



The Measure of a Heart

Janette Oke

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A new look for this Janette Oke novel. Everyone says Anna Trent is a woman of worth, but she struggles to see that in herself.

The Measure of a Heart Details

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Author : Janette Oke

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From Reader Review The Measure of a Heart for online ebook

Beverly McClure says

Today, most everyone has the opportunity for a good education. This was not always true. When Anna Trent finished eighth grade, her schooling ended. She could dream about continuing her education, but it was not likely to happen. God had plans for Anna, however, and Author Janette Oke has written a lovely story about trusting in God. A life that she could never believe awaits Anna. It's not an easy life, but with every problem comes a solution. She just has to have faith and find it. This is a story that will touch your heart as you follow Anna, hoping it will be the life she dreams of. I cheered her on as she made decisions that would change her life forever. The Measure of a Heart is a good story to read when you need encouragement or just a smile or two. Enjoy.

Annette says

Inscription by my mom: August 1993

To our "Anna," Annette -

Known for your kindness, compassion, serving others, thoughtfulness, giving, helping, sacrificing and common sense - you have great worth - everyone knows it - you need to come to know it, too!

May this story remind you of who and what you really are - and accept this and share this with others and especially yourself.

Stay as special and as "beautiful" as you are -

Love,

Mom and Dad

Quotes:

"Remember, my dear. Your greatest and most important task is to be you...You are an intelligent, gifted, sensitive person. That is enough. Don't try too hard to be all of those other things. Just...just continue to be Anna. Give God you, Anna. All of you. Just as He made you." (p. 214)

Hannah says

This is an wonderful, impacting book! I love that it is not the usual Janette Oke style with romance being a major part of the story. There is a very clean, slight;) romance for the first few chapters and then there is truly no more for the rest of the book. (apart from between the married couple) I honestly enjoyed re-reading this story! The last chapters though are my favorites. They are probably the part that impacts me the most. ♥ I won't share any quotes so you'll just have to read it yourself. ;D A wonderful book!

Tiffany Otterstrom says

Janette Oke is often kind of Hokey, but usually writes easy to read cute stories. This book however was just painfully "sweet"!

Rachel says

This is one of Janette Oke's Christian historical romance novel. As usual, the novel is well written with great character development, and as is often also the case with her novels or series, the novel doesn't just conclude with a wedding but instead travels with the protagonist, Anna, through her years of marriage and motherhood as well. I enjoyed Anna's journey throughout her early years of marriage not only to a closer faith in God but to a better understanding of her value to God, understanding that while she might be a flawed servant of God, He wants to use her, and even more than that, she realizes that it is not up to her to save others but only to present the Gospel. It is not her fault that someone she tried to reach ultimately rejected God and died; there is no better method she could have used to present the Gospel because the choice was theirs, not hers, and in addition, she is not the Savior, only a messenger. The only thing I have always disliked about this novel is how abruptly it ends. I want more of Anna and Austin, their family and their ministry.

Emily says

Really enjoyed this book! I loved the message, and it was different from the "typical" Janette Oke book, but in a good way. Definitely recommend!

Nichole Hack says

Wow! This is definitely another favorite! The story was amazing, and it really hit home for me! I was hooked by the first or second page! I read it kinda slow, so it wouldn't finish so soon!

Marije says

Way too predictable

Sarah says

Janette Oke's *Measure of a Heart* tells the heartwarming story of farm girl Anna Trent. When seminary student Austin Barker visits, he is intrigued by her eagerness to learn, but despite her exceptional character, Anna is constantly plagued with feelings of inadequacy and must struggle to realize that she is a "woman of worth."

Heart falls is an Inspirational Historical Romance, a classification Oke was among the first to popularize with stories such as this one set on the North American prairie containing strong spiritual themes. Inspirational Historical Romance falls under the larger Romance sub genre of Period Historical works. These love stories are “given credibility by [their] remoteness from the reader’s own experience” (Herald 175). This story’s setting is not nearly as sumptuous or decadent as the eras depicted in other Period Romances, where the lavishness of the time allow readers to believe that epic romances can take place. Instead, the challenging, bare bones prairie life depicted in Heart give Oke’s readers the reassurance that if love can flourish in an environment as harsh as this, surely it can in their own lives, where considerably less effort is needed for daily survival. Oke never mentions any specific time period, but Anna’s one room school and the common presence of trains suggests the late 1800’s or early 1900’s. The lifestyle required by this landscape certainly does make modern life seem ridiculously luxurious. For example, Anna must wash all her laundry by hand, which becomes quite difficult when a new baby arrives (years before the disposable diaper), and can only provide her family with milk and cream when friendly neighbors offer to share some of their cow’s excess (there are no milk men, let alone supermarkets, in this remote setting).

While I am generally a fan of romantic novels, I don’t think that I will continue to read inspirational ones, at least not ones like Oke’s that are more focused on inspiration than romance. Although I am a Christian, I would prefer not to be preached at when I am in the mood for a good love story.

