



## **A Marriage in Middlebury**

*Anita Higman*

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## A Marriage in Middlebury Anita Higman

What happens when the matchmaker finds a match for herself?Charlotte Rose Hill has been serving up country delicacies, uniquely blended teas, and matchmaking advice for her quirky but beloved customers for more than 10 years. But for her, marriage seems like an elusive butterfly, always out of reach. At 18, Charlotte fell in love with a young man, Sam Wilder, but his family convinced her to walk away from their relationship. She did, and then became engaged to another man, who later died before they were married. Now, more than a decade later, Charlotte finds that she still has feelings for her first love. Initially thrilled to learn that Sam has come home to Middlebury, Texas, Charlotte is devastated to learn that he's brought someone with him: his fiancée. But all is not lost when the townsfolk decide to get involved. Will Charlotte and Sam find their way back to each other?

## A Marriage in Middlebury Details

Date : Published November 1st 2013 by Abingdon Press

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Author : Anita Higman

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# From Reader Review A Marriage in Middlebury for online ebook

## Wanda says

Charlotte Rose Hill spends her days blending special teas for the town of Middlebury at The Rose Hill Cottage Tearoom and one thing she has discovered is you can't change the past no matter how much you would like to. When Charlotte was eighteen she gave up the one thing she loved most. Sam Wilder was her one true love and all she wanted was to marry him and have a family but Sam's father forced her to give him up because of her lineage by threatening to expose a family secret to the whole town of Middlebury. In order to save Sam's relationship with his father, Charlotte walked away without telling Sam why. Now, nineteen years later, Sam is back in Middlebury with some news of his own--he's getting married--and Charlotte is devastated. Her feelings for Sam are still just as strong but she knows she must do the right thing and keep her feelings a secret. But can she stand by and let the love of her life marry another?

Sam Wilder was heartbroken all those years ago when Charlotte walked away from him and he still doesn't understand why. But life moves on and his upcoming wedding is proof of that. Moving back home to Middlebury seemed like the right thing to do but now, after seeing Charlotte for the first time, he's not so sure. All of the old feelings he thought were locked away for good are now haunting his every waking minute. Sam made a promise to his fiancé but how can he marry one woman while still loving another? When secrets start to come out and lies unfurl will their lives change course or are they destined to be apart?

Marriage in Middlebury is my second book by Anita Higman and I knew I wouldn't be disappointed. Middlebury is portrayed as a quaint little town, one that I would love to live in, and I like that. I can relate to a story more when I love the setting. I want to talk about the characters also. Charlotte has such a loving, forgiving spirit. She is a giver and seldom a taker and she handles every situation so well. With finesse even. I would inspire to be like Charlotte. The whole town loves her and she is forever thinking of others above herself. Charlotte is the persona of everything good and wholesome. I love that. Sam is a real great guy too. Always seeing the good in people and extending a helping hand. You can't help but love him. But there are other characters that you will love and that make this story complete. Pastor Wally, Mr. LaGrange (an atheist alcoholic), Justine Yule (the town hobo?), Nelly (Sam's cook) who had the cutest way of saying things, and Meredith Steinberg who is a modern day "Mrs. Miracle" matchmaker. Middlebury is a place for romance and it's definitely in the air. The characters are so endearing and the story is so well written that I couldn't help but love it. If the story wasn't wrapped up so well I would suggest a series. It has a Debbie Macomber quality to me and, if you like wholesome small town romances, you will love this book!

Disclaimer: I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher for my honest review. The opinions expressed are mine and mine alone. I received no monetary compensation for this review.

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## Victor Gentile says

Anita Higman in her new book, "A Marriage in Middlebury" published by Abingdon Press brings us into the life of Charlotte Rose Hill.

From the back cover: One decision changed both their lives...but will love win in the end?

Charlotte Rose Hill enjoys a comfortable life serving up country delicacies, uniquely blended teas, and matchmaking advice for her quirky devoted customers. The only thing lacking is someone to share it with.

