



# Love by the Book

*Cara Lynn James*

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**Love by the Book** Cara Lynn James

**A sweeping love story set in a lavish seaside mansion in 1901 Rhode Island.**

Melinda Hollister is a society lady, intent on finding a rich husband before her peers discover her quickly diminishing wealth. Nick Bryson is all business, focused on making a name for himself in his father's teamship line. Despite the marriage of their siblings, they rarely gave each other a second glance—until a tragic accident results in Melinda and Nick being appointed as co-guardians of their three-year-old niece Nell.

In order to get better acquainted with Nell and one another, Melinda and Nick agree to spend the summer in their own private quarters of the Bryson family vacation home, Summerhill. As their love for Nell grows, so does their attraction to each other. And for the first time in their lives, they sense that God has a bigger plan in motion.

Yet old habits die hard and Melinda and Nick each find it difficult to resist the pull of their former worlds.

When the unthinkable happens, they find themselves faced with seemingly impossible choices and a new understanding of God's true love.

## Love by the Book Details

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Author : Cara Lynn James

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# From Reader Review Love by the Book for online ebook

## Loraine says

**SUMMARY:** A sweeping love story set in a lavish seaside mansion in 1901 Rhode Island.

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In order to get better acquainted with Nell and one another, Melinda and Nick agree to spend the summer in their own private quarters of the Bryson family vacation home, Summerhill. As their love for Nell grows, so does their attraction to each other. And for the first time in their lives, they sense that God has a bigger plan in motion.

Yet old habits die hard and Melinda and Nick each find it difficult to resist the pull of their former worlds.

When the unthinkable happens, they find themselves faced with seemingly impossible choices and a new understanding of God's true love.

**REVIEW:** This is the third and final book in The Ladies of Summerhill series. It also can be read as a stand alone or out of order without affecting the storyline. The first and third books in this series were definitely my favorites. In the midst of gilded age opulence and ostentation, Melinda Hollister is trying very hard to change from a young woman who is drawn to everything materialistic to one who puts God's will first in her life. And work obsessed Nick is attempting to learn to put God and family first above work. This book is filled with charm, romance, and suspense. It's pretty easy to figure out who the villain is but that didn't detract from the storyline. All in all, a great series that combined three turn of the century stories with the same setting and some repeated characters into an enjoyable read.

**FAVORITE QUOTES:** "It's natural to draw close to God in times of trial; it's also natural to become lax when the crisis is over. But we shouldn't forget the importance of God's guidance even when we think we're doing well on our own."

"Did you ever doubt? .....No, I never doubted He heard my prayers. God is with us and He gives us the grace to accept whatever we must face. He doesn't promise us a life free from pain, but He does promise to be with us. That's enough. It has to be."

"Love will come in time, if you let it. It's far better to let love grow, rather than watch it fade away."

"Remember love is more than warm, sentimental feelings. It's about commitment and putting your spouse before yourself."

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## Victor Gentile says

Cara Lynn James in her new book, "Love By The Book" Book Three in her Ladies Of Summerhill series published by Thomas Nelson takes us to 1902 Newport, Rhode Island.

The sister of Melinda Hollister married the brother of Nick Bryson and this union produced a niece for the siblings named Nell. Everything is fine until, in an accident, both parents die leaving the guardianship of Nell to Melinda and Nick. This would not be so bad except Melinda and Nick hardly pay attention to each other now they are going to raise their niece between them. In an effort for all three to get to know one another Nick suggests that they spend the summer at Summerhill.

"Love By The Book" is a delightful read full of atmosphere and history . Get ready for excitement as Melinda and Nick start to learn how to deal with each other, with Nell and with tragedy. This book is all about family and what it means to be a family. It is about trusting God and learning to lean on Him for His guidance and direction. Melinda and Nick are so real Ms James makes us root for their romance to blossom. Ms. James knows how to tell a story that is both interesting and delightful and I recommend it highly.

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

To listen to 24 hours non-stop Christian music please visit our internet radio station <http://www.kingdomairwaves.org>

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Thomas Nelson Publishers. 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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## **Mayda says**

Imagine yourself a society lady at the beginning of the twentieth century, well-off and the belle of the ball. Life for you consists of shopping, parties, and being pursued by eligible gentlemen. Then suddenly, you find yourself the co-guardian of your young niece, on the cusp of spinsterhood, and without the wealth necessary to snare a good husband. This is the predicament that the protagonist faces in *Love by the Book*. This novel, set by the seaside in Rhode Island, is sure to capture your interest as you watch her mature from a selfish, shallow girl to a responsible, dependable guardian who finds herself falling for her niece's uncle and other co-guardian. Is this really God's will, or a temptation she should resist? Should she wait for love or marry for security? Cara Lynn James' characters come alive on the page with engaging dialogue and an intriguing storyline. If you enjoy inspirational romance, you'll want to be sure to read this latest installment in the Ladies of Summerhill series. I received this book free through Goodreads First Reads.

