seen the cover of this book?? The most ingenious one ever! The story that fills the space between the cover is filled with adventure and romance. That pace in the tense moments is fast paced and filled with to the point descriptions that kept me turning pages. The romance made my heart sigh. And as I neared the end of the novel, the only thing I wanted to do was read.

They say every book is predictable, and they are, but it is the getting there that is unpredictable. And this book fits that word to a “t”. Each twist and turn left me turning pages faster to see what in the world was going on. The dialogue is realistic, the prose lends a wonderful descriptive quality and the hero and heroine are charming characters. How they act and move across the page is visible to the reader and quickly become real. Even the villain, who was all too real!

This wonderful piece of historical fiction is everything it should be. Flavorful in setting and overflowing with the stuff that makes great stories. It well earned my five stars!

This review is my honest opinion. Thanks to the publishers through CFBA for my copy to review.

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### **Alysha (For The Love of Christian Fiction) says**

? ALL ? THE ? FEELS ?

Towards the end of March I just felt like I needed to re-read something on my shelves. (Crazy, I know! Considering the piles of unread books I own) But sometimes you just need to grab a favorite and revisit that wonderful world. I wasn't entirely sure what I wanted, but I just knew I wanted something. (Sounds like me when I'm hungry ?)

A few weeks ago I talked about some life changes on my booktube channel. One of those being me becoming a live-in nanny to two crazy, but also adorable toddlers.

So I knew I wanted to re-read, I've been in the mood for a Karen Witemeyer book, and I wanted something with a governess or something in it. BAM! I was home last weekend so I grabbed the PERFECT match for me: Head in the Clouds.

Every time I read this book it. gets. better! I don't even know how it's possible, but I'm so glad it is!

The plot. The characters. The banter. The suspense. The romance.

Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes.

A young woman who was so in love with the idea of love she threw caution to the wind, only to be heartbroken when reality hits her upside the head like a fryin' pan!

Somethin' about Addie just made me smile constantly! Maybe it's the fact that she ALWAYS wears yellow. (Didn't know that many shades exist, but I'm very happy they do) Or maybe it was her quirkiness. Or maybe her "daddy didn't raise no hothouse flower" attitude. Whatever it was I adored it, and I want to be her best friend! PLUS she was a bookworm, I mean c'mon if that doesn't seal it I don't know what will!

Though she had so many FANTASTIC attributes, she had one major downfall. She moved too fast, and on her own terms. She didn't wait for God's timing or will. And honestly this is a downfall I share with her. Sometimes I get so caught up in my day-to-day life, that I forget to slow down and listen. To take time to simply WAIT.

This book, though light and fun and giggly and just all goodness, made me sit up and pay attention. I love how Addie learned to wait upon God, and learned to trust Him no matter His timing, knowing it's ALWAYS perfect. It made me reexamine and want to change how I wait.

I also LOVE Karen's use of the cloud in this story, her small take on the children of Israel in the desert. It was such a great symbol, and was used marvelously!

Gideon. (Be still my ever beating heart)

Here's a quick tid-bit about Alysha...she's not a fan of British accents. I hear the gasps, I know. HOWEVER! If I had a Gideon stumble into my life, I'd learn to love his accent. Okay?! He was SUCH an amazing character, and he shall be my book boyfriend for eternity. (I CALL DIBS! ?)

He took in a young girl out of the kindness of his own heart, and loved her like a daughter. Though he was born an English gentleman (a baron's son no less) he still wanted to make his way in the world, and knew he'd have to get his hands dirty to do it. He loved God, his English family, his makeshift American family, his land, his horse, and his flock. He was just so full of love, laid back and down to earth. He was a protector, a knight in shining armor. I just love him! And the dimples don't bother me either. ?

On top of downright loving the main characters, I loved the rest of the cast - save the bad guys - They were fun & relatable! They just felt like a smorgasbord of a family. It was great!