At eighteen she denied Sam Wilder's marriage proposal after his family convinced her to walk away from their relationship. They both moved on...or so she thought. When Sam walks back into her life more than a decade later, Charlotte is surprised that her heart still quickens. But is it because of his presence? Or because of the presence of Sam's new fiancée?

A second chance at love doesn't happen often, but their past may keep them apart. Is it too late for Sam and Charlotte?

Small town life. This book reminded me a lot of the old television show, "The Andy Griffin Show" which was set in the small town of Mayberry. You know everyone and everyone knows you. The same is true of Middlebury. The characters that come alive on these pages make you want to live there with them. There are the past regrets that are interfering with the present and delaying moving into the future. It takes God to heal and give everyone a new start. And of course there is the romance. Charlotte Rose and Sam are really great characters that we fall in love with and feel as though they are friends that we do not want to leave when the book is finished. It would be nice to return to Middlebury with another story that continues the adventures of these special characters.

You can find "A Marriage in Middlebury" at a discount at <http://www.deepershopping.com/item/hi...>

If you would like to listen to interviews with other authors and professionals please go to [www.kingdomhighlights.org](http://www.kingdomhighlights.org) where they are available On Demand.

To listen to 24 hours non-stop, commercial free Christian music please visit our internet radio station [www.kingdomairwaves.org](http://www.kingdomairwaves.org)

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Litfuse Publicity Group for this review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. 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."

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## **Debby says**

A Marriage in Middlebury is a fabulous book to pick up when you are ready to enjoy an afternoon romance propped up in a comfy chair. In a few short pages the reader is drawn into the lives of Charlotte and Sam whose unfortunate past leads them into an unsettled future. Many times I found myself asking the characters in the book why they took the actions they did. For me, that's the mark of a good book. When I start trying to speak to the characters I am drawn in for sure. This book carries many plot lines with engaging characters. It is filled with love that is lost and found, and you want to visit Charlotte's tearoom to see what will happen next.

In addition to engaging plots, Anita Higman once again creates FABULOUS figurative language. I think I must have dogeared at least 20 pages in the book so I could revisit her phrases. Some of them really make me think, and others make me laugh! This is a poignant example: "there was so much of everything, and too much of nothing". Another that made me smile was: "A man handling a teacup and saucer was always as

entertaining and unpredictable as watching a water buffalo trying to do a pirouette." I loved reading and seeing what was coming next!

Charlotte's and Sam's story is perfect for a lazy afternoon spent drinking tea and reclining in a soft chair. When I was looking for an escape from my own life for a few hours, *A Marriage in Middlebury* was the perfect place to be.

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### **Brittany says**

This is the first book that I have read by Anita Higman, but it will certainly not be the last! In *A Marriage in Middlebury*, Ms. Higman introduces the reader to many characters living in a small Texas town. The main character, Charlotte, owns a charming tea room and is absolutely loved by the members of the community. Charlotte is such a caring person. She is always so in tune with what her friends and patrons need. It seems that life is really good for her. And it is...except for the fact that years ago, she lost the love of her life when she turned down his marriage proposal.

Now, twenty years later, Sam is back in town. But he is not alone. He brings along his fiancée. This is just the kind of set up that makes my heart ache! How can I read about Charlotte suffering as she watches Sam and Audrey plan their wedding? Even worse, she ends up roped in to the very middle of it as caterer! But, I must say that the author did such a splendid job of creating well-rounded, interesting characters, that I found myself caring about all of them...even Audrey!

This book has a cozy feel and many different romances spring up along the way. As I would reach the end of a chapter, I would think, "Oh, I'll just read one more chapter before I set the book down..." That is how I ended up reading this book so quickly. It really was hard for me to put it down and I am thankful for a dentist appointment and ballet rehearsal that afforded me some good reading time! I highly recommend this sweet story for fans of Christian romance. It is very well done. (5 stars)

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the author through The Book Club Network in exchange for an honest review, which I have given.

