

# Love Takes Wing

*Janette Oke*

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In this sequel to Love's Unfolding Dream, Belinda jumps at the chance to go to Boston and see the world.

## Love Takes Wing Details

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# From Reader Review Love Takes Wing for online ebook

## Story\_Girl says

I think the 7th installation in the story of the Davis family was a little bit of a let down. I feel like it was a little bit tired.

The book continues the story of Belinda. Belinda continues her nursing career by her doctor brother's side. But as Melissa and Amy Jo grow up and begin their own lives, she feels herself left behind and becomes restless. When two boys want more than the friendship she can offer, she feels a need to get away. A need that is conveniently met after she nurses a wealthy, elderly lady back to health only to be invited to travel to Boston as Mrs Stafford-Smyth's personal nurse. Once settled she finds she is intended to be more of a companion than a nurse, and with the differences in backgrounds between the two women, she often finds herself at loose ends, caught between her role as 'hired help' and 'friend', she doesn't seem to fit with either the house-hold staff or Mrs Stafford-Smyth's social circle. Until she is introduced to Mrs Stafford-Smyth's nephew. But Pierre struggles against his liking of Belinda and his sophisticated upbringing.

The story seemed slow to me, it didn't really seem to have any climax. It felt a little laboured, and the idea that compassionate Belinda would give up nursing to be a 'companion' in a city and basically twiddle her thumbs seemed strangely out of character. The book doesn't seem to sit well with the rest of the series. That being said, it was still a nice, light read. A shame Marty and Clark didn't feature in it more, but a good, rainy-day read.

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## Toni J. says

This book really tackles how so much can happen in your life. Yet your journey is still far from over. I couldn't put this book down once I started it.

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## Jack Vasen says

This is the seventh in the series. While reading all the books in order would add a deeper sense of the ongoing story, it is not absolutely necessary to enjoy this book. Likewise, this book tells a complete story even though there is still one book left in the saga.

This is a Christian book. Faith, dependence on God and prayer are important in the lives of these people and this book points that out in a slightly different way.

In some ways, this book is two different stories, although Belinda is mostly the center of both. There is the story of events in her home town and then there is the story of things after she leaves for Boston. The latter is different in so many ways from all the previous stories of this series largely because the environment is so completely different.

I thought there was a lot of stupidity on the part of so many different characters in this book, including Belinda. (view spoiler)

There is a short but humorous section where the entirely modest Belinda has to deal with a low neck line on

a dress that was purchased for her.

There are no mature themes and no sex.

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### **Angie says**

Fabulous series, Love Comes Softly. This book challenged me in that I was frustrated with Belinda and some of her choices but in no way will that keep me from reading the entire series. Janette Oke is a gifted writer and I appreciate her style of Christian fiction. I will read on with confidence that it will be time well spent.

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### **Libby says**

Personally, this book was not my favorite in the Love Comes Softly series and here I will list a few reasons why.

For one, in the first half of the book Belinda finds herself caught between two suitors, neither of which has she ever considered as anything more than friends. What bugged me about this is Belinda stubbornly refused to admit to herself that the young men were trying to court her, even though it was obvious to everyone else. In my opinion, Belinda was a little too naïve about the whole thing. Flowers, candy, one-on-one dinner dates...all pretty good indications that the guys were interested in her.

Also, I felt as if the story drifted, which may have been the author's intent considering the overall message of the story. Basically, this book was about Belinda striking out on her own, trying to find her way in the world, and coming to the realization that God is not limited to a place. He will go with us wherever we go, but if we leave Him out our lives become empty and we drift. Which is exactly what happened to Belinda.

Overall, I liked the message of the story, but the story itself just seemed to drag for me.

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### **Kourtney says**

This wasn't my favorite in the series although I do enjoy reading about Belinda more than Missie or Marty. The only reason why I ducked a star was because at the end things happened that I thought Belinda was too smart of a woman to overlook. Otherwise it was a good, clean read and I look forward to reading the next/last book of the series. Four stars

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### **Christina says**

This isn't as much of a stand-alone novel as the ones before it. This one and #8 (Love Finds a Home) go together.

I enjoyed this book because it takes us to Boston - a totally new experience for the Davis family.

