



That Certain Spark

Cathy Marie Hake

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Gooding, Texas, is about to gain a double blessing--a veterinarian and a doctor. But when siblings Enoch and Taylor Bestman arrive, the discovery that Taylor is a lady doctor has the town up in arms. Especially Karl Van der Vort, the town blacksmith, who becomes the first patient...against his will. Though hesitant to believe in Taylor's doctoring skills, Karl finds himself oddly protective of this surprising woman who dares to drive about town on her own, wearing the color red, for heaven's sake! Taylor, on the other hand, wants only to prove that doctoring is her life's calling, despite the town's opposition. The result? Pride meets attraction head-on, and sparks begin to fly.

That Certain Spark Details

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From Reader Review That Certain Spark for online ebook

Anne Osterlund says

Twins, Taylor and Enoch, are headed to Texas. He's a vet. She's a doctor. But the town of Gooding missed the message that Taylor was a she, and now she has to win over 80% of the populace in a matter of months.

A feat that might even be possible if Taylor was the type to schmooze or hold those in her debt accountable or even to declare her own achievements publically.

But she isn't. She's totally committed to her oath. To place the needs of her patients above anything else.

Especially her own safety.

Which is driving Karl, the local blacksmith--who arrives on her doorstep in pain and then never really leaves--crazy!

I enjoyed it. The cover gives off a breezy air, but it was more serious than that. Cathy Marie Hake is a new author for me, and I'll definitely be checking out more of her books.

Leaffrog03 says

I read this book because I liked the cover. I had never read anything by this author before and it was a pretty quick read. Taylor and Enoch are twins and they come to the town of Gooding, Texas to be the new doctor and veterinarian. The town is shocked to discover that Taylor, the new doctor, is a woman, and many refuse to see her because of it. Her first patient is Karl, the town blacksmith, who also is against being seen by a woman doctor. However, he can't deny her skill in healing him and soon sparks begin to fly between the two of them. Taylor must overcome the prejudice of the town to help fulfill her dreams. There is also a romance between her brother Enoch and a woman named Mercy but I didn't think it was very well developed.

Mary says

Interesting story of a twin brother and sister, he is a vet and she is a physician. Moving together to a small town, the residents do not want a lady doctor! So in the middle of this dilemma, he falls in love with a sweet widow, and a hard-nosed welder/smithy falls in love with the doctor...after he realizes how the Lord must have called her to do this work and save people's lives. Several people rededicate their lives to Christ during the fights and betrayals that take place and God moves in their hearts.

Jessica Johnson says

It's hard to rate a book I didn't finish, but I figure that's enough of a reason for a two-star rating, which, according to Goodreads means, "It was ok." It wasn't bad, just ok, and that's not enough of a motivation to finish the book. I only read if I am totally engrossed in the story. It has to capture my attention from page one or I move on to the next. That is what happened with this book. There were too many non-essential

characters in the beginning...I just couldn't keep them straight and really didn't care who they were. That doesn't mean that Cathy Marie Hake isn't an awesome author. Hey, she's published and that alone is a huge accomplishment.

Jenni says

I always enjoy Cathy Hake's books, and this one did not disappoint.

Her females are strong and witty, and I could only hope I would be the same in this situation.

The Bestmans decide to move to Texas, to become the town Doctor and Vet. However the town is outraged to find the doctor is not the vet's brother, but indeed his sister. The town is upset and refuse a woman doctor.

Things go awry not only for the doctor, but for the vet as well as he has fallen in love with a young widow, with her own problems. Can a man whom is struggling and fighting with his relationship with God help them? Will he accept the Dr. or will he use her service and then turn a blind eye on her?

The story gets a tad confusing at the end, but the book more than makes up for it. If you like love stories (not to be confused with romance novels) and you are a christian, you will enjoy this book.

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

I got about 129 pages in and just couldn't finish. I was surprised the author had written so many books, this one just seemed almost amateur. The dialog was unbelievable, the point of view kept jumping around and I just couldn't get into the story. Maybe it got better later on, but I just didn't care enough to finish.

Trudy says

I won this book from Goodreads, and in all honesty, I don't know that I would have picked it up otherwise.

On one hand, I primarily liked the main character, Taylor, and how she was an independant woman in a time where that was unheard of. I liked the witty dialogue and how Taylor bantered with her brother and how her relationship with Karl develops.

On the other hand, I wasn't sure what the book was trying to be - a love story or a mystery... Regardless, I found each story line kind of lacking some meat. And the whole thing with the brother's wife - I missed it. On one page everything is fine... the next, not so much. I actually flipped back and forth a couple of times to see if I had missed a page or two. It would have been a good mystery based on how Taylor outs the criminal, but I sincerely wonder if they would have even grasped the idea of dominant and recessive genes. I envision more of the "stupid woman, you don't know what you are talking about" attitude.

