



## A Hearth in Candlewood

*Delia Parr*

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## **A Hearth in Candlewood** Delia Parr

With genteel grace and quiet fortitude, Emma Garrett presides over Hill House, a stately boardinghouse in the canal village of Candlewood, New York. She finds her purpose in caring for her guests, ministering to them with a generous dose of wisdom and humor. But when a "runaway grandma" lands on her doorstep, Emma's need to fix every wrong places her in the midst of a family feud.

Emma's concerns heighten when her attorney, Zachary Breckenwith, delivers life-changing news, leaving Emma reeling from the implications. With her future suddenly uncertain, Emma longs to restore the peace of Hill House--for her guests and within her own heart.

FIND A WELCOME RETREAT IN CANDLEWOOD AS YOU EXPERIENCE THE BEAUTY, FRIENDSHIP, AND FAITH IN THE LIVES OF ITS QUIANT AND COLORFUL CHARACTERS.

## **A Hearth in Candlewood Details**

Date : Published August 1st 2006 by Bethany House Publishers (first published January 1st 2006)

ISBN : 9780764200861

Author : Delia Parr

Format : Paperback 317 pages

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

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# **From Reader Review A Hearth in Candlewood for online ebook**

## **Anne Hawn Smith says**

This delightful book is reminiscent of the Miss Read series and the Mitford books. It is a simple inspiring tale of Widow Emma who runs a Victorian boarding house in the canal town of Candlewood. The story is set in the 1840's and has an interesting collection of visitors and permanent residents who people Emma's life. There is Emma's mother-in-law, who has been with Emma for thirty years, 2 16 year old girls who help about the house, a retired minister and the elderly Aunt Frances. As Emma struggles to make Candlewood a ministry to provide a caring place for guests, she also struggles to bring her own actions in accord with the God she loves.

Some may call this book or the Mitford and Miss Read books too sweet or unearthly, but they detail the daily lives of people who struggle to do the right thing and to hold themselves accountable to God. The struggle Emma has to guard her heart and to treat all the people she encounters with God's love inspires me to do the same. I can't help think how different this book is to the recommendations of modern thinking. We are encouraged to "look out for number one." "if you don't like it, lump it" or "that's just the way I am, baby." It is refreshing to read about people who struggle to do God's will in everything.

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## **Rebekah Brown says**

A Hearth in Candlewood was a different reading experience for me within the historical Christian fiction genre. In many Christian fiction novels, the main character is a young woman. In A Hearth in Candlewood, there are less than a handful of minor characters that fit that description and the main characters are all above the age of 50. I first thought, "wow this will be an interesting read!" There was little to no romance, which did not take away from the book. However, the book did not provide a side story or substance to replace the romance, which made for a very LONG and drawn out novel. There were a few interesting characters that tried to pick up the slack, but they fell short due to the slowness of the storyline.

What happened in A Hearth in Candlewood? Honestly, nothing that couldn't have been solved in 50 pages, but the author ended up making the conflict a 300+ page endeavour. Our main character, Emma Garrett is a widow who purchased a boarding home in Candlewood, NY after the death of her husband. Emma, with the help of her mother-in-law, runs the boarding home. After an elderly woman shows up on Emma's doorstep late one evening, she takes her in and asks questions later. The women in caught in-between a family feud, and has left her home. Emma feels responsible for solving the family issues throughout the story.

I contemplated several times not finishing the story, but having read Delia Parr's work before, I decided to stick it out and see if the story picked up pace and had a more satisfying ending. Unfortunately it did not. However, this one review will not deter me from reading more from Delia Parr, this series just happens to not be for me personally.

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## **Penny says**

A very easy read about a widow living in Candlewood in the 1800s. She has a very deep faith and tries to live by the holy book. Not usually my type of thing, but very comforting to read about a thoroughly nice person, who tries to give of her best to everyone she comes into contact with. Very enjoyable!

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### **Mayda says**

The first in a trilogy, this book introduces the reader to the people in Candlewood, a canal town in upper New York, set in the 1840s. Emma is the proprietor of a boarding house. A widow, she recently sold her general store to buy this boarding house. Living with her is her mother-in-law and a retired clergyman, as well as her live-in help. It's not an easy existence for her to make a living, and of course, complications arise, including a runaway grandma, asking for asylum from her two grown sons. It's an interesting depiction of life at this time, with Emma managing to take care of everyone and their needs in this gentle tale of bygone days.

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### **Loraine says**

I really enjoyed the characters in this book and how they interconnected especially those staying at High Hill. Looking forward to reading the next book in this series to see how things turn out for the main characters.

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### **Renaë Rogers says**

This book was nice. While that sounds like lukewarm praise, that's not what I mean it to be. What I mean is, it was a gentle story, set in a gentle age, with generally gentle characters who are generally agreeable, except in a few notable instances. That's not to say there's no conflict, because there is. We wouldn't have a plot without some conflict. But it's not a book of high drama and sweeping passions. It's...nice.

Does that mean that it's a boring story? That's a little harder for me to answer. I didn't find it boring. There was enough richness of description for me to just enjoy getting to know these people at a steady pace as they went about their lives. I wasn't looking for something action packed when I chose to read this. That might not fit all readers.

I didn't like the plotline that is set up early in the book and has the MC worrying for a lot of the story and then still has no further development by book's end. That was annoying.