To read this review on my blog, visit <http://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.co....>

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### **Kathleen (Kat) Smith says**

To live a life of regrets isn't living a life at all. For Charlotte Rose Hill, she has found that being the owner and operator of Rose Hill Tea Cottage has allowed her to pour her heart and soul into serving others. Not only in the specialty blends of tea she makes for each of her customers but also in providing them with an outlet to share the warmth and love of friendship just by listening to whatever is on their hearts. Nothing soothes a soul like a warm cup of tea and open heart willing to help. Now if only someone can do the same for Charlotte.

The last thing she expected to walk in her door was the man who she had given the key to her heart many years ago, but the man who when he proposed to her, she had said no. Not because she didn't love him but because of family secrets his father had threatened to expose if her answer was anything but no. Now that

Sam Wilder has returned she wonders if there is a second chance at love for them. But when he introduces his fiancée Audrey, her hopes are dashed once again. She can only wish that Sam and Audrey leave once they have settled his father's estate.

Yet it seems that God has other plans in mind, when Audrey suggests that Charlotte cater their wedding reception and have agreed to host a garden wedding on the Wilder's property. How can Charlotte possibly keep her feelings on the back burner when it seems at every turn she is once more asked to be a part of Sam and Audrey's wedding plans. How can she say no to them when she has made appearances to everyone in town that she has moved on. If only she can find a way to begin dating again. Perhaps if she gave someone else a chance she might find the happiness that keeps eluding her at every time she turns around.

I received *A Marriage in Middlebury* by Anita Higman compliments of Abingdon Press and Litfuse Publicity for my honest review. I did not receive any monetary compensation for a favorable review and the opinions expressed are strictly my own. I absolutely LOVE this heart warming story. I can picture the quaint Rose Hill Tea Cottage where the town's residents gather for more than just a cup of tea. It's a place where people can find comfort in the out pouring of their hearts and souls and Charlotte is the perfect person to help them in any way she can. This one hands down wins a 5 out of 5 stars in my book and is one to be enjoyed over some butter cookies, a cup of your favorite blend of hot tea and a cozy place to cuddle up for a great novel. I can't wait to see if Anita expands this into a whole series, since the people you come to love and know in the book have their own stories to share.

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### **Beth says**

I am very much a “mood” reader. My enjoyment of a particular type of story can depend so much on if my mood is suited to it. In the case of *A Marriage in Middlebury*, I was in the mood for something light and frothy, yet as fragrant as the teas that Charlotte serves in her tearoom, and Anita Higman definitely delivers.

Charlotte Rose Hill's tearoom is at the heart of Middlebury. Her gift of blending teas for specific people as well as making them feel at home in her establishment set the tone of the novel, really contributing to the small-town charm of Middlebury.

I really enjoyed the cast of characters in the story. Some were quirky, some were sweet and they all had a story to tell. These characters were flawed but remained endearing. I usually don't care for novels with lots of secondary characters, but their sub-plots became more engrossing to me than even Charlotte's story – perhaps because I secretly believed there would be a happily-ever-after for her, and I wasn't disappointed!

Though this didn't replace *Winter in Full Bloom* as my favorite Higman novel, it was a delightfully fun read. I recommend for readers looking for a happily-ever-after featuring a cast of varied and quirky characters.

I received a copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review – the opinions expressed here are my own.

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### **Laura says**

Title: A MARRIAGE IN MIDDLEBURY

Author: Anita Higman  
Publisher: Abingdon Press  
November 2013  
ISBN: 978-1426733871  
Genre: Contemporary romance

Charlotte Rose Hill has been serving up country delicacies, uniquely blended teas, and matchmaking advice for her quirky but beloved customers for more than 10 years. But for her, marriage seems like an elusive butterfly, always out of reach.