Bottom line - If you read her books and you like her books... you will probably like this one. Having no basis of comparison for this author, I say that I am a little disappointed and probably would not pick up antoher one.

Lori says

Siblings Enoch and Taylor Bestman have just arrived in Gooding, Texas. Enoch is the new veterinarian, and Taylor is the new, long-awaited doctor. When the townsfolk find out that their new doctor is a woman, they're ready to run her right back out of town ~ especially the men! Unfortunately, Taylor has to deal with one such man as her very first patient, Karl Van der Vort, not long after arriving in town. The women, and children, are fairly quick to accept Taylor's medical expertise, while the majority of the men try to get Enoch to treat them as well as their animals.

There are quite a few quirky characters in That Certain Spark ~ they are what kept me somewhat interested in finishing it. Widow O'Toole, who is fond of riding her velocipede all over town; Hope Stauffer who is known for turning around sayings, "yet they make sense in their own funny way"; Skylar, Karl's dog; and last but not least, Piet, Karl's brother ~ when he gets really upset he mixes up his word order. He still speaks in English, but reverts to Dutch word order. There are a few others, but I'll let you discover them for yourself.

I was really excited to read That Certain Spark because I normally enjoy Cathy Marie Hake's witty romances. Sadly, this one is not going to be one of my favorites. Don't get me wrong, it's still an okay book, but not what I've come to expect from this author. In my opinion, there was really no romance whatsoever between Taylor and Karl; most of the book they spend their time "debating" whether or not Taylor should be a doctor, since she's a woman. This got really old. Thankfully, there was a bit of a romance between a couple of other characters, but I won't go into that and spoil it for you. :) If you enjoy mystery/suspense ~ there is somewhat of a mystery intertwined in the story ~ someone is trying to sabotage Taylor's efforts, and run her out of town.

If you're interested in reading other books by Cathy Marie Hake, I would recommend trying a couple of her other books first: Fancy Pants, Forevermore, or Letter Perfect, just to name a few. This way you can decide for yourself how That Certain Spark compares to her previous novels.

Lorraine says

I really liked That Certain Spark. The characters in this story were wonderful and the relationships were well developed. The sibling relationships between Taylor and Enoch and Karl and Piet were right on with loving teasing, sibling support and encouragement to develop in their relationships with God. The romantic relationships between Enoch and Mercy and Taylor and Karl showed the whimsy, struggle, support and developing feelings that normally develop as romantic love grows. The depiction between the townspeople and Taylor as they learn to accept a female doctor during a time period when this wasn't the norm and when men thought it totally indecent was very well done. Looking forward to reading another in Hake's Texas Historical series as a "Texan in heart."

Sherry says

This was a cute, clean book. You might want to read it for the good, uplifting, light read that it is. It had good Christian messages and discussions throughout. There were some tender scenes; I even cried once. I just found it a bit too formulaic and predictable, not to mention somewhat unrealistic in some of the details. It never fully caught my attention.

Jeanette Blackson says

Cathy Marie Hake has done it again...produced another amazing Historical Romance novel. I have read Hake's 5 previous books in this collection and enjoyed each one (Letter Perfect, Bittersweet, Fancy Pants, Forevermore, and Whirlwind). In That Certain Spark we find ourselves back in good old Gooding, Texas, but this time from the perspective of Taylor Bestman.

The residents of Gooding, Texas are up in arms when they discover that their new town doctor is a woman. Dr. Taylor Bestman gives up her successful medical practice in Chicago to move to Gooding with her brother Enoch where he intends to start up a veterinary clinic. Since the town also needs a doctor he thinks it is the perfect opportunity for them. But through a misunderstanding the townspeople are shocked to realize that their new medical doctor is a woman. The town blacksmith Karl Vandervoort becomes Taylor's first (unwilling) patient but they quickly become friends as he escorts her on her rounds. There are plenty of sparks between Taylor and Karl as he tries to keep her safe from the disgruntled towns people. Taylor is strong headed and independent, but learns she need to trust both in God and the people God uses, to keep her safe and provided for.

It was also fun to catch up on some of Hake's previous characters from Whirlwind and Fancy Pants.

Michelle says

I didn't even finish it. The characters had way too much conversation that was hard to follow (whether a result of poor writing/editing, or too much attempted wittiness), I kept having to re-read the page to see what I had missed, only to discover that I hadn't missed anything. The conversations also seemed stilted and unnatural.