The style of the book was also a little to simplistic for me. I was actually surprised that it wasn’t considered a Young Adult book, because I would definitely consider recommending it to YA readers who have enjoyed authors like L. M. Montgomery. While I consider Montgomery one of my favorite authors, I think it was because I was exposed to her books at a young age, so I am not surprised that Oke seems too sanitary for me now. Also, Montgomery does not place the strong emphasis on Christian spirituality that Oke does, so I would make sure that the patron was okay with a stronger Christian message. With Oke’s strong moral emphasis, it’s also doubtful parents would complain that librarians were suggesting “inappropriate” reading material for their children.

I would also recommend this book to any other patron looking for a clean romance, especially older patrons in rural areas, because it does seem to accurately portray rural life in the past. Because Oke is careful not to tie her book too closely to any specific year, it could conceivably be placed as late as the 1930’s, making the lifestyles portrayed in it personally identifiable to older patrons. Even when I wasn’t enjoying the rest of the story, I really appreciated her accurate descriptions of the work involved in keeping up a house in a remote rural area, because it reminded me of my own childhood growing up on a farm and the stories my grandparents would tell me about how different things were when they were kids.

Even though *The Measure of a Heart* didn’t enthrall me, I think patrons who primarily read Inspirational Romance would find it, and other titles by Janette Oke, just what they were looking for.

Lulufrances says

GRRR MARIA -.-

if you read this you might know what I mean.

I don't even feel like going into detail let's leave it at this:

I made my friend (who read it after me) count how often she nearly breaks out in tears/actually cries.

We got a total of whopping 28 times.

No further comment needed.

Two stars because there were some good biblical wisdoms in it but I couldn't warm to the story at all.
Sorry

Emilye says

The characters were so flat, uninteresting, and boring. I don't understand how people like this book.

Diane says

This was not a romance novel! It is a book that shows what it is like to be a servant of God in your everyday life--thoughts, actions, prayers... All too often we get caught up in what we perceive a good Christian should be like and the outcomes if we are achieving what we should be for God, but most of the time we set ourselves up for disappointment because the goal is unattainable for any human being. We need to strive to be the best we can and allow God to work with what we have.

Ginny Reed says

I found this the least enjoyable of Janette Oke's books. There were so many places in this book for full chapter story lines and they were written off in a sentence or two. I can't even count how many times Anna was in tears or voiced her inadequacy as a person. Sorry I can only give this 2 stars, but her other books have been written so much better.

Elaine says

This is one of the standalone novels in Janette Oke's Women of the West series. Sixteen-year-old Anna has just completed the eighth grade and wishes that her learning could continue but she is needed at home. As luck would have it, a young interim pastor arrives for the summer who also loves learning and reading and has a library he is willing to share with her. They discuss what she reads and he is impressed with her comprehension and depth of insight.

When he returns to his studies, they continue to exchange books and notes about them through the mail. Two years later, Austin graduates from the seminary and Anna is invited to attend the graduation with her pastor and his wife. So yes, I think you can see where this story line is headed and you would be correct. The real theme of the book, however, would be Anna's shyness and self-consciousness, the inadequacy she feels about her looks and her abilities. Through the experiences she has in the next few years, she learns much about herself and others, realizing that others do and have felt the same way that she does. This is the story of that journey. It is at times touching, sad and occasionally humorous.

To be honest, I wasn't particularly impressed with most of the writing. In the beginning, the sentence fragments really bothered me. I didn't immediately become invested in the story and wondered if it was one of Oke's earlier novels (having read others that I enjoyed more). This novel was published approximately 30 years after her first novel, so that wasn't the case. I do feel the writing in the final +/- 20 pages was the best

writing of the book and I am glad I read all the way to the end. There's not a lot of action or excitement in this book, but it is a quick, clean, sweet read of a life centered in Christ.

A couple of favorite parts:

Austin reporting to Anna what Pastor Angus said at the Conference:

" 'I don't believe God keeps the same set of statistics that we as the church find it necessary to keep. . . .

God's records are of another sort. How faithful to your calling? How concerned over lost souls? How willing to be obedient? How close a walk with Him? God doesn't care so much about statistics. But about faithfulness, commitment, obedience, devotion. That's what He wants to see. Growth. Personal growth.' "

(pp. 202-203)

Mrs. Angus to Anna:

"Remember, my dear. Your greatest and most important task is to be *you*. . . . That is enough. Don't try too hard to be all of those other things. Just . . . just continue to be Anna. Give God *you*, Anna. *All* of you. Just as He made you." (p. 214)

Larisha says

Anna, the main character, learned a valuable principle: God doesn't need our great abilities, good works, talents... but our Father, God desires our faithfulness, obedience, and a sweet intimacy with HIM. When we have that, we naturally surrender our lives to God and our "little" becomes "MUCH".. I have seen that with each ministry opportunity God has called me to. God uses my lack of ability, my weaknesses and continually :) keeps me humbled while in HIS great mercy and Faithfulness, showing that as HIS servant... we are called to do HIS purpose, not our own!!