At 18, Charlotte fell in love with a young man, Sam Wilder, but his family convinced her to walk away from their relationship. She did, and then became engaged to another man, who later died before they were married. Now, more than a decade later, Charlotte finds that she still has feelings for her first love.

Initially thrilled to learn that Sam has come home to Middlebury, Texas, Charlotte is devastated to learn that he's brought someone with him: his fiancée. But all is not lost when the townsfolk decide to get involved. Will Charlotte and Sam find their way back to each other?

A MARRIAGE IN MIDDLEBURY is a great story. Kind of slow starting, it never does pick up the pace. But it is a sleepy small town comfortable sort of book, perfect to pick up when you are totally stressed and need a quiet sort of book to bring the blood pressure down. It works like a charm.

I loved Sam's quiet, sure, steadfast personality, but was a bit sad that he was prepared to ruin lives by being so honorable. Which isn't a bad thing, it just sounds that way. I did NOT like his fiancée. She was way needy. I loved the way it played out in the romance department though, and all the characters did some growing up. Multiple romances (at least three, but I might have lost count) are included in this book, with more points of view than the average romance. Well done. Recommended. \$14.99. 5 stars. 304 pages.

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## **Jalynn Patterson says**

### About the Book:

What happens when the matchmaker finds a match for herself?Charlotte Rose Hill has been serving up country delicacies, uniquely blended teas, and matchmaking advice for her quirky but beloved customers for more than 10 years. But for her, marriage seems like an elusive butterfly, always out of reach. At 18, Charlotte fell in love with a young man, Sam Wilder, but his family convinced her to walk away from their relationship. She did, and then became engaged to another man, who later died before they were married. Now, more than a decade later, Charlotte finds that she still has feelings for her first love. Initially thrilled to learn that Sam has come home to Middlebury, Texas, Charlotte is devastated to learn that he's brought someone with him: his fiancée. But all is not lost when the townsfolk decide to get involved. Will Charlotte and Sam find their way back to each other?

### About the Author:

Best-selling and award-winning author, Anita Higman, is the author or coauthor of thirty-five books for adults and children. She has recently been honored with a 2013 Inspirational Reader's Choice Award and is a two-time finalist in the 2013 Selah Awards as well as a finalist in the 2013 Cascade Awards. She holds a BA in the combined fields of speech communication, psychology, and art. Anita loves good movies, exotic teas, and brunch with her friends. Please visit her online at [www.anitahigman.com](http://www.anitahigman.com).

## My Review:

Charlotte Rose Hill runs a cozy little tea shop that everyone full enjoys. She enjoys her job greatly and has had a good enjoyable life, that is until one of her employees comes to her that there was a cute guy standing outside of the tea shop. Charlotte's heart starts to race, could it be that her ex has come back? But everything is not as it seems.

Sam Wilder is quite delighted when he sees Charlotte after all these years, she hasn't changed at all and is just a beautiful. He hasn't come back to be with her which is a pity, he has someone he wants her to meet. The love of his life, his fiancée. He knows Charlotte has to be happy with her since after all she said she would love to do catering for the wedding. But that's not the only thing he has to tell her. His crappy father has asked for her and that just isn't like him. What secret lies behind this old mans eyes?

**\*\*Disclosure\*\*** This book was sent to me free of charge for my honest review from Litfuse Publicity.

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## Lisa says

Small town. Tea. Lost love. What's not to like?

Anita Higman's *A Marriage in Middlebury* is a sweet romance full of all the elements that make me sigh at a good romantic comedy. (Disclaimer: I received a free copy of the book from the author in exchange for my review.)

First, there's the likable, down-to-earth heroine. Charlotte Hill is the owner of Middlebury's tea room, where she serves her customers with grace, humor and compassion, uniquely blending teas to fit their personalities. She's a friend to all, including a young boy with a troubled family. She'd love to have a family of her own, but that ship sailed more than a decade earlier, when her high school love Sam asked her to marry him and she turned him down. Charlotte is delightful, the kind of heroine you think would be your friend, like Sandra Bullock in *While You Were Sleeping* or Julia Roberts in just about anything.