This book hit ALL the sweet spots, and I'm so glad I picked it up. It was the most perfect thing, thank you Karen! ? This will forever be a favorite & I know I will be re-reading this and recommending for YEARS to come!

OF COURSE this was 5/5 star read! Though I think it deserves all the stars.

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### **Aerykah says**

Really enjoyed this book! Karen Witemeyer has quickly become a favorite of mine. I'm looking forward to reading more of her books.

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### **Anne Osterlund says**

Adelaide is a romantic. A rancher's daughter, former schoolteacher, and Jane-Eyre-loving daydreamer who only wears yellow and takes her horse, Sheba, wherever she goes.

First to town. Where things DON'T proceed in Jane-Eyre-esque fashion.

And then, on a spur of the moment compulsion . . .

To the Westcott ranch.

Where she runs straight into Gideon Westcott.

Who already has one unfathomable girl under his roof (five-year-old Isabella, who hasn't spoken since her mother's death).

And now most certainly has two.

*Head in the Clouds* is in many ways a classic western shootout. With range wars, a dastardly plotting villain, and an orphan heiress. But what I LOVED about this book was Adelaide.

This is my second Karen Witemeyer read. And I foresee many more.

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## **Amy says**

This book has been on my to-read shelf since 2011 so when I finally spotted it at the library, I jumped at the chance to knock another book off that shelf. I definitely had higher expectations for it. A governess story written Jane Eyre-esque? Mmm, mmm, mmm...possibility.

*Head in the Clouds* is one of the most obtuse, self-aware books I have ever read. It would be an incredibly satirical novel if it didn't take itself so seriously.

## **Plot**

Adelaide Proctor (I admit, I loved her name from the start) seeks the perfect story-book husband and family. She head is full of Mr. Rochester and Mr. Darcy. After a humiliating "husband hunting debacle", she moves to middle over nowhere Texas to be the governess for a 5 year old girl named Isabella. The girl's guardian is the *hawt, British, noble-blooded, very unattached* Gideon Westcott, a sheep rancher.

I assume I don't have to tell you how that goes.

However, to add some substance (if not believability) to this plot, Isabella's super evil, biological uncle shows up to claim her and her inheritance. \*cue bad guy song\*

## **Thoughts**

Basically, the author decided to combine the hero from a British classic novel with the old West. Which actually isn't such a bad idea. In fact, my snarky irritation aside, this was kind of a cute read.

I really did like Adelaide and her dreamy outlook on the world. She's always constructing new daydreams and it was fun to see her interaction with Isabella.

However, she's just so...perfect. Oh, she has your typical Christian romance heroine flaws. She's "impetuous" (which everyone apparently loves) and "stubborn" and gets herself in trouble because she "cares so much for those around her."

And she can ride a horse really well.

And she can sew like a boss.

And she loves to read.

And she loves kids/kids love her.

Adelaide was just too perfect. While she could be adorable in that perfection, anything deeper rang false. It was hard to connect with any of her emotions towards God because none of them fit her.

Gideon...\*eye roll\* Insert typical dreamy love interest, give him a British accent, and you have Gideon.

Also, while I'm talking characters, Isabella did *not* sound or act much like a 5 year old. I suppose all the trauma in her life would make her act more mature but still. She was hard to believe.

Overall it was cutesy except that the themes running through the story were so irrelevant.

Like Adelaide's *continual* effort to leave behind her dream for a fantasy-like prince. She says she is going to drop it and then she picks it back up again. And Gideon IS a fantasy like prince so she gets all she could ever want. What are we supposed to get from this? That you shouldn't stop dreaming for Mr. Darcy because he is probably on a ranch somewhere? On the one hand, the story says no one is perfect yet on the other hand it presents *the perfect, flawless love interest for the heroine*. Well, which is it?!

Also, all the Jane Eyre references IN the story made it hard to appreciate this as a Jane Eyre-esque novel in general. When the main character keeps comparing herself to Jane Eyre, the theme goes from subtle to wack-you-upside-the-head.

