



An April Bride

Lenora Worth

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A year's worth of novellas from twelve inspirational romance authors. Happily ever after guaranteed.

War changes everything . . . even their love.

Bride-to-be Stella Carson can't wait to marry her longtime sweetheart Marshall Henderson. But Marshall has been away serving his country and has suffered a head wound. After being diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, he has distanced himself from Stella, asking her not to visit him in a Washington, D.C., hospital. Marshall returns to Louisiana just four weeks before the wedding, but as the big day draws near, Stella wonders if the man she's loved for most of her life has become someone else.

Can true love conquer all for Stella and Marshall, even the tragedy of war?

An April Bride Details

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From Reader Review An April Bride for online ebook

Jessie says

This was a story that tugged at my heart.

Marshall is fighting in Afghanistan when an IED explodes, leaving him with a head injury, four months of hospital stays and no memory. He finally returns home to Louisiana four weeks before his wedding to his childhood sweetheart, Stella.

I couldn't believe that Stella didn't notice that he didn't remember her after talking to him on the phone every day. Otherwise, I enjoyed seeing them get to know each other all over again. And yes, I cried a few times as I imagined how hard the situation must be for both of them. I liked how supportive everyone was, and only hope that I could face a similar situation with such strength and faith.

This was one of the Year of Weddings novellas that didn't appeal to me as much because it had the potential to be a sad and dramatic story. I was surprised that I enjoyed it, and am glad I had the opportunity to get a copy through NetGalley.com, otherwise I might have missed this one.

Content: clean

Megan says

An April Bride is the first book I've read in the *A Year of Weddings* series and for a novella I thought it was a wonderful story. The story didn't feel rushed at all, it almost had the feel of a full length novel so that was a huge plus! If all the books are as good as this one it's going to be a great series.

I found this book to be very sweet and a little emotional. The main characters were so believable and I connected with them almost immediately. If you enjoy contemporary romance stories, I think you should give this story a read.

I received a complimentary copy of this book to review. I was asked to give my honest opinion of the book - which I have done.

Beyond the Pages says

An April Bride was such a touching story. Filled with just the right amount of tension, romance, conflict and blessed resolution, it was a winner in my eyes.

I loved that the author spoke about the impact that war and injury can have on a serviceman and his loved ones. PTSD is tough to deal with; add amnesia to the mix due to a head injury and you could potentially have a powder keg of emotion. But in love and faith, there is power to recover and to heal. That's what this book is about.

This book is about the unconditional love of family and friends, but more importantly it is about the always purposeful, ever enduring, merciful love of God. It is about how He perfectly delivers those in need every single time.

This book is about prayer and its influence on those far and near. I loved that the author placed emphasis on the importance and the reach of prayer. In a sense, it brought this community together to rally for this couple.

I must confess that this story really caused me to think deeply and appreciate just how much we actually grow when we go through trials. At the time, of course, it doesn't feel like it, but it's happening. On the other side of the trial, things become much clearer. Indeed.

Beautiful job!

Rating: 4.5/5

Recommend: Yes

A complimentary e-copy of this title was made available for review in exchange for my honest opinion.

Jennifer Garcia says

An April Bride is #5 in "A Year of Weddings" series.

This was a great tale of childhood sweethearts that are planning a wedding while the groom-to-be is serving our country. When he comes home, he's not quite the same but the couple are determined to get married anyway. Their love is strong, deep down inside.

This sweet and touching story is the perfect length for a quick read without skimping on storyline. I truly enjoyed this one.

Katie W says

(3.5 Stars) I honestly can't imagine how war can affect a person. Marshall and Stella are planning on getting married when Marshall returns from his service, but a severe wound and amnesia/PTSD complicate their plans.

Stella is absolutely amazing! I kept putting myself in her shoes and wondering if I'd have the guts to go through with a wedding to a man who doesn't seem to remember me. Of course, she is human and those doubts came creeping in. Marshall is pretty amazing himself. He had every chance to walk away and decided since he'd promised something to someone else, he would stay and try to figure it out, but he could only take things so far without coming to a conclusion.

One thing that bothered me--if he couldn't remember her, why didn't he want her to see him all beat up when he was in the hospital? That aside, it was heartwarming to watch a couple work through issues and feelings to really dig down deep and figure out what they love about each other and if a marriage to one another is worth it and the right thing to work for. Such a tender story.

