



The Patchwork Bride

Sandra Dallas

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From the best-selling author of *A Quilt for Christmas* comes the irrepressible story of a runaway bride.

Ellen is putting the finishing touches on a wedding quilt made from scraps of old dresses when the bride-to-be—her granddaughter June—unexpectedly arrives and announces she's calling off the marriage. With the tending of June's uncertain heart in mind, Ellen tells her the story of Nell, a Kansas-born woman who goes to the High Plains of New Mexico Territory in 1898 in search of a husband.

Working as a biscuit-shooter, Nell falls for a cowboy named Buddy. She sees a future together, but she can't help wondering if his feelings for her are true. When Buddy breaks her heart, she runs away.

In her search for a soul mate, Nell will run away from marriage twice more before finding the love of her life. It's a tale filled with excitement, heartbreak, disappointment, and self-discovery—as well as with hard-earned life lessons about love. Another stunning, emotional novel from a master storyteller.

The Patchwork Bride Details

Date : Published June 5th 2018 by St. Martin's Press

ISBN :

Author : Sandra Dallas

Format : Kindle Edition 304 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Romance

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From Reader Review The Patchwork Bride for online ebook

Kathryn says

Gentle, heart warming story.

Leah says

This was very slow and didn't hold my interest. I also didn't like the main character. She made some poor decisions. Although, this would have been a short story if she had gotten it right from the start. Then I may have enjoyed it.

Lesa says

Over the course of fifteen books, Sandra Dallas has placed women's relationships and quilting at the heart of her novels. Historically, quilting was a way for women to gather and tell their stories. In The Patchwork Bride, quilting is the tool a grandmother uses to illustrate to her granddaughter that she's not alone in her fears and her reluctance to marry.

Ellen and Ben are aging ranchers in Colorado in the early 1950s. With her weak heart and Ben's growing memory loss, Ellen fears it won't be long until the couple is forced to move to town. She escapes her worries by putting the finishing touches on a wedding quilt for her favorite granddaughter. June is the only one who loves the ranch. Like her grandparents, she turns to the ranch when she's troubled. When June shows up unexpectedly, Ellen is shrewd enough to guess there are wedding issues. June has run away from her wedding. She feels pressured to marry her fiance before he's sent to Korea by the army. June isn't sure she wants to be a military wife. She had been excited about the opportunities opened by her business degree. Now, she's afraid she'll just be an appendage going from base to base.

While Ellen works on the quilt, she tells June the story of another runaway bride. In fact, Nell ran away from three different men. At the end of the 19th century, she left her grandparents in Kansas and headed to New Mexico to work for her aunt on a ranch as a hired girl. It was there she learned to love the west and a cowboy she called Buddy. Although Nell desperately wanted to marry and not become an old maid, she fled New Mexico, and then left two other men before marrying the love of her life. Ellen's account of Nell's loves and troubles forces June to examine her own feelings and issues with her fiance.

The reader will quickly identify the character of Nell, and understand the direction the story is taking. However, Dallas is still a spellbinding storyteller who keeps the reader following as closely as June does while Ellen stitches together the pieces of the past. The Patchwork Bride isn't as remarkable as a couple of Dallas' earlier novels, The Persian Pickle Club or Tallgrass. (The savvy reader will catch the one reference to the women of The Persian Pickle Club.) However, it's still an enjoyable novel of the bonds between women, friends or relatives, and the support they provide each other.

There were a few editing issues with this book. I read the actual book, not an ARC, and found there were slips when Ellen was misidentified as June. Those errors don't surprise me in an ARC. They should have

been caught in the final edition of the book.

However, it's easy to overlook a couple confusing name changes. It's not as easy to overlook the beauty of the relationship between a grandmother and her granddaughter as they exchange stories of the love in their lives.

Deanne Patterson says

Every book this author publishes is a must read for me! When June unexpectedly shows up at her grandmother's house without telling her fiancee she has an uncertain heart. She was run away from him and unsure if she should marry him. Her grandmother Ellen tells her a story about a woman named Nell who ran away from the uncertainty of three relationships that have resulted in marriage proposals. Nell is looking for love and marriage along the way on her journey she finds excitement, heartbreak, disappointment and self-discovery. The circumstances in this author's books couldn't get any more real in this historical romance. Nell, did she eventually find true love? June, will she decide to marry her fiancee ?

