



A Heart Renewed

Karen Baney

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Headstrong. Unconventional. Until life turns upside down...

Julia Colter struggles to accept life under her controlling brother's greed. The suitors he selects would benefit him, but are far from the ideal husband for her. When her rebellion against her brother puts her life at risk, she turns to her friend for help.

Adam Larson longs to train horses and plans to head west to the Arizona Territory to see his dreams fulfilled. When his sister's best friend shows up in the middle of the night, he agrees to help her flee. The decision changes his life, in more ways than he expected.

Can Julia forget the pain from her past and open her heart to love?

A Heart Renewed Details

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From Reader Review A Heart Renewed for online ebook

Iola says

Seventeen-year-old Julia Colter is forced to leave her home in the dead of night after she is raped by her older brother, Reuben, as punishment for not marrying the rancher he has selected for her (yes, this story is not for the faint-hearted, and no, it is not an easy read). Julia travels to Arizona with her neighbour, Adam Larson, posing as his sister. Adam has been offered a job in Arizona, working as a horse trainer for Julia's older brother, Will.

This story centres around Julia's emotional and spiritual healing from Reuben's attack, and her growing relationship with Adam. She has feelings for him, but doesn't believe he could ever love her. Julia also has difficulty getting close to Will, because he looks just like Reuben, which reminds her of the abuse she suffered. Despite the difficult situation, this was a solid story of growing trust and forgiveness.

What I didn't like about A Heart Renewed was the amount of time that was taken up with the sub-plot about Thomas Anderson (Drew's brother). This wasn't at all relevant to the Julia/Adam plot, but just felt like it was setting up the next book in the series, which it was. While it was interesting enough (and, in fairness, was consistent with the 'heart renewed' theme), the story of Thomas detracted too much from the main plot.

Thanks to BookRooster for providing a free ebook for review (I actually received the 4-in-1 edition, Prescott Pioneers).

Aislynn says

I was so completely blown away by this story. I COULD NOT PUT IT DOWN!! This is the second book in the Prescott Pioneers series, and Karen did an incredible job!

The story of Julia is a sad one, she is the younger sister of Will Colter - who we are introduced to in the first book "A Dream Unfolding" (which I had the pleasure of reading and reviewing already!). After Will left for Arizona, Julia was left with Reuben their older brother. He is a nasty piece of work! I don't think I could possibly dislike a character more than Reuben and what he did to Julia!

With the help of Adam Larson, brother to her best friend; Julia escapes Reuben's clutches and flees to Will's home in Arizona. These two have some great chemistry, and he is one of the few people she trusts after her ordeal.

Also, we get a glimpse into Thomas - Drew Anderson's younger brother. He was one of the reason's Hannah and Drew had to leave their home for Arizona. I don't want to give away any spoilers from either book, but I love how these all tie in together. Hannah, Drew, Thomas, Will, Adam and Julia.. all with their own story but are brought together.

This is a must read for anyone who loves Historical Romance, Christian Romance or Western Historicals.

Patty Marion says

I received Karen Baney's book, A HEART RENEWED, as a First Read. It's the second of her Prescott Pioneers series. I have not yet read the first in the series but it wasn't necessary to fully enjoy the characters and story.

This is a Christian novel, what I call a "gentle read." I love westerns and this story, which takes place in mid-1800's Texas, is about Julia Coulter, a teenager left in the guardianship of her oldest brother, Reuben, after her father (and only remaining parent) dies. Though Julia has always been closer to her other brother, Will, Reuben has inherited the ranch and Will is made to feel no longer welcomed, so he strikes out to find a new life raising cattle in Arizona.

Reuben is a selfish and greedy man who cares only for what Julia can do to advance his plans of grandeur. As he becomes more and more harsh and then cruel and abusive, fearing for her life she flees in the middle of the night for the only place she knows she will be safe – with Will.

Her faith in God seriously damaged by the abusive treatment of her oldest brother, Julia rages at God and erects a protective wall between herself and those who truly love her. This story is about her journey back to wholeness and reconciliation. I very much enjoyed Baney's writing and I do recommend it to anyone who enjoys a good "gentle read."

Carol says

A Heart Restored

Hannah and Will have been married and are quiet happening living on the Colter Ranch. Little did they know just how quickly their family would grow.

Unexpectedly, Adam who was a Ranch neighbor of Will and Julia's in Texas before they moved West rides into the Colter Ranch with Julia at his side. This was so unexpected because Will had written his sister several times and never got a response. Will did not know just how evil his brother Reuben really was and he was to learn of his sister's unfortunate treatment and how it had effected her.