Then there's Sam Wilder, the gone-but-not-forgotten love who returns to Middlebury with a fiancée in tow. He's not the hunky hero of some stories, but he, too, is a likable character. Think Bill Pullman. (For some reason I want to compare this book to *While You Were Sleeping*.) He's caring and dependable and dedicated. You can almost see the chemistry between these two on the pages of the book. (I'm not always a fan of books-become-movies but I secretly wouldn't mind seeing this one on the screen.)

The story is full of colorful side characters, too. There's the old man atheist who winds up at Easter dinner with a room full of Christians. The mysterious homeless man who is good with plants. The single pastor being set up on blind dates by his parishioners. And the antique dealer who acts first and thinks later but with



good intentions.

If that's not enough to sell this book as a must-read, then consider the writing. In the first book I read by Higman, I was blown away by her use of metaphors. It holds true for this book, too. There's a casual, friendly style to her writing but it's full of spiritual insight without feeling forced. Higman's insights about life and faith flow naturally through the story. I love reading what she writes.

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### **Kathleen says**

A Marriage In Middlebury is a poignant Christian Romance story about choices made and second chances.

Charlotte Rose Hill is the owner of Rose Cottage Tearoom in the small town of Middlebury, Texas. Charlotte has been serving special blended tea and matchmaking advice to her beloved customers in this popular gathering place for the past ten years. While life has been good to Charlotte, marriage has been elusive and out of range since she rejected Sam Wilder's marriage proposal when she was eighteen. Two decades later, Charlotte's life gets complicated when Sam comes back to Middlebury to attend to his dying father with his fiancée Audrey on his arm. And to make matters worse, Sam and Audrey request that Charlotte cater their wedding reception. Hiding the pain and love she still feels for Sam, Charlotte agrees to cater the wedding reception, while Sam hides his own still lingering feelings for Charlotte. Can choices made in the past be made right with a second chance?

Author Anita Higman weaves a charming tale of long lost love, choices made, and second chances, that easily captivates the reader as they are transported to Charlotte Rose Hill's popular Rose Cottage Tearoom in the quaint town of Middlebury, Texas.

With a mixture of romance, secrets and betrayals interwoven within the storyline, the reader follows Charlotte and Sam's story as it unfolds with an abundance of twists and turns, and a dose of life lessons about forgiveness, acceptance and second chances. This is a finely crafted story with engaging characters who feel like friends, and dialogue / interactions that are interwoven with drama and humor.

The author brings the setting alive with the rich description of the lovely tearoom and quaint town. As you read the story, you can't help but feel like you are transported inside the popular tearoom where you listen in on the quirky townspeople's stories of love, losses, dreams and hardships. It's a comfortable setting that makes this delightful story even more enjoyable to read.

A Marriage in Middlebury is a truly heartwarming Christian romance story that could only be created in the signature style of the truly gifted author Anita Higman.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of the book from the author / publisher via NetGalley in exchange for my honest review and participation in a virtual book tour event hosted by Litfuse Publicity.

<http://jerseygirlbookreviews.blogspot...>

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### **Loren says**

What is it about a small town, and a love story gone wrong that just pulls you in?

A Marriage in Middlebury gives you soooo many reasons to fall in love with this quaint little town and many of those that live there. Charlotte Hill loves her customers and if there is one thing that Charlotte knows, it's people! She listens, cares, and serves each customer with such love and kindness. She also has an amazing way of creating the perfect tea combination for each person and while she may not know the perfect blend immediately, it is in the learning more about each person that tells Charlotte just which teas she should use that is so touching.