Overall I might have liked it better if our Princess Heroine had actually learned from her previous flights of fantasy and actually learned that men are human too. But instead we leave her just as flighty and fawning over the hero as we found her, almost worse in fact. She contrasts her life to stories and fairy tales, chides herself for being silly, yet exists in a fairy tale herself.

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## Ceri says

This is a story set in Texas in the late 1800s. Miss Adelaide Proctor took a job as a teacher after her father died, and part of the conditions of the contract were that she wasn't allowed to marry for 2 years. At the end of this time, the potential suitors who she met when she first came into town have moved on. Adelaide has no family and she dreams of starting a family of her own, so she's been concentrating her efforts on a young man called Henry, whom she doesn't love, but likes enough to see as a potential husband. Henry works as a travelling salesman, so Adelaide only sees him about once a month, and when he gets a promotion he tells her he won't be in the area again. Adelaide believes Henry is too shy to propose, so she decides to give him some encouragement, resigning her job and following him to a new town where she is met with disappointment.

Adelaide needs a new job quickly, and is lucky enough to be given a chance of being a governess to Gideon Westcott's 5 year old daughter, Isabella. The poor child lost her mother 5 months ago, and has been mute ever since. She is absolutely crushed by her grief, and Gideon isn't so much looking for a teacher for Isabella, but somebody who will bring her back to a normal childhood. Adelaide is no stranger to grief and she and Isabella immediately bond. Adelaide also feels a strong pull towards Gideon, but she's getting her head out of the clouds this time; he's her employer, the son of an English baron, and she's not exactly marriage material he's likely to be looking for. In addition to this Adelaide is under the belief that Gideon's wife has just died, not realising that he adopted the orphaned Isabella.

Adelaide is a great character, she is fun, hard-working, brave, sensible and sweet. Her father used to call her his sunshine, and it's an apt nickname, she is a very sunny soul! She has a genuine affection for Isabella and

is patient with her, trying to draw her out of her shell and come out from the shadow her experiences have cast on her short life. Adelaide and Gideon's attraction towards each other is almost instant, but it's still believable, and you are rooting for them to get together when it becomes apparent that there is a very real danger threatening Isabella, and they have to work together to fight it off. There is quite a bit of action going on in this book, and I was riveted to the page!

This book has a strong Christian theme, but I didn't feel it was too much; Adelaide in particular has a bit of a spiritual journey in this book, starting off by being almost impatient with God for how her life is, and moving towards the realisation that rather than asking God to give her certain things in life she should instead have been asking for courage to do what needs to be done and patience to wait when needed.

This is the first book I've read by this author but I would definitely read other books by her, I really enjoyed this read.

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### **Anam Zahra says**

This is by far the best historical fiction I have ever read! Yes, I mean it from the bottom of my heart. It is clean; free of stupidity and vulgarity. (Thumbs Up for that). A good piece of Christian fiction with loads of inspiration.

It is a perfect recipe with the spice of action and adventure, sugar of love and faith, aroma of tears and laughter, and most important, caffeine of lunatic villains.

This book is an exceptional, where both Hero and Heroine won my heart with their strong stances. The way they expressed "respect and care" for each other, just touched my heart. They were mature enough to handle difficulties by expressing great trust in each other abilities.

I adore the lessons, importance of prayers, connection with the Almighty, and most important to believe in the blessings and gifts of future. Some chapters made me cry, some made me laugh.

"Walk by faith, not by sight" was the deepest line.

Let me confess, I loved the cover-image after all, she is looking perfect with a book in her hands. Exactly, that is how a strong female lead should look, like a dreamer with the alert of realities.

After "To win Her Heart" by Karen Witemeyer, I wasn't expecting a good exciting read from her. But, I picked this book only because the female lead is in love with Jane Austen and Charlotte Bronte's reads.

