



## That First Montana Year

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## **That First Montana Year** Donna L. Scofield

When B'Anne (Beatrice Anne) marries Will, she knows he is a reluctant groom. But she's a minister's daughter and pregnant. To save embarrassment for the families, and hoping a fresh start will help them become the sweethearts they were before, B'Anne agrees to leave everyone and everything she knows and go with Will to the Montana Territory. They hope Will's uncle Hiram, whom he has never met, will guide them in their homesteading. Uncle Hiram welcomes Will, but treats B'Anne coolly until he realizes she isn't a "frills and furbelows" girl.

Although Will seems to care for B'Anne, she loses her confidence when she discovers a letter from Will's former sweetheart. Will's secrecy threatens to build a wall between them.

Spring arrives, and with it the promise of renewal. But is B'Anne's hope for a fresh start enough to sustain the young couple through the years of hard living under that big Montana sky?

## **That First Montana Year Details**

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Author : Donna L. Scofield

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## **From Reader Review That First Montana Year for online ebook**

### **Becky Stickley says**

#### **What a Year!**

If this isn't the first book in a saga featuring Will and B'Anne it certainly would be a fine series. After a shotgun marriage, they have a lot of maturing to do. We follow them as they face the hardships, trials, joys of their first year together. If you like this book you may also enjoy Lorraine Snelling's Red River of the North series.

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### **Lis K says**

This story is about a forced marriage between B'Anne and Will after B'Anne finds herself pregnant from their one night together. Will had been her childhood sweetheart until he jilted her for a Boston socialite but they made one mistake when caught in a blizzard together. They are forced to marry and to move to Montana to start a new life, away from scandal. She's always loved Will but knows that he had his affections set on another woman and fears he will always pine for her. The story is told from B'Anne's point of view so the reader gets to know her very well. She is determined, strong, vulnerable, and just wants to be loved. She wants Will's heart but doesn't know if he will give it to her. This was an honest look at the difficult life of homesteaders and how a couple who started on the wrong foot could grow in love. I appreciated all of the historical information the author included about the amount of work that a couple had to do just to survive in a new land. There was not too much suspense or tension but just a look at the day-to-day living of this young couple. Spiritually, B'Anne felt a lot of guilt about her situation since she was a pastor's daughter and knew better. She does go through a spiritual journey from feeling guilty before God to understanding His love for her. Since this story does start with an unplanned pregnancy and the premise of a forced marriage, there is some discussion of the physical intimacy between the couple but I didn't find anything offensive. Overall, I enjoyed the writer's snapshot of this young couple's journey to love.

\*I received a free copy from Lighthouse Publishing of the Carolinas in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Tenesia says**

#### **Couldn't Stop Reading!**

I loved this book! The characters are easy to relate to and you find yourself cheering them on and going through their trials right along with them. Anyone interested in Christian fiction should read this book.

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### **charmaine White says**

#### **Wow**

A very old, but yet timely story. Full of the past, of love, history and thrills. This is one book I'm glad I read. Made me feel good.

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### **Trisha Robertson (Joy of Reading) says**

#### **Sweet story**

I enjoyed this sweet story of love and commitment in the face of hardship. The story started out a little slow but picked up a third of the way in.

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### **Crystal Lindsey says**

What a beautiful story, written in the manner of Jeanette Oke this book was so endearing. A very young couple forced to marry because of pregnancy set out to live in a completely difference environment to what they were accustom to. As young pioneers they travel over the lonely prairie learning how to cope as they go. They share many ups and downs trying to make the best of their situation and grow in maturity together.

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### **Larry L Gaines says**

#### **While I enjoyed the story line very much, I feel the sign could have been more as in some areas. Her distances and nearness of neighbors**

seemed somewhat inaccurate. Also, the "Christmas story" is not found in Matthew but rather in the second chapter of Luke. Just a little more accuracy, please.

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### **Shauna Williams says**

I thoroughly enjoyed this read, especially since it portrayed a heroine who faced her shame while struggling to maintain her faith. This is a subject often avoided in novels of this era, but I'm sure more of a reality than we like to imagine. Fresh starts aren't as easy as they seem but with determination, grit, and God the impossible can become possible. The settings, characters, and situations were beautifully depicted throughout. A clean-read I'd definitely recommend.