Content: mild war-type violence; mild romance; Christian elements. Clean!

I received a copy from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

De'Siree Fairley says

3.75/5

I thought that this one needed to be a full length story or at least 200 pages to really feel the effects of Marshall's PTSD. There was also some wasted space where Stella kept asking him the same question repeatedly of how he wanted to call off the wedding and break up with her. If she had shown this in other ways besides Stella randomly getting flustered every time and asking it in the same way each time, I would have had zero problems with it. It would have also been more realistic that way I think. Other than that, the journey that both of them take together to get towards marriage and their wedding even while Marshall had no memory of Stella was quite heartwarming.

Melody says

Really enjoyed this book. Loving this series.

Kathie (katmom) says

Happy Release Day!!!

This is another in the "A Year of Weddings" series published by Zondervan - Fiction. Each of these novellas focus on a wedding and the trials and tribulations leading up to the event. These are nicely clean, but have some UST for our reading enjoyment. Kisses can be FUN! They are also inspirational, but they don't beat you over the head about it. Again, nicely done.

An April Bride comes out on 3/25, but you can order your copy now.

I am certainly enjoying these novellas. This one, with a returning soldier, was quite good. There was a bit of "telling" as opposed to "showing" at the beginning, but I liked it anyway. It's difficult to put everything IN that is needed when one is constrained by a novella word count.

Marshall has been injured and asks that his fiancee not visit him as he's recuperating. He has a brain injury. We come to find out that he's lost his memory and doesn't remember his bride-to-be.

Stella doesn't find this out until he returns, just weeks before the wedding they've planned. This was by his request, but still, I would have been ticked.

Marshall is attracted to Stella. She's everything a bride should be. Sweet and devout...and pretty, too. By all accounts he's loved her forever. And he wants to honor his promise.

Stella's not sure of anything except the fact that she loves him. But what if he doesn't remember her? Ever?

Stella needed to do some growing, and when she finally does, I was quite proud of her.

There were a few time line issues, but all in all, this was an enjoyable read. One thing that is odd with the preview copies from Zondervan, is that many of the sentences don't begin with capital letters! It's odd and takes a bit to get into the flow of reading. The actual books have that issue taken care of, but still hard to read the books.

This is a FOUR BOOKMARK read for me.

*Thank you, NetGalley and Zondervan, for the opportunity to read *An April Bride*

Jessica says

Disclaimer: I received an advance galley proof of this novel from NetGalley and the publisher, which may vary slightly from the final published form.

This is the second of the, to-date, five novellas in the "Year of Weddings" series that I would give a pass. Several of the story arcs seemed completely implausible to me, and I never developed any sympathy for the bride who was more concerned with her wedding and whether her fiance loved her (he couldn't remember her!) than whether she loved him.

First of all, and the primary thing I simply could not get over, while her fiance was recovering from a head injury and dealing with PTSD in military hospitals for several MONTHS, Stella stayed home, planned her wedding, and had five(?) bridal showers. This was explained away as her obeying the wishes of her fiance, Marshall. I scoff.

If I was in love, engaged, and my fiance was injured severely enough to spend more than a day in the hospital (I give it a day, since he was serving far enough away it would probably take 24 hours to reach him) I would be there. Period. No discussion.

Second inconsistency, in my opinion, although this involves PTSD so I'm not qualified to comment, if I lost my memory and was struggling to recover it, I would not refuse to read the communications that would most likely prompt my memories. You either want to remember or you don't. Pick one!

For these reasons, and despite the happy ending, I'd recommend giving this particular book in the series a pass.

Michelle says

Definitely not as good as the other novellas in the A Year of Weddings series that I've read so far. I couldn't connect with either of the main characters. I didn't dislike Marshall, the solider who comes back home suffering from a head injury and PTSD. In fact, I thought it was commendable that he wanted to go on with the wedding despite all that had happened to him. Stella, Marshall's high school sweetheart and fiancée,

simply irritated me. She was constantly thinking about the wedding when I felt like she should have been more focused on Marshall and his recovery. Because of this, I wasn't too invested in their relationship and I wasn't invested in this story.

Niyati Em says

Original review on <https://thebookishfoodiereviews.wordpress.com>...

This book is disgusting to the core. Let me tell you why. After reading this book, I feel HarperCollins editors have lost their marbles.