Pub Date 05 Jun 2018

A complimentary copy was provided to me by St. Martin's Press through NetGalley. All opinions expressed are my own.

Kelley says

Novel received courtesy of Goodreads.com First Reads Giveaway

Another wonderful novel by Sandra Dallas! She is one of my favorite authors and I was thrilled to win an ARC of "The Patchwork Bride"!

June comes to her grandparents' ranch after deciding that she really doesn't want to get married. While sitting on the porch talking to her Grandma Ellen about why she doesn't want to get married, she notices the quilt her grandma is making. It was to be June's wedding quilt. Ellen begins to tell June the story of her friend, Nell, and how she ran away from three different men. Hearing Nell's story helps June make some decisions about her own life.

There are some surprises at the end of this novel; one the reader can figure out and the other you never see coming!

I've already passed the book on to a friend and there are several more waiting to read it!

Cathy Daniel says

I loved this book!! Happy tears at the end !!

DeAnn says

3 stars for this one from me -- I'm normally a huge Sandra Dallas fan, I love that she's a local author and I like the historical elements she puts in her books.

This one just didn't grab me though and I didn't feel sucked in to the characters and the storyline. Maybe it was just my frame of mind with this one. The premise here is a granddaughter running away from getting married and bonding with her grandma at her ranch in Colorado. There's a dual storyline where we hear about Nellie and the three men she left at the altar.

A quick short romantic read with some fun quilting pieces too.

Diane S ? says

2.5 Very much a book of time and place, a lighter, quiet read. Stories within a story as a grandmother tells her granddaughter of times past. Times when women had little choice but to marry, a journey of the heart spanning over fifty years. I have liked this authors books in the past, but this one wasn't as commanding of my attention as some of her others. Interesting enough not to decide to put it down, but one that did not call to me either. The prose sometimes seemed too simplistic, and the tone seldom varied, with the end result of seeming flat. Although there were highs and lows in the story itself, reading I seldom felt them. So I finished thinking this was just a nice story, but not much else. Still, for a lighter read it served its purpose.

ARC from Netgalley

Carole P. Roman says

Ellen's and her husband Ben's life are drawing to the end as their favorite granddaughter June is beginning her own. After suffering from a fall, Ben's memory is faulty and Ellen's heart isn't as strong as it used to be. Still, Ellen searches for scraps of cloth from the past to make a special quilt for her granddaughter's upcoming marriage.

June becomes a runaway bride seeking refuge in her grandparent's farmhouse. She sits with her grandmother as she prepares the quilt and both the reader and Ellen's granddaughter become a captive audience as she shares stories of the old west and a woman who lived there at the turn of the 20th century.

Nell traveled to Texas to find a husband and after settling on a ranch to work as a cook, she begins a flirtation with a handsome cowboy. Thus starts Dallas's tale of a runaway bride.

Entertaining and tender, the reader travels with Nell and shares her journey of self-discovery. Sparse as the prairie and plainspoken as the people she writes about, Dallas weaves an interesting story of finding the love and recognizing it for what it is.

Diane says

The Patchwork Bride by author Sandra Dalla is a precious story! Grandmother Ellen is working on a crazy

quilt made with scraps from old wedding dresses from the attic. There is one piece of white fabric which is not actually from a wedding dress but holds secret memories. Granddaughter June comes to visit her grandmother and tells her she is planning to call the wedding off. She is not sure she loves her fiance enough to marry.

Now come sit on the porch as Grandmother Ellen tells June a story about Nell, a runaway bride whose story starts about 1898. Nell's story is filled with courage, love, longing, worry, uncertainty, and choices which will take Nell to several states before her heart finds that one true love. I won't post spoilers, but the story will touch your heart.

Enjoy!

Linda says

Reading a book by Sandra Dallas is like digging into a warm bowl of Grandma's homemade apple pie that's swimming in softening ice cream. Just like the pie, I can always count on her books to be a real treat.

Up All Night With Books says

****ARC provided by the author in exchange for an honest review****

The Patchwork Bride by Sandra Dallas was a heartrending read that had me engrossed from cover to cover. What a beautifully written historical romance that left me absolutely in love with the characters who now have a place in my heart.