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## **Wendy says**

Number 7 of 8 in this series and I am enjoying each book so much!

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## **Ritajane says**

**Wow, Belinda has had an awesome adventure.**

Now, with one more book to finish the series's. How will it conclude, what adventures will there be, hummmmm, guess like me, you you'll have to read the book.....

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## **Abby says**

Nostalgia Read- This is the seventh book in a Christian Lit series. I have enjoyed getting to know the youngest Davis daughter, Belinda. I felt that in this book she had lost her way a little. The things that she found fulfilling the past were no longer giving her joy. Right at the end of the book, she finds a way to add God back into her life and I think that she will find her purpose in the last book of the series.

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## **Erin Martin says**

Maybe my least favorite of the series, but still adorable.

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## **Lori says**

the book was great but I am only giving a three and a half stars because it differs so much from the movie.if you watch the movies and then read the books,you will see these differences.the books and movies are really good,don't get me wrong but I just didn't like the differences

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## **Deevena Jemima says**

We had this book at home when we were kids, though I have no idea where we got it from. I think this was the only book we had in the entire series, we used to call it the 'Belinda book', I always wanted to know what happened before and after this book. Now that I have the entire series, I am glad that a childhood dream is fulfilled. I love this book.

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## **Sarah says**

Life is good working with Luke as his nurse. But Belinda grows a bit restless with all her friends and nieces getting married. She doesn't feel ready to settle down - though she wants to someday - but is not content where she is anymore.

An elderly woman is brought to Luke's care from the train one day. She had a stroke and Belinda nurses her back to health. The woman grows fond of Belinda and greatly relies on her assistance, so she asks Belinda to come home with her and be her personal nurse. This is the chance Belinda thinks she needs, so she says yes. They travel to Boston where Belinda gets a real culture-shock.

Boston society life certainly takes some getting used to, but Belinda comes to enjoy life there. She misses her family, for sure, but takes joy in being a nurse and companion. She even gets to go to Europe one winter! It's more than she ever could have dreamed.

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### **Jenn says**

A great finale overall to a great series. I will admit, Belinda's story was NOT Marty's, but still overall one of my favorite series.

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### **Brandi says**

Great book. It was well-written, every bit of it.

I really enjoyed all of this novel, but I must admit that I didn't care for this one as much as I did the others. I missed home. I missed the quiet togetherness, the bubbling family, the heart-to-heart chats. Yes, they had some of those in there, but once Belinda moved to Boston with Mrs. Stafford-Smyth (don't worry, it's not spoiling much), and maybe even before that, the book just began to decline. Janette Oke did a good job at portraying Belinda's boredom. I was getting just as bored as she was.

Can't remember if I laughed or cried – I probably did a bit of both.

In truth, this was a really great book. But the last fifth of the novel was a bit slow for me and I missed how it used to be.

But all-in-all, it was a great book and Janette Oke fans should love it.

(\*SPOILER ALERT!!!\*)

Belinda was a really great character. I enjoyed reading from her view though I don't believe I connected with her quite as well as I did with Marty. She was really sweet, and ambitious, and generous, and innocent. I was feeling restless alongside Belinda. I wonder if her renewing her relationship with God will help.

Mrs. Stafford-Smyth was a nice character. I really felt sorry for the woman. All that wealth and yet she seems so lonely and, well, alone. No matter how much money you have you can't buy love. I'm glad Belinda is such a good friend and help to her.

Marty and Clark were as kind, sweet, and endearing as ever. I miss them.

Melissa and Amy Jo were great. I'm glad they both were able to find love and settle down though I am sad they're way out west.

Jackson was really a sweetheart. So confident, and charming, and mature. I hope he finds a wonderful girl to fall hopelessly in love with.

Rand was sweet too. Though I must admit I am very glad Belinda did not fall in love with him, wonderful though he is.

Luke was a great brother and doctor. Arnie was such a sweet and loving father. The rift between the family

was so tragic. I've never seen anything that split them like that. It was so sad. I am so very very grateful that they were able to heal and move on in harmony.

I'm also glad nothing happened with Pierre. Windsor was pretty nice, as was the rest of the staff.

Where in the stinkin' world is Drew?!?! It didn't mention him even once! Didn't spare one single paragraph or even a sentence to tell me where he is or how he's doing or, or something.