Despite all of her successes and much sought after advice, Charlotte has never found love again. That is, not since she was 18 years old and hoping for a marriage proposal from her first and long time love, Sam. She did however, receive that proposal, and never in a million years did she believe her answer would be "No!" She was manipulated and threatened by Sam's Father into declining Sam's proposal, leaving both Sam and Charlotte heart broken. Deceit and ignorance work in many ways, and in this case, it forever changed the course of Sam and Charlotte's lives that day. When Sam returns to Middlebury twenty years later, he brings along his fiancé and has a request for Charlotte, to speak to his dying father. As the web of deceit is untangled and the truth comes out, will Sam and Charlotte be able to deny their love for one another?

A Marriage in Middlebury is wonderful and I fell in love with this town, it's people, and each story within it. I sooo appreciated the way the relationship with Charlotte and Sam's Father was written. I don't want to "spoil" it for anyone, but suffice to say, I am so glad that Charlotte was able to see the truth and to offer forgiveness despite what was given to her.

The community of people and their relationships weren't perfect by any means, however, one thing stood out to me and that was the love and acceptance of one another. It felt like home, like I knew each one of them, but then again, isn't that the way a small town is.

If you love romance and meeting fun loving and quirky people, then A Marriage in Middlebury is definitely for you! I must warn you though, it will pull you in and you may not want to leave... let alone put the book down!

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### **Beverly Lytle says**

“Charlotte Rose Hill always said that a good tearoom should be a gathering place where customers were like family, troubles melted like butter on hot scones, and homemade was a given.” (page 11) Rose Cottage Tearoom was the perfect place for a perfectly blended cup of tea, a special friendship, and delicious country delicacy. But what Charlotte was lacking was romance. She thought she had gotten over her broken engagement, but what would happen when Sam Wilder shows up at the tearoom with his new finance? Charlotte finds solace for life’s troubles in her secret prayer closet, but now she finds herself seeking God’s direction for these renewed feelings that stir within. She thought she had moved on with her life, but now finds her heart fluttering in Sam’s presence. “She reached into her apron pocket to feel the river stone, something she’d kept from her past. It was a reminder of the smooth things in life that brought delight and in the hard things—those potentially sanctifying moments that tumbled off the rough edges and turned humans into real people.” (page 13) Charlotte wondered, was this one of those times that God was using the stone to tumble off some rough edges in her life?

I found this to be a delightful story and I loved the small town charm it portrayed. I felt like I wanted to walk

the town's streets and have a cup of freshly brewed tea at the Rose Cottage Tearoom to experience the charm first-hand. The depth of the story far surpassed my expectations. I am reminded that when God uses those stones to tumble off our rough edges, He has a plan—and it will be more beautiful than anything we could have done alone.

A copy of this book was provided to me by bookfun.org in exchange for my honest review. All opinions within this review are strictly my own and no other compensation has been given.

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### **Maureen Timerman says**

Marriage in Middlebury is about three different romances. Charlotte gave up her love of Sam in order to save her family...nearly 20 years ago. She has gone on with her life, and has a successful business...a lovely, warm tearoom!

Charlotte also seems to be there for everyone, especially those in need. Then Sam returns to town, all these years later, and with his Fiancé in tow. Now she is committed to put on a wedding reception for them...oh no!! Her heart is breaking, she has never stopped loving Sam.

We also have many friends trying to fix her up with different men, including the new minister. He at first is interested, but cupid hits him hard!!

Will Sam go through with his commitment of needy Audrey? Or does God have other plans in the work.

Audrey has been abandoned several times in her life, and seems so fragile, can Sam make her feel safe?

I loved the how Sam treats his father's housekeeper, and you can see the part she has played in his life.

I did find the story predictable, and there were not a lot of surprises that happen. Be ready for a quick, and sweet story, great for a nice Winter read.

I received this book through Litfuse Publicty Book Tours, and was not required to give a positive review.