Will and Hannah are pregnant and concerned about the pregnancy has she had lost her first child from her late husband. Julia is having a hard time living with herself and wants to live and find work in town. Against Wills wishes for her to stay she does make the move.

Adam and she have grown quite fond of each other. But, will the trouble I especially of Julia keep her distant from Adam? How will her living in town effect the pregnancy with Hanna? Will the family recover from all of the anxiety between the different members? How will their lives be changed?

Wendy says

I read this on my Kindle and it's the second book in the series, I got hooked on the first page and was hooked for the whole story. I don't think anyone can be disappointed in this book and I would recommend you

purchase it right now, you won't be disappointed. There is one more book in the series and a fourth to be released this year, I can hardly wait to see if Karen can top this one.

Julia Colter has not had a good life since her father died and left the ranch to Reuben, her oldest brother. Will, the brother she was closest to, was left a share of the cattle and some cash. Julia was left an inheritance too but Reuben held the reigns on that until she became of age. Reuben is a ruthless person and told Will he was no longer welcome living in their ranch so he took his cattle and headed for Arizona, as much as he hated leaving Julia he had no choice. Reuben is a gambler who loses more than he wins, a drinker and can be a violent person.

Will has made a life for himself in Prescott, AZ, has a large ranch, is married and expecting a child. He is concerned about Julia though because he knows how mean Reuben can be. He is not wrong, Julia soon finds herself facing an arranged marriage to Hiram Norton, a man old enough to be her father, who's as mean, if not worse than Reuben, a drinker, a gambler, and a womanizer. Reuben threatens that if she doesn't go through with the marriage she'll be sorry, she has one month to figure something out. Caroline Larson, her best friend, comes up with a plan. She tells Julia to cause a scene in Church on Sunday accusing Hiram of cheating on her, which he's known to frequent the saloon and 'visit' the ladies so everyone is likely to believe the story, and doing it even before the wedding so she's calling off the engagement. After the confrontation she's to run out jump on Adams's (Caroline's brother) horse and go home. Since it will be a public break up, Reuben can't do anything about it. Julia goes along with the plan not knowing just how Reuben will express his anger.

When Reuben gets his family loaded in the wagon and gets home, Julia pays and it almost costs her her life. If Adam hadn't come for his horse and walked in the house because no one answered the door, Julia would have been choked to death, not to mention the hits she took before that. Adam tries to get Julia to go to the Larson's for safety, but Julia is afraid of what Reuben would do to not only her, but the Larson family. Adam tells her if she ever feels like she needs to leave, day or night, to come to their house and they will protect her.

Some time later Reuben comes up with another rich man he can 'sell' Julia to, so another dinner is planned to announce an engagement. Julia doesn't like Lewis Jamison any better, when they go for their stroll and he gets fresh she fights him off by stomping on the top of his foot and kicking him in the shin then runs into the house and to her room. Mr Jamison tells Reuben that he's not interested so now Reuben has lost two chances to get the money he needs to pay his debts off. Julia is expecting a violent visit from Reuben but instead he goes to town and gets drunk. When he comes home he follows through with the treat to hurt her where people can't see the pain.

Once Julia's sure Reuben is sound asleep she packs a bag, takes a horse and heads to the Larsons. Adam answers her knock and when he sees her he knows that Reuben's worked her over again. Caroline also hears and comes out to comfort her and comes up with a plan. Adam had been getting ready to go to Prescott to work for Will Colter, so Caroline thinks he should get a few things together and with Julia posing as his sister they can travel together to Will's ranch. It takes a little talking but Adam soon realizes that it's the only way to save Julia from Reuben.

When Reuben discovers Julia missing he thinks she's gone to the Larsons so he sends one of his ranch hands to go over there and get her. She isn't there, so then he gives Bates a pile of money so he can go looking for her, suspecting she will try to get to Will in Arizona. Bates locates Adam and Julia Larson in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Bates hearing that they'd married realized he could not kidnap Julia and return her to Reuben and he wasn't sure he'd even get paid if he did, so he gets a wagon and goes along to Prescott in the same wagon

train but stays hidden from Julia and Adam.

Julia is so relieved to see her brother, but he looks so much like Reuben will she ever be as close to him as she used to be, will she ever be able to look at him the same again? Will she ever be able to marry and have a family after the way Reuben treated her? Will she ever be able to be 'Julia' again?