Frankly, both are my favorite Authors, I adore them like a mad one.

Adelaide, is what you call a complete vision of every color. Color of love, courage, strength, tactics and above all, her action strategies. She is the perfect blend of "spice and sugar." I loved the way she came to fight for her people, just like a tigress. I adore a strong lady with wit and excitements. Above all, she is expert in riding a horse and brave enough to handle a weapon. Bravo!

Gideon, a man of his promises. He is brave enough to do anything for the protection of his people. He is quick, intelligent, alert and most important, the one who respects a lady. He is one of the finest male leads, exhibiting both courtesy and chivalry. He is brave enough to compromise his own life for his loved ones. I enjoyed his action stunts very much.

I loved every character, and of course, Isabella also. Sweet little kid is indeed the strongest chain between the leads. I loved her prayers and innocence.

The tunnels of twists and turns of the plot, made me almost faint with excitement.



I highly recommend all to read this book once and you will never be able to forget its strong taste.

Guarantee!

I will definitely going to keep it on my shelf as my favorite reads. And Karen Witemeyer, is all set to be on my favorite Authors List.

Note: I have re-read some scenes to absorb more strong flavors. I will keep doing that until, I have enough of it.

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### **Brittany says**

This was a great story! I have really enjoyed all of the books that I have read by this author and am trying to read those that I hadn't ever gotten to. This story had a great blend of action, danger, family, and romance. I loved it!

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### **Sydney Elaine says**

I absolutely loved this book. It is so cheesy and fluffy (maybe even too cheesy?), but sometimes its good to get a little bit of a break from serious stuff

I myself am a romantic, so I could completely relate to Adelaide in her longing for fluffy romantic relationship.

I loved how things that were sort of unclear in the beginning of this book made complete sense later on. The story was so sweet and though it was (obviously) predictable, the sense of danger and suspense sort of propelled you through this "journey" of wondering if the heroine and hero will "finally" be together. I also liked how Adelaide does exactly as the title suggests, spending her mornings and afternoons off with her head in the clouds, reading the love stories of Charlotte Bronte and Jane Eyre. I also really loved how Karen incorporated the cover into her story. It's something that isn't seen very often that I really loved.

There was really nothing I really disliked about the book, although I did get a little bored reading from Reginald's point of view at times.

Language - Clean

Romance - Clean and sweet, though did mention several times about "husbandly duties".

There is mention of rape, and has quite a bit of violence spotted throughout the book.

*I purchased this book myself. All opinions are my own*

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### **Laura says**

This book was a quick, light read. Very predictable, with a happy ending. I wish the author had created more depth to the characters to make me want to care about them more. Unfortunately the story just fell "flat" for me. It was a simple read though, with some nice reminders on how we should trust God more and truly seek

his will instead of our own desires. It was an ok read, just not great.

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## **Amanda says**

I first fell in love with the charming, romantic prose of Karen Witemeyer in her debut novel, “A Tailor-Made Bride”, which came out earlier this year. I was so excited to discover that this new author had a SECOND book releasing this year, as well! I knew I was going to love “Head in the Clouds”, I just had no idea how much! Swoon-worthy romance, charming wit, and heart-pounding suspense are the order of the day when Karen Witemeyer is behind the pen. I laughed. I cried. And, more often than not, found myself clinging to the pages for dear life. This woman knows how to write romance, let me tell you, but she takes it one step further- to the soul. Not often do you see God’s Word incorporated so well and so naturally within romantic fiction. There is substance to what you read within the pages of this book. She effortlessly shows Scripture applied to everyday life, and how we, like her characters, need to trust the Lord in ALL things.

