



Endless Chain

Emilie Richards

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Sam Kinkade is finally feeling at home as a minister in rural Toms Brook, Virginia, content with his life and Shenandoah Valley congregation. But his plans to welcome the area's growing Hispanic community are being met with resistance. Fortunately, when the church-run community center is threatened, a stranger named Elisa Martinez walks through his door and Sam realizes he has found a woman capable of building bridges. Elisa isn't looking to make connections. She has come to Toms Brook to hide. But despite her fears of discovery she is enchanted by the beautiful work of—and the friendship offered by—the women who invite her to join their quilting circle. And even though she fears the consequences for both of them, she finds herself powerfully drawn to Sam, and to the generations-old love story rooted in the town's past. Will she and Sam repeat the past, or can they find the love and the freedom they seek at last?

Endless Chain Details

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Darcy says

I was intrigued what the common thread was going to be in this series, turns out it is the quilts. I liked the story that was told with the first book, this book was much the same. I liked that Helen was around to berate people. While it took me a bit to warm up to her in the first book, by the end I did like her. I liked the quilting bee and how Helen was keeping them on task and how she got the pastor to hire the right person.

Elisa was interesting, more so as her story unfolded. I loved that it seemed to mirror somewhat what was going on with the letters, especially when you knew the connection. I was so so on the relationship that was developing between Elisa and Sam, mostly because Sam was already engaged, even though it was obvious the relationship was done. I wondered why each of them held on so tight.

I thought the way that Elisa bridged both worlds was great as it showed some very real issues that happen in a lot of communities. I really liked how the message that the pastor preached seemed to come to a head with Elisa's life in a slightly different way than the letters. I was proud of the church for their actions at the end.

I thought the ending was great, it fit all the characters involved.

Kathryn says

Rereading via audio.

I went straight into this book after Wedding Ring. I was pleased to meet Helen and quilters again, and to see further into Tessa's life. This story is Sam's. By the end some tears were shed, and I had been fully engrossed in this book, again the sense of community was outstanding as ER explored the issue of integrating 'outsiders' into a place. A wonderful story.

Gloria Bernal says

One of the Shenandoah series based in Virginia, this one features a woman, Elisa Martinez who comes to the Community Church in the small town to seek employment as a sexton to the Pastor, Rev. Sam Kincaid. A private, mysterious woman of many talents, Elisa's bi-lingual abilities are a God-send to Rev. Sam in establishing an English Immersion class for the children of farm workers in the area.

Ms. Richards writes of life in a small town very much like it usually is. There are several sub-plots, not just Elisa's story going on here - many pieces that come together just like a well-crafted quilt: "Endless Chain" is the perfect title. Again, Ms. Richards does not disappoint with her engaging characters, peeks into the past generations, a lot of history and thought provoking situations. Loved it!

Jessie Marie says

This is a wonderfully written book. Complete with vivid characters, diverse situations, and heartwarming moments. The story itself catches your attention added with the underlying irony of the leading man's habits it's near impossible to not laugh out loud.

I found myself drawn to Sam's unethical behaviors that seemed to occur though his intentions were so honorable. His character definately reminded me that no one is perfect, even really good people... say, a man of the cloth.

The mystery of Elisa's past held my interest to begin with, but then the instant feelings that blossomed between her and Sam without so much of a touch grabbed me by the heart and wouldn't let me give up hope for a happy ending.

I loved everything about this book. I found a lot of my own beliefs mirrored inside the pages. I will definately be reading more from Emilie!

Ann Olson says

Great, interesting characters. I love the intersecting characters and plot lines. The secrets were exposed in a slow and interesting way that kept me paying attention. I can't quite pin what stopped me from loving it- maybe Sam didn't necessarily seem like a realistic pastor, and Leon's dad seemed too stereotypical and one dimensional. Overall though, interesting story, good read.

Jillwitucki says

Wonderful, made me cry near the end--what could be better than that!

Not only a rich story, it contains Christian messages and examples of lives well lived. I found it inspirational, but not at all "preachy". Also, much information about Guatemala and the government and oppression there. You feel great by the end, and it gives much food for thought.

Kim (Kimsrdnbks) says

This is the second in the Shenandoah series. I already love hearing about the secondary characters from the first book. So glad I found a new author to binge on.

Denise says

It was a fairly good read. I was getting a little impatient for the heroine's story to unfold. A few things didn't sit right with me in this book. 1. He didn't think he HAD to report child abuse... he thought it was up to his own discretion. 2. He waited until he fell in love with someone else before he broke off his engagement, and yet he was supposed to have very strong morals. 3. the whole climax thing at the end I found confusing and not well thought out. I am not sure why he got more jail time, and how convenient that her political troubles

could be taken care of withing 6 months. A little too far fetched for me.

Sarah says

Once again I find myself saying the same thing about Emilie Richards writing is that I liked the book, but didn't like it. The story line was okay and the characters seemed a little too false.

Patty says

While this novel has many elements of the unrealistic romance, and more than that, a Christian romance, I have to give it kudos for supporting the cause of of our unjust involvement in Central America. Additionally, it showed the human side of undocumented workers - and why would they be presented any other way (but they are). And, as if there wasn't enough about man's inhumanity to man, she threw in a a little story about slavery and the Underground Railroad.

Wendy T says

I enjoyed this 2nd book in the Shenandoah Album series.

Rita says

Eliza came to Toms Brook for a reason, but then she met Sam Kinkade the minister of the the local church and was hired to be the new sexton. The Quilting Bee welcomed her and she became involved with them and many other aspects of the town. We know she is hiding something, or from something and it was very interesting to find out what. I liked the way this story evolved and I'm looking forward to reading more books in this series. Its not a story about quilting, but quilting weaves its way through the book.

Kathryn says

This was a rereading for me and the second time around feels even better than the first. From the first book in the series we meet again the older woman - Helen, who is a total queen of quilting. This time around I appreciated all the quilting references even more, now that I am quilting.

I loved Sam and his outstanding approach to his ministry and believe in standing up for what is right even when it upsets others and lands him in trouble with the law. Elisa's story was so relevant even to today's world. Even wonderful stories like this do not change the world we live in unfortunately. However it does show the value of truth and justice and love. And how wonderful it is when those who believe make a stand for them.

I loved the story within the story of those who hung quilts out with black squares to guide the slaves who

were making a bid for freedom, and the story of Dory told through letters found.

The narration by Isabel Keating was amazing, it brought the people alive so well. Totally in love with her interpretation of a well written book.

Pat says

I am totally impressed with the way Emilie Richards brought several issues around and tied them up neatly! I really think before you read this one- you need to read the "Wedding Ring". That way you understand better who the characters are, and what their past has been.

I won't give away any spoilers, but I will definitely say this was a really good story.

Stephanie says

This book was very enjoyable. I am kind of sad it is over. The characters were rich, and the story line captivating. Keating did a beautiful job in narrating it (I am a fan of hers)and connecting me with the characters. This book took me back to my days in Virginia. I definitely would recommend this book to my friends.