I'm still holding out for Drew though I have this terrible feeling that they won't end up together. Nooo!

I can't believe it. I only have one book left in the series. Only one! I can hardly believe it. It's all gonna be over! No more Marty, Clark, or any of them. So sad! I'm mourning this parting! :(

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### **Jessica Lindenberg says**

Little bit anticlimactic. Not much happens in this book, and is somewhat an bore. But have loved all the other books in this series!!!

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### **Jerry says**

This series continues to deliver; I'm curious as to how it will end in the next volume.

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### **Nadine Keels says**

#### **Thoughts on the entire series.**

Yes, I've switched to put the editions from the 80s on my Read shelf, since those are the ones I read and own, and I'm partial to the stories in all of their old-fashionedness, before the updated covers and later book edits that have gone into newer editions. (I didn't read all of these in large print, but the cover art is the same.)

The first book, *Love Comes Softly*, was the first I ever read by Oke, my introduction into her sweet, warm, and simplistic style of storytelling that would make her one of my all-time favorite authors, up there with Henry James and L.M. Montgomery. Yes, I love my classic authors with their legendary works, but there's something to be said for an author who just tells a plain story that gets at readers' hearts.

The first three books of the series are my favorites, but the series is well worth reading in its entirety. A pity the film versions from Hallmark gradually strayed so incredibly far from the original stories. The films are enjoyable in and of themselves, but if you've only seen the films, you'd do well to see what Oke actually wrote about Clark, Marty, and the rest of these folks.

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### **Shirlene says**

Melissa, Missie's daughter, was arriving by train to stay with Marty and Clark Davis for 2 weeks. Belinda, their youngest daughter was working with Luke as a nurse. Belinda arrived at the train station anxiously awaiting for Melissa to arrive. Luke had given Belinda a week off to visit with Melissa and Amy Jo, Clare &

Kate's daughter. Amy Jo was restless and always happy. She grew sadder as the day approached for Melissa to leave for home. Clare & Kate talked it over with Clark & Marty and decided to let her travel West with Melissa to spend some time with Willie & Missie. They wanted Belinda to go too but Belinda told them she had work to do and Luke needed her until a new doctor could be found to help him out.

There was a party to welcome Melissa home and Rand O'Connel was one of the guys who came. He had gone to the same school as the girls but was a few years older than Belinda. They talked and he told Belinda that he wanted to become a builder. She suggested that he get a job working for a builder and learn from him. Rand went back to where he had come from and did just that. He came by to see her several months later and stopped by Luke's place to thank her for her suggestion. It had worked out and he had come back to town to start his own business. He invited her to supper and she went.

Amy Jo was supposed to return after a few months and postponed her return till Christmas. That return trip was also postponed. Amy Jo had met someone, Ryan Taylor. She promised to return by Easter but wanted to see what Ryan's intentions were. She did return then and Belinda was once again at the train station now waiting for Amy Jo.

Amy Jo arrived and Ryan was with her as a surprise to her family. They declared their intention to be married on June 1st. Melissa and Wally Taylor were to be married the same day with Missie & Wallie in attendance out West. Belinda mourned, missing her friends who were going to now be together out West. She was happy for them but knew things had changed and she would miss them.

There was an accident at Clare's with a new bull he had purchased. The boys were playing ball and it went into the pen where the bull was. Abe went to get the ball and the bull attacked him. His arm was broken in a few places and he had broken ribs. He slowly recovered after a couple of weeks but his arm wasn't healing properly. Luke had treated him and spoke with Arnie about Abe needing his arm re-broken and set by doctors in a big city hospital. Arnie refused and Luke went to Clark & Marty for help. They talked to him with his wife, Anne, with him and he still refused to get help for Abe. Luke told him that Abe's arm was likely to become stiff and unable to be used if something was done to have it properly set soon. The longer they waited, the worse it would get. Arnie stopped going to church and the family didn't come to Sunday dinner after they were told about Abe's arm troubles. Marty went to visit Arnie and he came back to church and Sunday dinner but things remained strained within the family. No one talked about Abe's arm.