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### **Jsmh says**

Excellent book. Fascinating read of all a prairie settler had to do to set up a mostly self-sufficient home on a shoestring. Also great read of a shotgun marriage that turns into a true love match and happy home.

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## **debra westman says**

### **That first Montana year**

I liked this book they were a young couple starting out with having to get married.my first book by this author would recommend this book

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## **Debra Torgerson says**

### **All I need is in this room.**

I enjoyed this book and it's characters. A story about a young couple that married out of duty. They went to Montana to homestead. A story about young love, forgiveness, duty and honor. The struggles and triumphs, friendships. A simpler time but not easier. Recommend to any who love historical romance. Clean and I believe realistic to the time period.

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## **Patsy says**

This is a sweet story about a young couple in late 1800's that had to get married with a baby on the way. They travelled to Montana by wagon train to homestead a piece of land near an uncle who is always lending a helping hand. There are many rough spots to overcome in this first year of marriage together.

I enjoyed this novel, watching this young couple build a home together, finding new friend, seeing how neighbors help each other and the way they found a church home. The book was well written with many believable characters and beautiful described settings.

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## **Diana says**

B'Anne is a minister's daughter who finds herself pregnant after a night of weathering a blizzard with Will. She tries to hide it but is found out before she can make her escape to her aunt's, who would surely take her in. She tries to tell her family that it was just a drifter. B'Anne's brother knows better and goes and gets Will and drags Will back to "do right" by his sister. Will's mother wants Will to go to a college on the East Coast and get involved with a socialite. Although Will does marry B'Anne and agrees to move west near an uncle, he keeps his distance from the woman who is now his wife. Will they ever make it over that wall between them? How will they fare in the west where they don't know anyone but an uncle that Will hardly knows anything about? When a letter from Will's old socialite girlfriend shows up, will their marriage fall apart? I loved how this book brought to life the concepts of homesteading and the California Gold rush. Social Studies should be taught like this! I was never a fan of that class, but I loved learning about the concepts in this book. A little romance along the way didn't hurt either! I was given a copy of this book for my honest review. Highly recommended!

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### **Laura Van Nice says**

B'Anne's a Pastor's daughter who made a mistake and ends up pregnant. In order to make it right, she's forced to marry her old boyfriend, Will. It's not a bright beginning for this young couple who head out to Montana where hopefully they can start a life together as they start a homestead of their own. Will they be able to let go of the hurts of the past to build a decent future?

It was easy to feel sorry for B'Anne as she was forced into something she didn't want because of one poor choice. Her feelings of poor self-worth and fear made my heart hurt for her. It was much harder to feel anything for Will. It took a long time to feel any kind of liking for him, but that may have been a product of the fact that this was written in first person, so I didn't know what he was thinking until he said it. The plot was a little slow at times, and at I found myself thinking it was more like reading a diary about a year in someone's life than a story. That being said, I enjoyed how things all came about in the end and the author did a wonderful job of making the setting come alive.

B'Anne's spiritual thread was authentic as she struggled, wondering if God could forgive her for her sin.

This would be a good read for lovers of prairie fiction or anyone interested in the ramifications of out of wedlock pregnancy in pioneer days.

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### **Barb says**

“That First Montana Year” by Donna L. Scofield traces the story of a young couple and their shot-gun marriage and subsequent travels to a new life in Montana.

Beatrice Anne has gone and done it...she has gotten pregnant...and she's not married. The father of her child is someone whom she has loved almost all of her seventeen years. The fact that he broke off their relationship when a new fancy girl came to town broke her heart. Go back to one night during a blizzard where the two have holed up in an old cabin to keep from freezing to death. Will Carter is reluctant, but resigned to do the right thing and marry B'Anne. Neither of them is happy with the arrangement, but it's the only thing to do.

The story continues as the young couple finds their way to a new life and a life together. Will they find true love along the way? I enjoyed reading this story because of its simplicity and the portrayal of all the hard work that settlers on the plains had to go through.

I purchased a Kindle copy of this book from Amazon.com. No review positive or otherwise was required – all opinions are my own. You can find this review on my blog at <http://wp.me/p2pjIt-oa>, and other reviews on my blog at <http://imhookedonbooks.wordpress.com>.

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