



A May Bride

Meg Moseley

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A year's worth of novellas from twelve inspirational romance authors. Happily ever after guaranteed. She thinks she has prepared for her wedding all her life . . . but it seems she may have forgotten the most important part.

Ellie Martin, a country girl in Atlanta, has dreamed of a traditional wedding all her life---a wedding just like the one her younger sister is planning back home. Their single mom will pay for Alexa's wedding, but Ellie started her own wedding fund years ago. She only needs to find a groom.

At a wedding at her church, Ellie bumps into a man who's one of the guests. She's noticed him around the neighborhood, but today he introduces himself as Gray Whitby. They embark on a whirlwind romance, but her mother doesn't trust freewheeling men like Gray.

When Ellie risks her own future for her sister's sake, Gray feels betrayed. Will he always play second fiddle to Ellie's family?

Will Ellie and Gray reconcile their differences so her dream wedding can come true, or will the romance they've begun come crashing down?

A May Bride Details

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From Reader Review A May Bride for online ebook

Aerykah says

I did not enjoy this book. In fact, it may be my least favorite of this series so far.

The characters were wholly unlikable. Gray drove me crazy with his temper tantrums and Ellie put up with way too much from him as well as from her mom. Ellie and Gray did not seem at all compatible to me and I just do not see their relationship surviving. So, instead of rooting for them as a couple, I was actually wishing they wouldn't get together because a marriage between them just seemed like a disaster in the making.

De'Siree Fairley says

It figures that the one I liked the most in the spring brides bindup has the lowest review of all three. I liked this one the most because it was creative with her mother's fears and their strict country side values. A lot of people seem to dislike Gray. I liked him because he was real. Except for how they arranged their first date, kinda weird lol Gray was this cool guy super laid back with a bit of a thing for cowboy fashion. Everyone thinks him being upset about her mother was over reacting but I'd have to disagree. I thought it was realistic. People like Ellie's mom do get between couples all the time and he wasn't necessarily mad at Ellie for having such a mom, I felt like he was always mad because she didn't trust him and that's why I liked this one. It did so well with so little room to write a story.

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

Slowly but surely I'm making my way through the Year of Weddings Novellas series. This series features a new novella by a different author every month for a year. What I love about this series is that first, they are all clean. Second, I love that they are light, fluffy and I can read them in one sitting. They are the perfect escape books.

In "A May Bride" we meet Ellie and Gray. I like Gray. He's a man who sees something he wants and goes for it. All in, straight up. He stands up for what he believes in and he doesn't mess around. He enjoys life and he loves Ellie.

Ellie has a few more glitches- namely her family. Her mother is crazed and honestly, not very kind. She rules the roost and Ellie lets her. But it's hard to break from something you've always known and dealt with. Ellie has a kind heart and while she also knows what she wants, she has a harder time getting there.

I enjoyed this book. It was fun and romantic. A sweet escape for sure.

Jennifer Garcia says

A May Bride is #6 in "A Year of Weddings" series.

I have to say, I'm truly enjoying all of these short stories about true love and weddings. They are easy to read

and slightly addicting.

This one has the meddling mother of the bride. The mother is bitter and scarred from her shot gun marriage and does not want her daughters to fall into the trap of good looking, fast talking men.

This short journey takes us through the work the daughters do to cut the cord and go for what they want.

Of course, each of these stories end in a wedding and they are always very sweet.

Amy Rae says

Easily the best book in the Year of Weddings series I've read so far. My favourite is still A September Bride, but *A May Bride* has way more dimension and guts than I expected from this series.

Unlike the others (and I've read all of them but October and November's entries at this point), *May* is written in the first person, giving it a much more chick-lit feel than some of the more genre-bound romances of the other months. Ellie's a likable heroine with genuine flaws; when there's conflict in this book, it actually arises from personality issues the characters need to overcome, not outside influences creating barriers. When Ellie and her boyfriend, Gray, argue, it feels realistic.

Most surprising to me was the approach to sex in this book. For one thing, it comes up as more than a "well, *obviously* so-and-so didn't do it, she was a good Christian" aside. Premarital sex drives Ellie's conflict with her mother, a shotgun bride so determined to keep her daughters from ending up in the same situation that she becomes controlling and overbearing. When another character does have sex before marriage, it *is* presented as a mistake, but it's treated as one that requires understanding and sympathy, not shaming. And Ellie admits that she's looking forward to sleeping with Gray, even if she's planning on waiting until she has a ring. It's ultimately much more positive and, imo, more grounded in a Christlike mindset than I've seen in some of its series-mates.

When I started reading these Christian romances, it was mostly for the sake of research and morbid curiosity. It seemed unlikely that I would find anything that would come close to my own worldview as somebody who's Christian but not conservative--and who is also, in fact, someone who isn't allowed to exist in the worlds of these stories. That's why I'm here, after all; I want to know how other people write these so that I can try to write some with people like me in them. While *A May Bride* doesn't match my worldview 100%, it's damn enjoyable. I was genuinely impressed with this book and will be looking out for Meg Moseley's other writing.

Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says

Ellie loves to garden, unfortunately she does not have one of her own. She resorts to sneaking in to a garden at a nearby church to de-stress from her life. While weeding, she finds herself watching a wedding of a couple who snuck onto the grounds, the handsome guy she had been watching at the coffee shop happened to be one of the guests.

I loved that this book was a clean romance. Ellie and Gray have common Christian beliefs and try to live by what they have been taught. They are both good, responsible people who stay true to their principles.

The romance is fast in this novella. But I believe that if it's right, and both know it, why wait? The couple started dating in February and married in May.

One of the things that I had a hard time with in this book is Ellie's mother. She is paranoid. She made mistakes and insists that her daughter's not follow the path she took. She bullies them, and when they don't comply, she applies heavy guilt. I kept wondering where the unconditional love was? I also didn't like that Ellie catered to her mother. There is a time to capitulate in dealing with family, but there is a time to hold fast to yourself and say NO.

Gray seemed a little moody. Yes, Ellie's mother is annoying and mean at times, but he didn't need to add to the guilt she was feeling. He also showed a temper that I didn't like.

No one is perfect, and maybe the things that bothered me are a mute point. The main thing about this book that is if you like a clean romance that moves quickly, this is a good one to pick up.

Melanie says

Review on Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/review/R17NEZMQ...>

Review on my blog: <http://christianbookshelfreviews.blog...>

A May Bride is the sixth installment in the Year of Weddings novella collection. While the writing style was good, I didn't like the story all that much. I mean, the book started off great, but there were just things about the characters/romance that didn't connect with me.

I didn't really care for any of the main characters and it's hard for me to explain why, exactly. At times Gray felt too pushy (non-romantically and, sometimes, romantically) and I half expected him to be a player or something; Ellie's mother was too overbearing and there were things she said/did that just made me cringe; and Ellie...it seemed like she made certain decisions just to go against her mother's advice. Also, the romance felt like it moved too quickly.

I did like the church garden aspect and that Ellie's sister was planning her wedding in the midst of this story. And, as I said above, the writing style was good and easy to read.

Overall, A May Bride was an okay read. I didn't really like the story itself, but the novella was written well. Some people seemed to have liked this book more than I did, so maybe it just wasn't a book for me.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention/review it on my blog. I was not required to give a positive review, only my honest opinion - which I've done. All thoughts and opinions expressed are my own and I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Dawn says

Ellie Martin has been planning her wedding for years. She's even got a wedding fund. Only thing she's missing is the groom. When she meets Graham Whitby one morning while gardening at a church, she thinks

he's handsome. He starts to pursue her. Before long, they are in love. But with an overbearing mother in her family, will they find happily ever after?

Of all of the novellas in the Year of Weddings Series I've read so far, this one is by far my least favorite. Maybe it's because it's told in first person narration and the others aren't. I normally don't have a problem with first person narratives. But for some reason, this one kinda grated on me.

I really didn't care for Ellie much at all. It seemed that she was determined to do everything that her mother didn't like and the scenes between them were filled with tension. I thought that Gray was smooth talking and moving way too fast.

Still, the wedding scenes were beautiful and the pastor was a surprise delight.

And while I didn't particularly care for the novella, others may find it delightful, especially if reading this series.

I received this novella for free from the Booklook Bloggers Program for the purpose of reviewing. I was not required to like the book, only give my honest opinion. My thoughts and opinions are my own.

Recommended to fans of weddings, Love Inspired, novellas

Rating - 2 stars - I didn't really care for it.

Jessie says

Ellie Martin meets Gray Whitby while she's hiding in a church garden weeding (without permission). He's there to attend a wedding (also without the church in question's permission). They begin a whirlwind courtship.

I enjoyed their relationship, and those aspects of the story, but Ellie's mother drove me crazy! She's the type of woman that Ellie had to "warn" that she had a boyfriend because she knew her mother would not take it well. After Ellie's dad left when Ellie was six, her mom has been cautioning her two daughters against the evils of the city and the sweet talking men that live there. They're only after one thing! Going against her mother's wishes, Ellie leaves home at 18 to move to Atlanta. Now she's afraid to even tell her mom about Gray because she knows her mom won't see how considerate and funny he is. She'll see his handsome face and decide that he's just like Ellie's "no-good sweet-talking father." And Ellie is right to be worried. Her mother is judgmental and rude when she meets Gray. Now Ellie is stuck trying to choose between a relationship her mother, and her growing love for Gray. How can she keep both of them happy? Should she? I was really bothered when Ellie's mom (view spoiler)

I felt like the focus of the story was Ellie's relationship with her family, when I wanted more focus on her and Gray. We even saw her relationship in terms of, "I love you, but my Mama's going to say....about our relationship". If I was Gray, I would feel a little irritated too. If you can get past Ellie's mom, the story was sweet and delightful.

Content: clean

Disclosure: I received A May Bride through NetGalley.com in exchange for an honest review.

Megan says

I loved this story! It was short, but felt like a complete story. One of my favorites so far in this series.

Ellie worried too much about making her family happy and yet, at the same time, seemed determined to do things in a way she knew her mother wouldn't like. But for some reason, I liked her and could understand why she did it.