Adelaide Proctor is a dreamer, with a heart that longs for fairy tales to come true. Karen writes such genuine, relatable heroines, who become instant friends to the reader. Adelaide is certainly unconventional, but she has a sweet spirit, a servant’s heart, and a strength of character that quietly demands respect. She possesses beauty, yes, but more of the inner, lasting kind than of the outward, fleeting variety. With refreshing humbleness and honesty she readily admits her faults and seeks the Lord for guidance and ultimately His will above her own. And, it appears the Lord’s will is to send her to Texas as a governess for a little girl on sheep farm. An unlikely place to find prince charming, right?

Gideon Westcott is quite a hero. Strong, compassionate, with a kind heart and an easy smile (oh, that smile!). Willingly and lovingly accepting an awesome responsibility, no questions asked, he is a man of integrity who protects all those in his care. The new governess intrigues him, challenges him, and is much needed sunshine wrapped in yellow calico to him and his daughter. She strikes an instant connection with the young, emotionally scarred girl, while capturing Gideon’s heart in the process. Their love will be tested and tried when a horrific attack, with an uncertain outcome, finds its way to the Westcott Cottage. The Lord has led Adelaide to Texas, to this wonderful man and his precious daughter- does He intend for her to stay? And, if so, does Gideon have the strength to fight for his sunshine girl and their happily ever after?

All of Karen’s characters are loveable, endearing, and will remain in your heart long after the book is closed. There is a real bond of love between them that reads like a big, warm, mixed matched family. The supporting characters are all so unique, adding many layers to this story, and they are also great friends and allies to our hero and heroine when danger comes calling. Gideon’s sweet little daughter, Isabella, will pull every single heartstring you have, her emotional pain and journey to healing made me teary-eyed quite often. And, I think the villain, Reginald Petchey, whose name alone sounds sinister, was so well written- almost with a dark sort of comedy at times.

I thoroughly enjoyed “Head in the Clouds” and am greatly looking forward to Karen Witemeyer’s next book, “To Win Her Heart”, releasing April 2011!

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## **Alyssa says**

### {About the Book}

Adelaide Proctor is a young woman with her head in the clouds, longing for a real-life storybook hero to claim as her own. But when a husband-hunting debacle leaves her humiliated, she interviews for a staid governess position on a central Texas sheep ranch and vows to leave her romantic yearnings behind.

When Gideon Westcott left his privileged life in England to make a name for himself in America's wool industry, he never expected to become a father overnight. And five-year-old Isabella hasn't uttered a word since she lost her mother. The unconventionality of the new governess concerns Gideon--and intrigues him at the same time. But he can't afford distractions. He has a ranch to run, a shearing to oversee, and a suspicious fence-cutting to investigate.

When Isabella's uncle comes to claim the child--and her inheritance--Gideon and Adelaide must work together to protect Isabella from the man's evil schemes. And soon neither can deny their growing attraction. But after so many heartbreaks, will Adelaide be willing to get her head out of the clouds and put her heart on the line?

### {My Review}

After finishing "Head in the Clouds" I only have one more Karen Witemeyer book to read and then I will have read all her books. I found this ebook on my Kindle Fire last night and I had no clue I owned it, so I decided to read it last night. I started on the first page and didn't stop until I reached the last page at around two o'clock in the morning.

"Head in the Clouds" tells Gideon and Adelaide's love story. The story begins as Adelaide is hoping this guy Henry is going to propose to her but he in fact has to tell her he has a promotion and will no longer be riding the rails back to her town and therefore will not see her again. But a month later Adelaide decides to go to the town Henry is in to find him and she does. But she finds out something that Henry neglected to tell her. She then discovers a job ad in the newspaper looking for a governess. She answers the ad and gets the opportunity for an interview. She's chosen for the job and then ensues the adventure. She a governess for a mute child, she's falling in love with Gideon, the child's father, and she goes through a horrific ordeal.

I absolutely loved this story! It was cute, witty, and romantic. And anybody who knows me knows my thing for cowboys, but this time we have a \*gasp\* BRITISH COWBOY!!! Ya'll this was amazing! I love cowboys, but then add in a British accent it gets even better. Buy this book!

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