Luckily, I had checked out 2 books by this author, so I gave the other one a try before giving up on her completely, and was pleasantly surprised by the other one. I may read more of her books.

Beth says

That Certain Spark by Cathie Marie Hake had many endearing qualities, but overall, it just did not capture my interest like I expected. I love the premise of the story of Taylor trying to secure her place in the town of Gooding, Texas as the new (female) doctor, in a time when it was hard for women to have credibility in that field. Taylor is a strong character that really stood up for what she believes in.

I really enjoyed the relationship between Taylor and her twin brother, Enoch, also the town veterinarian. It was very endearing. The romance between Enoch and Mercy is also very sweet, and though I'm normally not a fan of "love at first sight," it felt very sincere.

Karl, Taylor's new friend in Gooding, is also a surprisingly fun character to read. At first he appears sort of brutish and stubborn, and though he stays stubborn, I really enjoyed getting to know him. His re-affirmation of faith felt genuine, and I liked going along on that journey with him.

The dialog and conversation between characters was witty and fun to read, in general. Hake definitely knows how to make her characters press each other's buttons, and it makes for some entertaining scenes.

Although Karl was not the main character, I felt like I knew him better than I knew Taylor, which was disappointing to me. I liked getting to know Karl, I just wanted to know Taylor that way too.

Another issue for me was the lack of description of place; I haven't read the previous novels in this series, so perhaps that has something to do with it. I knew what the people were like, but I didn't know how to really picture the setting. For the most part, that's okay, however, sometimes it's nice to get a grasp of the setting.

The ending also fell a bit flat for me. There is a mystery about who is trying to scare Taylor, but it ended up being anti-climactic, in my opinion. The ending is happy though, so that was nice.

I will certainly read more of Hake's novel, as I distinctly remember enjoying Letter Perfect by her.

Sara ♥ says

This book... When I got to the end, my reaction should have been, "Awww! Yay!! They got together!" like it usually is with these types of books, but I'm afraid to say that at the end of this book, I went, "YAY!!! IT'S OVER!!!" That's bad.

Why did I feel that way? Well, first, I read this after re-reading A Tailor-Made Bride by Karen Witemeyer, which was AMAZING. At the end of that book (which was the author's first), there was a page in the back that said something like, "Did you like this book? Try THESE books by Cathy Marie Hake!" So I was like, "Sweet! A recommendation!"

GAG. The writing was bad. There was NO "spark" (as the title indicates) between the hero and heroine, and I was WAY more interested in what happened with the heroine's brother than I was with the main characters. In fact, I wish I'd been reading a book about HIM instead. There was, what I assume was supposed to be, a "mysterious" element to the books, but it was so disjointed! As it turns out, finding out who had been doing two or three little prank-type-things during the book was the big climactic element! What a let down!

There were also some big issues with the hero and heroine themselves. Taylor was an intelligent woman who just wanted to be a doctor in a time when that just wasn't really heard of. I get that. But even though I'm an intelligent woman who studied a male-dominant subject (engineering), I just couldn't really seem to get her. Her reactions to situations just were NOT what mine would have been. She freaked out about the stupid things and didn't at the things I would have been up-in-arms about! Drove me crazy. Plus, I really wanted to hit Karl about 90% of the time. I get that he was German or whatever, but his obviously accented English drove me crazy. I was like, "I get that he's German (or whatever), but stop with the bad grammar already!" He was a hard-headed *GAAAAAAHHHH* and I mostly just wanted to punch him in the face and then kick him in the balls the whole time. And their romance? I guess it's really romantic to sit around debating whether or not a woman should be a doctor? Not! It just wasn't romantic. It felt like Karl's "OMG! I'm in love with her!" came out of NOWHERE. And the same goes for her feelings.

Fail. Just fail. The only reason I'm rating this two stars is because Enoch and Mercy's romance was

ADORABLE! :)

Rebornbutterfly says

My Review

The Town of Gooding, Texas just got their very own Veterinarian & Doctor siblings Enoch & Taylor Bestman. The only problem? Dr. Taylor Bestman in a woman! Within two minutes of stepping foot in town Taylor already has the town in an uproar! How is she to prove herself to these people? Especially to her very first patient, the town blacksmith?

The book starts out promising, flows nicely at first, but as it proceeds the conversations get harder and harder to follow, and the writing isn't as tight. The Characters are okay, but many of them lack depth. I didn't feel any emotional tie to either the heroine or the hero. This book had a strong beginning a weak middle and an okay ending.

On top of that, the main focus of this entire book wasn't as interesting as the background stories.

Definitely my least favorite book of this four part series. However, If you've read the other books in the series, go ahead and read it, you'll find many of your favorite characters of her past books in That Certain Spark.