Carolyn says

I think this was a "free" book because it's not a genre I would normally buy. I feel that giving the book only 3 stars isn't fair on my part-time. I'm not drawn to this kind of formulaic/predictable type of historical romance novel. It's a sweet story and well-told...it's not my kind of book though I found myself reading ALL of it! Go figure!

Vickey Mcgee says

Great Story!

Magnificently written! I love this series. A lot of historical facts and religious message, along with being clean so anyone may read. Once I start I hate to stop reading.

? Gramy ? says

I am enjoying getting to the characters in this series. Each story contains their own issues, although each has one thing in common, an individual character is involved in a pivotal change who chooses a westward journey hoping for a new life. Each story inspires and captivates the reader and welcomes them to join particular characters in an adventure. They entertain and teach lessons about life from a faith-based view. These are clean, stand-alone stories, that concludes with an H.E.A.

Kathleen says

When this book started out, I thought it would be even better than A Dream Unfolding. In some ways it is better, but in other ways it's worse.

The plot with Julia and Adam had a lot of similarities to A Texan's Promise, only it was much better done. (A Texan's Promise was so ridiculous I didn't finish it). Unfortunately, Julia's character is not the most historically accurate. She often seems very "ahead of her time", especially when she gets a job as a hotel clerk in town. I question whether single young women really did that in the 1860s. Julia also wears a cowboy hat and split skirt, and rides astride, none of which would have happened back then. The author also describes Julia's everyday clothing as a "shirt and skirt", which is wrong (a shirt was not a female item of

clothing).

Despite it's problems, this book is a good read. It handles some tough topics in a realistic way that really impressed me. I love the characters even more now, and I will definitely finish this series to find out what happens next.

Courtney says

I was excited to start reading book 2 of the Prescott Pioneers as soon as I finished the first book in the series but I have to stay, I was not prepared for how much I would LOVE this book! A Heart Renewed blew me away!

A Heart Renewed continues the story about the Colters and the Andersons. The story starts with Julia, Will's sister, who is now in the hands of their older brother Reuben. Reuben is angry, mean and in lots of debt and tries to marry off Julia to the highest bidder so he can get himself out of the whole he dug! Meanwhile back at Colter Ranch, Will and Hannah begin their married life and start up the business that Will has begun. When tragedy strikes Will's sister Julia, Julia flees to her neighbor and friend Adam and he decides her life is in danger and sets out to take her to her brother Will. Adam had already planned on going to see Will to become his horse trainer at the Colter Ranch so he easily agrees this is the best plan. Brother and sister get reunited again and the real story begins.

Karen starts this story off with a bang and right from the beginning you get immersed in the life of Julia. Again, I felt very connected to the characters. While I liked the first book, this book I could honestly say I loved! The characters were so deep and meaningful that you really felt like you were a part of the story. There was a few times I teared up and just wanted to get in there and hug Julia to help her deal with the trauma that she was going through. Julia was such a powerful character, so real and raw, she was a tomboy at heart and held strong to her values in love and marriage. I felt Karen did an amazing job with connecting the reader to Julia and making that character and her pain very realistic! Adam was my favorite character though, he is handsome, quiet and oh so respectful! I just love a hero that is not quick to speak but a bit timid! He gets his patience tested many times but remains calm.

Karen also had a way with blending the stories of Julia and Adam with Hannah and Will that easily flowed! Their two lives merged together which I was thankful for because I definitely wanted to hear how Will and Hannah were doing now that they were married and she didn't disappoint.

Again there was a history lesson going on throughout the story but in this book I felt the history flowed a lot better and didn't take away from the story at all. There was a lot more character dialogue too. The romance was sweet and clean.

The spiritual threads in A Heart Renewed were mild but oh so powerful and the message didn't take away from the story. I felt the issues that Julia was dealing with about God were very realistic to the situation and I enjoyed watching her faith grow as the story progressed. The spiritual message I learned most was that God's heart breaks when we are in pain, he wants us to come to Him and to seek His peace and love through the heartache and he will give us the strength to keep moving forward!

I received a copy of this book to read and review from the author. My review is not biased by the fact that I was given this book. I HONESTLY read and review any book whether bought or given to me. If I did not

like the book I would definitely not give a rave review or recommend it.

Teresa B. Noe says

Enjoyable and Sweet

This series has been a clean and sweet set of romance adventures.

Put this Author and series on your must read list.

Wendy says

I won this book through the Good Reads Giveaway. Karen Baney was a 'new to me' author. I hadn't read any of her previous books before starting in on this one. I absolutely loved this book. I absolutely adore historical romance to begin with, so anything "Americana" and historical romance is something I ordinarily sway towards to begin with. Being the second in a series, I did not feel as if I had missed out of any background story in order to fully appreciate this one - but, to be completely honest - I am already planning on reading Book 1, just because I fell in love with the characters in this book.