This is one of the books I picked up from NetGalley thinking yeah, it'll be good. It is a series. I'd already picked up the December, January, March and May Bride books and I wanted to make a whole set. I was really excited for this one. And the blurb caught me! It got to me. War changes everything. It makes a healthy man hate. It destroys families and tears countries and societies. Even though so many people are against war, yet many powers are behind keeping the countries at war, mostly to profit themselves.

The whole book harps all about how good Stella is and how Marshall and Stella are meant for each other. But hey, did someone just forget that Marshall was back from war? That being stupidly emotional and double guessing the wedding and trying to "act" like a martyr didn't do anyone any favours?

This is a really pathetic story. I don't know how it got past the editor. Was the author attempting to brush off PTSD? Stella is the most disagreeable character but the tragedy of the book is that everyone sings her praises. Her fiance is suffering and all she can whine, yes that's all she does. Whine Whine Whine. I wanted to slap her. Did she think war meant someplace where people went to have fun? PTSD and repressed memories can take years to cure. And all Stella cares is about whether Marshall loves her or not. And whether she would be married.

That was just horrible. Everyone trying to counsel and trying to bring back Marshall's memories. I'd have liked to see a stronger woman who shows her love for her man instead of being a spoilt brat wondering about the fate of her wedding. I mean, really!!!! My heart went out to Marshall. He is just back from a traumatic experience in the war. A near death one and he doesn't remember. All he knows is that he has to get married in 4 weeks.

All I saw was one selfish woman focused so deeply on her wedding that she forgets the fact that marriages happen with both the parties, and that if her fiance isn't well, she should support him.

I do not recommend this book at all. Not a good read and a little insulting to anyone who fights in war to deal with a prick like that!

Joy says

Stella can't wait until her wedding to her childhood sweetheart Marshall. But wedding bliss turns into an emotional roller coaster when the news comes. Marshall has had an accident while serving in the military

and can't remember her.

Marshall comes home suffering from PTSD with no memories of his soon to be bride. Stella is everything he ever hoped to marry but he isn't sure his memories could come back in time for the wedding.

I simply loved this story. It was sweet the way Stella and Marshall kind of fell in love a second time.

I recommend this for everyone.

Jencey/ says

Welcome to spring! It is that time of year where the brides start walking down the aisle. Lenora Worth brings us the story of a bride who has to decide whether it is worth, it to walk down the aisle. Have you ever had the experience of having trials surprise you? How will you react or will you change your plans?

Synopsis:

Stella is looking forward to marrying her fiancé Marshall, when he comes back from his deployment. Around the time that Marshall would have been sent home he and his unit encounter an IED. Marshall survives but is injured. He wakes up with no memory of Stella and their time together. His parents initially keep Stella away because of his amnesia. When Stella discovers what her current circumstances are she begins to reconsider plans. Will she still marry Marshall? Or will he come up with the perfect plan to help her down the aisle?

My Thoughts:

I enjoyed Lenora's story of the reluctant bride. She did a great job of creating positive interactions between Stella and Marshall. Grand gesture by Marshall to get his bride to say I do won me over completely. The story is peppered with great characters. The story is set in Renaissance Louisiana.

Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says

I thought this was a great plot. I enjoy stories of soldiers who serve their country and the women who support them. The amnesia angle was interesting, especially as they began to connect again and Marshall began regaining his memories. The countdown to the wedding was a stress factor for the couple, but it also hindered the development of the relationship in the story since Stella's thoughts and scenes were for the majority focused on whether or not to continue with the wedding, postpone, or call it off. The characters seemed to be stuck in limbo which became a little repetitive. I loved the ending, but I don't want to give anything away!

(ARC provided via Netgalley for unbiased review)

Donna (More Than a Review) says

I realize my opinion may not match the others but I loved this book. I am a softie for military heroes. An April Bride is the most emotional book I have read in the Year of Weddings series. Marshall has been hurt serving his country and has been in the hospital for the last year. He has not wanted anyone but his parents by his side. He comes home four weeks before his wedding to his long time sweetheart, Stella. Marshall appears to be a very different person now and Stella is worried that he doesn't still want to marry her. She is still in love with him but wants what is best for him. Both must rely on their faith to get them through this tough time. An April Bride has several emotional scenes that had me tearing up. You can see my full review at More Than a Review dot com where I rate the level of sex, violence, language and drug/alcohol use in books.