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### **Debbie says**

"A Hearth in Candlewood" is a Christian historical novel set in the 1840s in a small canal town in New York. It's the first novel in the series, but while I was reading it I wondered if it was the 9th or 10th in the series since there were so many interesting stories briefly referred to as back story.

I really enjoyed the characters and setting. I found the vivid details about the time and setting to be interesting and they brought the story alive in my imagination. The characters acted in realistic ways, and there was an underlying humor to the book. I liked how Emma would scold someone for how they behaved, then realize she needed to apologize for something she'd done and so have to go back and humble herself. Though she "said a prayer" a few times or would realized her behavior wasn't Christ-like, the novel wasn't preachy. Yet her faith obviously had an impact on how she acted, though she obviously still had much to learn about faith.

There were two sources of suspense: the conflict about the "grandma's" sons (which Emma was calm about solving, so I assumed it'd work out) and the suspense about her not really owning the house. I would have been okay with the book ending without resolving the house problem if we hadn't been told that the true owner was expected to arrive any minute and make his decision...and then the book ends. I don't like "cliff-hanger" endings.

The story also lost a bit of charm for me over the whole chicken scenario. I've owned chickens for year. I just can't imagine anyone--even "village folk"--being terrified of a hen calmly sitting on a table. Yet all the characters are! Also, chickens don't ruin everything they look at (like a hat that fell off as a man dashed by) or sit on (like some riding trousers). I took me out of my immersion in the story, though it probably won't be a problem for others.

There was no bad language or sex. Overall, I'd recommend this charming, engaging story.

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## **Ellen says**

A Hearth in Candlewood was my first exposure to Delia Parr. She strikes me as highly character-centric, which I prefer. Historically set in the canal-building era prior to the railway boon, Candlewood is a small town in the midst of transition. The characters also are in a similar state of transition, from the retired pastor and widows who live at Hill House to the young ladies who work there. In the center of it all is Emma, proprietress of the boarding house known as Hill House for its expansive hilltop viewpoint overlooking the new canal. Parr's tale of the town and the characters in it didn't draw me in as powerfully as Jan Karon's Mitford, whose characters are nearly as real to me as people I've actually met, but at the same time, I am eager to hear more of their lives. A comforting message of trusting God in uncertainty, living peaceably, and the value of having purpose in one's life regardless of age are ongoing themes in the book. At first, I was dissatisfied with the ending until I learned there were two more books in the trilogy. I guess I will be making another visit to Candlewood in the future.

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## **Joleen says**

Emma Garrett, a widow, owned a boarding house on a hill where people could come and stay for short periods of time, or live much longer. Her mother-in-law lived and worked there, and an aging pastor who she took in. The story centers on a new boarder who was also a widow who decided to run away from her two sons who were making her life difficult with their disagreements. She just wanted peace, and she had none with her sons. The rest of the book was about Emma trying to help her, but also figure out why someone was trying to buy up property around Candlewood.

This book reminded me of the Gresham Chronicles by Lawana Blackwell, but just not as satisfying. Well, maybe I was looking at the story as I would Ms Blackwell's books. The parts that were supposed to be humorous fell flat for me. One of the main stories alluded to a lot was how Emma, the owner of Hill House, was cheated out of the house purchase...the money was taken, but papers were never filed, and the seller (executor of the estate) disappeared. So now she has a renovated, thriving boarding house, and she doesn't even own it. But nothing came of it...which I suppose is the hook that should encourage me to buy the next book. Problem is, by the time I finished this book, I was not in the least curious to finding out who the real inheritor of the house was. Lost complete interest.

I read Hearts Awakening by Delia Parr, and enjoyed it a lot, but this book just didn't capture my interest.

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### **Liane says**

A nice easy read once I got used to the style of writing. Quite a lot of typos, but didn't detract from my enjoyment of the story. Some comical moments, and some well written descriptive passages.

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### **Darlene Wilson says**

Nice light Christian reading. Set in 1841 -- small town New York. As the jacket describes them -- quaint, colorful characters. Thanks, Christi, for a good read Christmas gift!

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### **Lisa at Farm Fresh Adventures says**

It's just a very sweet book. Main character a mid 50s widow with grown children and grandchildren.

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### **Margaret Metz says**

This was a difficult book for me to rate. On the one hand I thought the writer did an excellent job creating a story world and making me believe it was true. Not a whole lot happened there though. This wasn't the sort of story with a lot of tension or conflict. Only near the very end do you start to see the beginnings of something ... and then it just cuts off abruptly with no real closure at all. That's a pet peeve of mine. I know there are more books, but when you leave more questions than answers -- it feels more like one long book that you just couldn't fit in between the covers than a series that is supposed to tie together.

Another positive is the characters. They were funny, touching, authentic, and that was what kept me wanting to read until the end.

So, if you're looking for a light historical read and you don't mind getting the entire trilogy, this might be a good choice.

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## **Kim Berger says**

Loved it. That family isn't always blood. Faith based .

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## **Bonnie says**

### **Sweet**

A Hearth in Candlewood is about a widowed lady who is the proprietor of an inn on a hill outside a small ,but growing town along a shipping canal in 1840. Emma Garrett runs the inn with the help of her late husband's mother. A retired minister, who has had a stroke lives at the inn. 80-year-old Widow Leonard "runs away" to Candlewood Inn to get away from her sons arguing over a land dispute.

The story is mainly character studies about the regulars at the inn and mainly Emma, a wise Christian woman, who helps and challenges her guests. There are some serious challenges, including the possibility of losing the inn. This issue is not settled in the book, but there is a sequel.

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