From the start, I was hooked. Julia's brother Rueben is attempted to sell his sister off to repay his debts. Seeking a way out of this forced marriage, Julia and her best friend come up with a way to allow her to break the engagement, only to have it backfire on her, forcing her to escape to the safety of her brother Will's ranch with her best friend's brother Adam who recently was hired on there as a horse trainer.

Unlike traditional historical romances, this one had plenty of 'romance' without having 'explicit sex' scenes. Overall, a great read and I will be looking forward to reading more of this writer's works!

Maureen Timerman says

I really enjoyed reading this book, the second one in the Prescott Pioneers Series. What a great movie, or continuing TV show this series would make.

Hannah and Will are now married and living on the beautiful ranch. Will has offered a good neighbor from back home in Texas a job training Horses. Adam Larson has agreed to come and needs to reply and let Will know.

In the mean time Julia has not heard from Will since he left, except that he had arrived in Arizona. Her Dad at his passing had left her in the care of her older brother Reuben. Reuben has put himself in a great deal of debt and has decided to Marry off 17 year old Julia. He picks old, obnoxious men, with money to give him. When Julie manages to throw them aside, he is furious and beats and does much worse to her. She runs away to her friend Caroline Larson. Once Caroline finds out what has happened she convinces Adam to leave immediately and take Julia with him. He agrees and so starts Julia's and Adam's adventure to Arizona.

Am so glad that we get further visits with Betty, Paul and Ben, among others. We also meet up again with Thomas Anderson, Drew's brother. I am also happy that there is another book in this series.

You won't be able to put this one down once you start reading. Enjoy!

I received this book from Author Karen Baney, and was not required to give a positive review.

Brenda says

"A Heart Renewed" is the second book in the Prescott Pioneer series and picks up right where the last book left off.

It is the story of Julia Colter, the youngest of the Colter children. Her brother Will is settled in his new home with his bride Hannah, and Julia wonders why she never received any letters from him. They had been very close all their lives, but when her father's will stated that she was to be left in the care of her brother Rueben, Will had no choice but to follow his wishes. Rueben is a smooth talking charmer who has fooled everyone around him except for Will and Julia, they knew he was ruthless and had no qualms doing whatever he desired regardless of who he might hurt. When Rueben's debts are more than he can pay he decides that he will find a wealthy man to marry his sister off, actually it was more like "selling" her. When Julia finds a way to thwart her first suitor's attentions, Rueben's wrath is merciless, but when he finds another suitor and Julia won't go along with his plans, he decides he will break her spirit and commits an evil act that will change Julia forever. When she runs to the Larson ranch and tells Caroline what her brother has done, the only answer is for Julia to leave with Adam, who had already secured a job with Will as a horse trainer at the Colter Ranch in Arizona.

Will Julia finally find safety with her brother Will, and will she ever be able to let go of her past and find true love?

I couldn't put this book down. The author easily pulls you into the story of Julia. My heart totally broke for the mistreatment she suffered at the hand of Rueben. The fears and feelings that Julia expressed were totally expected for someone who had been through such an ordeal. While she had a fear of men, she was able to rely and depend on Adam, and as their feelings develop for one another Julia is plagued with doubt that once Adam really knows what happened, that he could never love her. Adam was such a good, kind man exactly what Julia needed. While Julia questions her faith she comes to the realization with the help of her friends, that the only way to find peace is to forgive.

I enjoyed following Hannah through her pregnancy, and seeing Will, the strong rancher become such a worrywart where his wife was concerned. The secondary story of Thomas was quite interesting, and I loved the flavor of the civil war that was woven into his story. I did wonder what happened with Rueben, but I am sure we will get the answer to that question in the next book.

While this is the second book in the series, it can be read as a stand alone work, the author provides enough background information that you don't feel like you're lost. Although it's such a great series I highly recommend picking up the first book titled *A Dream Unfolding*. The author's next book in the series titled "*A Life Restored*" is due out later this year, and I for one am totally anxious to read it. If you're a fan of historical romance, set in the west that has a nice Christian theme you should certainly add this series to your reading list.

I was provided a complimentary copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Regina A Fontaine says

A must read....

Don't miss out on this page turner, a must read for this series, beware of physical and sexual abuse in family situations where alcohol is involved. Had to get my tissues out for this one.