Ellen, who lives on a ranch with her husband Ben, who is suffering from dementia, is finishing up a homemade quilt for her soon to marry granddaughter June. When June comes to visit her grandmother, she expresses that she is having second thoughts about her upcoming marriage. Ellen shares a story of her friend Nell, who also struggled with her feelings and fears of settling down with the right, or wrong man.

Nell, who enters womanhood in the late 1800s is on the hunt for a husband. She ends up on her aunts ranch in New Mexico, working in the kitchen. In hopes of finding herself a cowboy to wed her, her path crosses with Buddy. She is sure he is the love of her life, but when he breaks her heart, she packs up and leaves her aunt's without a word to Buddy.

In an effort to forget him, she heads out, yet again in search of a husband. She ends up meeting and running from multiple suitors for one reason or another as she takes on the task of finding her true love, or at least a suitable husband. Will Nell ever find the love of her life?

As Ellen shares the story of Nell with June, she uses the opportunity to share with her granddaughter what Nell learned along the way. As she travels about the country, meets people and grows, she learns things about herself, life and what she truly desires in a partner.

I absolutely connected with Nell's character. She was such a strong, independent woman who refused to settle for something less than she knew she could be. While love and marriage were her number one priority, she refused to be someone's wife and mother, while setting aside her own dreams. What a unique concept for the early 1900s. This proved to be a challenge for her, and contributed to her hurdles in finding a mate, but it

was so beautiful to see her stick to her guns and push through to find her true happiness.

I highly recommend this book for anyone who enjoys a good historical romance. What a charming and marvelously written happily ever after this was. It will be one that sticks with me for years to come.

5 glorious stars

*** Review by Amy, Late Night reviewer for Up All Night w/ Books***

Janet says

I received a DIGITAL Advance Reader Copy of this book from #NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

From the publisher -

From the best-selling author of *A Quilt for Christmas* comes the irrepressible story of a runaway bride. Ellen is putting the finishing touches on a wedding quilt made from scraps of old dresses when the bride-to-be—her granddaughter June—unexpectedly arrives and announces she's calling off the marriage. With the tending of June's uncertain heart in mind, Ellen tells her the story of Nell, a Kansas-born woman who goes to the High Plains of New Mexico Territory in 1898 in search of a husband.

Working as a biscuit-shooter, Nell falls for a cowboy named Buddy. She sees a future together, but she can't help wondering if his feelings for her are true. When Buddy breaks her heart, she runs away.

In her search for a soul mate, Nell will run away from marriage twice more before finding the love of her life. It's a tale filled with excitement, heartbreak, disappointment, and self-discovery—as well as with hard-earned life lessons about love. Another stunning, emotional novel from a master storyteller.

This book has a little bit of everything in it --- modern romance, quilting, an oater (aka Western) all wrapped up into a book that was a delight to spend my cold and wintery evening with. The librarian in me was happy to learn the definition of a "biscuit-shooter" - slang. : a cook or waiter especially in a camp or on a ranch (Merriam-Webster) and I now use that term for myself whenever anyone from family to fur-baby wants to be fed!!!

The characters are engaging and the story delightful and it made me want a wedding quilt as I am a newlywed...mom's 1955 wedding dress is in my storage closet so I may just have to make one on my own as I do quilt. Fans of romance and women-centric literature will love this book: is not a bodice-ripper but totally enjoyable!

Heather says

*** Thank you to St. Martin's Press for providing a copy of this book through the Goodreads Giveaway program ***

I have read most all of Sandra Dallas' books and I feel that this book lacks the depth of character that made her previous books so enjoyable for me to read. That being said, I found this to be an enjoyable, light reading experience about love and life.

Stephanie *Spunky Avenger* says

I received this via Goodreads Giveaways in exchange for my honest review. All my opinions are my own (I appreciate winning the book :-D)---

Patchwork bride was such a heart warming book about, truly finding the right person who will love you. Nell took 3 shots at trying to get married and eventually found the man who made her heart fall in love. It an amazing tale of love, heart ache and finding your way in life when it seems like all hope is gone. I would definitely recommend it. I loved it!