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### **Mary says**

This is the first time I have read a Christian contemporary romance by Anita Higman. I won this book with the promise I would give a fair interview. After finishing this book I entered "Winter in Full Bloom" in my Want to Read list.

I was hooked after reading the first few pages about main character Charlotte Rose Hill and her tearoom located in the heart of small town Middlebury. Charlotte has lived in the town all her life rejecting Sam's marriage proposal almost 20 years ago. Her tearoom is not only popular because of the blended teas and delicious food but also a place for all ages to congregate finding friendship and acceptance. The author's description of Charlotte and the Rose Cottage Tearoom had me wishing I could stroll the quaint streets, go have cups of the special teas with Charlotte as a friend.

The story was much more than three romances. There were delightful and quirky characters throughout the book. I enjoyed the characters and found myself smiling. There were subplots as prejudice was touched on, the feeling of abandonment issues as a child that can carry into adulthood and the guilt feeling of the death of a spouse. In each instance these issues were resolved in the character's mind and given a second chance. There is special godly insight in this book but never feeling forced it flows with the story line. I don't have a favorite character but "Crickett" aka Meredith who runs the antique store next to the tearoom has a

fun, eclectic personality. She wants her friends to be happy and the way she achieved this made me laugh. Meredith describes Charlotte's apartment as "Feels like a hug. I like it". I feel that about this story.

I highly recommend this book. There was a delightful surprise for me when I opened the book and saw the author signed it with "God Bless You".

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## **Barbara Shelton says**

### **REVIEW OF A MARRIAGE IN MIDDLEBURY BY ANITA HIGMAN**

As I begin my review of *A Marriage in Middlebury*, I hesitate, wondering what I can tell that hasn't already been beautifully and thoroughly narrated in previously published reviews. When I accepted this book to review, I didn't allow for the real life trauma that ungraciously interrupted my own life. Anita Higman graciously accepted my apology and understood my reasons for not being able to write the review when it was due. Thank you, Ms. Higman.

Anita Higman wrote realistically about choices – the kind that change the outcome of a situation or turn lives around forever. The story immediately appealed to my passion for tea while I read with great interest of Charlotte Rose Hill who owned and ran the quaint Rose Cottage Tearoom in the small village of Middlebury. Unrequited love hung as a cloud over Charlottes being, even though she was a dynamo of cheerful and concerned listening and offering help to others that entered her tearoom. Charlotte was a woman of deep faith in the Lord which sustained her through many disappointments and grief during her life.

Charlotte was suddenly thrown against great odds in the shocking return to Middlebury of her first and only love Sam; introducing his fiancé, Audrey. To add insult to injury, Sam and Audrey request Charlotte to cater their wedding. This isn't the only romance in town - others will warm your heart and remove the chill of Sam and Audrey's news. There is much more in Anita's story to muse happily even though it had a melancholic beginning. Charlotte rises above it all when she considers all is hopeless where romance is concerned, and is a genuine Christian lady in response.

All the characters were well developed with personalities that were easy to love – and easy to dislike. Anita is definitely well gifted with word creating abilities. Her stories exhibit great imagination and she nobly applies the storyteller's trump card to stimulate her reader's interest into wanting more when the book is ended. I thoroughly enjoyed this story and could relate to the sundry of emotional situations. Might I add that I enjoyed winter in *Full Bloom* a bit more, however *Marriage in Middlebury* is an individual novel with its own merit. There was a bit more predictability in this story as it is more romantic – but my recommendation is to read and find out for yourself how the ending will surprise you. There is some mystery surrounding prior and current events that will rouse your curiosity, making it a satisfying read.

My admiration and respect for exalting her faith and trust in God through her pen is boundless. Ms. Higman builds such elegance in her stories that far outshines her distinguished contemporaries. She comes well recommended – and I will verify those recommendations with my own as prevailing. Thank you, Ms. Higman for writing from your heart.

I received a copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review – the opinions expressed here are my own.