Rand was still calling on Belinda but he had yet to speak of his feelings to her. He was waiting until he had money saved up. She was working long hours at the clinic and he was working long hours building houses and other types of things. He came by to see her when he could and they saw each other on Sundays at church.

One day Luke was sent a message that someone traveling by train had taken seriously ill. Luke went to see the patient while Belinda prepared the surgery room. The patient was Mrs. Virginia Stafford-Smythe of Boston and she had suffered a stroke. She remained unconscious for a few days and her butler came to see her. Mrs. Smythe liked to talk and her speech improved over the next few months. She told Belinda about losing her husband due to a heart attack when he was only 39. Her son had married a woman from overseas and spent a lot of time traveling to France. He did during one of those trips and she had raised her son's two boys. They were in France now with their mother's family. She enjoyed traveling and most times traveled with a nurse. Her nurse had needed gall bladder surgery so she had taken this trip alone. Belinda enjoyed hearing of her life and travels and knew that she would miss her once she was recovered enough to return home to Boston.

Belinda was asked to accompany Mrs. Smythe back home to Boston and Belinda wasn't sure. Rand was starting to complain about her spending too much time at work and she apologized. She wanted to remain friends with him but he had never talked of being more than friends and she never considered herself more than just a friend. She enjoyed talking to him and hearing about the houses he was building. She was surprised by Jackson Brown stopping by Luke's one evening. She had gone to school with him and had never considered a life with him either. They had kept in touch for a while after he left for school to become a doctor and she knew he had planned on returning. She hadn't known when but Luke had talked some about



him coming back once he had finished school. Belinda hadn't known when that would be. He took her out to dinner.

With both men now taking her out, they had both declared their intentions of pursuing a relationship with her but she told them both that she considered them friends. She wasn't ready to settle down. She accepted Mrs. Smythe's invitation to go to Boston. She felt she needed to get away. Both men told her that they would wait for her to make a decision when she returned. She told both that she would be gone indefinitely and not to wait on her to come back. It could be years.

Melissa and Amy Jo had been married for 2 years now and Melissa had a child of her own and Amy Jo had one on the way.

Arnie had said that he blamed Clare for Abe's accident for having purchased a bull that was too dangerous. His attitude was putting a serious strain on the family. He was still refusing to let Abe have the surgery to fix his arm although it was obvious that Abe couldn't use his arm at all now. Luke went to talk to him again and Arnie was finally ready to listen. Arnie and Anne spoke with Abe and Abe was willing to go through the pain of surgery in order to regain the use of his arm. He knew that it wouldn't be an easy thing to do but he didn't want to grow up with a crippled arm.

Belinda went to Boston and met some of Mrs. Smythe's friends. Just before her first dinner party with Mrs. Smythe, her grandson Peter came to visit. They spent a lot of time together but there were things going on that Belinda didn't understand. The staff didn't like the fact of Belinda being an employee of Mrs. Smythe's and being allowed to have tea and meals with her. She wasn't accepted into their friendship because they resented her position and the fact that she didn't take tea and eat with them. Mrs. Smythe treated her more like a daughter than staff. Peter didn't realize that she was an employee when Mrs. Smythe asked him to show her around. They spent a lot of time together and he came to like her too much. He decided to head back to France when the winter came because he liked her too much and he wouldn't lower himself to become involved with someone below his status.

Belinda didn't know how they were going to spend Christmas but decided to do her best to create a celebration. She talked to the priest at their church and they invited a few people who were new to Boston or couldn't afford a Christmas over to have a meal with them.

Belinda was restless after the Christmas decorations were put away and Mrs. Smythe decided it was time to take a trip abroad. Belinda was so excited and they headed to Spain, Rome, Italy and finally to France to see Peter and meet Frank. They were surprised to find that Peter was newly married and Frank would soon be married too. They soon headed back home to Boston. Belinda was restless but not homesick and she didn't understand why until she met an older man in clergy attire. They talked and he spoke about leaving his home and traveling to America. He said that he could do that because God would be going with him in his heart. Belinda thought that maybe her restlessness was because she had become too busy in her duties as a nurse to make time for God. She had somehow left him behind. She went to find her Bible and spent some time reading and apologizing to him for not taking him with her and keeping him first in her heart. She felt better after realizing that missing God in her life was what was causing her restlessness.

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