Gray was such a sweet guy and he had a supportive family. However, he had a tendency to get mad very quickly when Ellie would put her family's needs/wants first.

The romance was a bit of a whirlwind, but both Ellie and Gray didn't completely get lost in their emotions that they didn't think things through.

All in all, a great read and one I'd recommend.

Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says

This novella started out great, with how the characters meet and start their relationship. However, once the relationship starts to progress, the feelings and chemistry between the characters is non-existent. Any emotion Ellie portrays is about her issues with her mother. I felt there was such potential since the characters were introduced well and likeable, but the connection I felt with them went flat when the author began to tell and not show how they fell in love... and it was brief at that. I don't think the heart of the story needed to be sacrificed because it was a short story, but instead Ellie's issues with her family were the focus and Gray played second-string not only to Ellie's family but also in the plot.

(ARC provided via Netgalley for unbiased review)

Sofia Lazaridou says

Ellie's mom was awful. She was the kind of Christian that I hate to see because while they are all about God, they end up acting in the opposite way of what Jesus said. I disliked Gray and I found him selfish and hard to understand. Ellie and Lexi are puppets to their mother and they could be described as brain washed. I thought two things about the book. One: I thought to stop the book more than once and second I thought that it was endless. It's the worst book in the series if you ask me.

Kirby says

I'm going to be honest and say that this one is my least favorite in The Year Of Weddings series so far. It started out as a sweet tale of a couple who meet accidentally at a wedding, Ellie and Gray, falling in love, and beginning to plan a future together. Unfortunately, as their relationship becomes more serious, Ellie's family throws a massive wrench in their plans. See Ellie's mother made the mistake of getting pregnant out of wedlock, and her husband deserted her when Ellie and her sister were young children. Since then she's determined that neither of her daughter's will ever make the same mistakes she did, and so she refuses to

accept Gray's presence in her daughter's life. Ellie's soon pulled in multiple directions as her younger sister's currently planning her extravagant wedding, and she's trying to be there for both her and her mother. However, Gray feel's she's giving her family too much control over her life, and demands that she takes a step back if she truly wants to give their developing relationship a chance.

Unfortunately, once this story really got going, certain parts of it really bothered me. To start with, Ellie's mother was the type of hypocritical Christian that really annoys me, and I had a hard time wanting to read about her character. It's these type of Christian's that give the rest of us a bad name, and it was so frustrating to see the way she behaved. Likewise, I really didn't care for Ellie's younger sister either, as she seemed to be a typical spoiled brat for most of the novel, and in the end, she gets exactly what she want's anyways, and I seriously didn't like how everything wrapped up. And lastly, Gray's character himself really started to grate on my nerves. I completely understood that he wasn't a fan of Ellie's mother controlling her life, but he really didn't do anything to help the situation, and instead seemed to expect Ellie just to cut all ties with her family, and that's definitely not the answer. I found the ending really didn't resolve any of these issues, and I was left feeling disappointed with how everything wrapped up.

There were definitely still moments I enjoyed; like the church's garden setting, and the incredible pastor that Ellie ends up meeting there, and the way that Ellie herself is determined not to behave in the judgmental manner in which she's been raised. However, this one was definitely not as good as the other novellas in the series so far, and I only gave it a three star rating instead of my usual four or

Donna (More Than a Review) says

A May Bride is a contemporary romance in the A Year of Weddings series. If you like your contemporary fiction filled with realistic issues for the couple to overcome I think you might like A May Bride. Ellie and her mom have an unusual relationship which interferes with Ellie's new romance with Gray. I didn't like that Ellie spent more than she made and thought it would be ok when she married Gray and he was good with money. Her mother needs therapy and Ellie needs Dave Ramsey. The book started out well and I liked how they met. Ellie is not likeable and you definitely do not want to emulate her.

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.

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.

Another sweet romance that starts with a ***flash*** wedding. I hadn't heard of those before.

Ellie meets this great guy. While we know Gray is a real gentleman, Ellie's mom doesn't trust him...at all. She's not a very likable character and I kept wanting her to just want what was best for her daughters.

I also wanted Ellie to take scissors to the apron strings that her mom kept pulling. Yes, she was overbearing, but you have to grow up and take a stand for yourself, and your own happiness. Then, when she did stand up to herself, she cut Gray out of the decision making. These two really needed to get on the same page.

When they did, it was sweet and one can see them making it together for the long haul.

I think the minister where Ellie did her sneak gardening was one of the best parts of this book. I enjoyed him, a lot!

I found Ellie to be a bit annoying. But I loved Gray. He brought the rating up, for sure!

Something odd, these advance copies are loaded with errors. It's hard to get into them with the lack of capital letters throughout the first several chapters. I have checked, via the samples of the published books at Amazon, and the errors are all tidied up come publication day. But be aware that they are really messy to begin with.

This wasn't my favorite of the Year of Weddings books, but it was a nice way to spend a few hours. I'm looking forward to the rest of the year's weddings!

*Thank you, NetGalley and Zondervan, for the opportunity to read A May Wedding