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## **Jennifer says**

Really liked the book. Was thankful both Melinda and Nick improved their individual characters with the trials thrown their way. In spite of her being in mourning, Nick's mother should have seen her husband's dementia was a serious problem, but perhaps she was as big of a flake as Melinda's mother. Same could be said for Florrie who hid away from her children and lousy husband, Jasper in her painting room. Glynna and

Stephen were godsend guiding Melinda and Nick with wise counsel all along the way. The only boring parts were the repetitive business, business, business. I wanted to throw up like Melinda did with seasickness.

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### **Sarah Southerland says**

Fun & interesting book. Clean romance and engaging story. Great author.

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### **Marlene says**

*Love by the Book* is third in the *Ladies of Summerhill* series by Cara Lynn James. We are transported yet again to Newport, RI in this pleasing Christian historical romance set in 1901. It's a standalone novel, and I don't believe that anything was given away about the first two books, both of which I also gave four stars.

Mellinda Hollister and Nick Bryson find themselves named as co-guardians for their niece Nell when her parents die. Nell's mother was Melinda's sister, and Nell's father was Nick's brother. As you might expect, this is a prime set up for conflict.

What I liked:

\*Cara Lynn James does a nice job with crafting the setting and the characters. The characters' speech and actions felt realistic.

\*I really applaud the author for not recapping the first two books. Sometimes I read series out of order, and it's disappointing when a standalone book has too much information about the earlier books!

What I didn't like:

\*I found a couple of errors. It really wasn't bad since there weren't many, but it was distracting.

--"wile away the hours dancing" ---> while

--"Here's an exquisite sapphire broach" ---> brooch

I can recommend this clean romance to teens through adults! I look forward to more beautiful covers and stories from Cara Lynn James. Next I'll be reading "The Innkeeper's Promise," a novella available in the "With this Kiss Historical Collection"

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### **Kalyn says**

The beginning started out well...

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## **Shannon says**

Set in the early 1900s among the upper class society in New England, this book is a Christian historical romance. The book begins with the reading of Melinda Hollister's sister's will. Melinda, along with her sister's husband's brother, Nick, are granted joint custody of their niece, Nell. Never a fan of the overly serious Nick, Melinda can't imagine what her sister was thinking, but resolves to make the best of it for Nell.

Melinda has always been the belle of the ball, enjoyed shopping with no worries of the expense, and has never had to concern herself with much responsibility. Now, with Nell, and with the knowledge that she and her mother have burned through her father's small fortune, leaving them destitute, she is forced to embrace responsibility and frugality. But, before news of this reaches the ears of society, Melinda must attempt to find a rich husband to rescue her from disgrace. Her invitation to Newport for the summer by Nick's family provides the ideal setting to search for such a husband.

Highly predictable, Melinda and Nick end up married. But Melinda is disappointed that Nick married her only for Nell and out of pity for her situation. She has warmed to him over the few weeks she's spent with him over the summer, and she wants more than anything for her husband to love her. Nick, not good at verbally expressing himself, also has feelings for Melinda, but misinterprets her quietness and preoccupation with sadness and disappointment at their marriage.

The couple make it through some hard situations and of course, finally profess their love for each other, and all is well. Very predictable, but no complaints.

I definitely consider this a light read. I enjoy a good romance now and then, and this one was very enjoyable. The characters are memorable, realistic, and likeable. I didn't get annoyed at any of them, which has not been my previous experience with some Christian romance in the past. There was a lack of smut, which I enjoyed, and the references and innuendos were tastefully done, especially since the couple was actually married for the second half of the book. Overall, an enjoyable read.

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## **Vickie McDonough says**

Love By the Book is the first book I've read by Cara Lynn James. I enjoyed it a lot, even though it's not the time period or setting I normally prefer. Love By the Book is the charming story of two people who share guardianship of a young girl. Both the hero and heroine love darling Nell and want sole guardianship, but neither is willing to yield. Love for family, suspense, and a satisfying slow-developing romance drives this engaging story.

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## **Victoria says**

3.75 stars

Little Nell is an orphan and is cared for by her mother's sister and her father's brother, going back and forth. Both of them think they know what is best for her without really taking consideration of the other co-guardian.

Nick is very business minded and has a deal that is going through. He does what he can for Nell, his niece. He loves her dearly but fears she might become a little too much like her aunt who also cares for her who seems a bit too materialistic and flighty to him.

Melinda loves to spend time with her niece and plays with her and reads to her. She is doing her best to show love to a little girl who is still mourning her parents. She believes Nick is all work and no play, which bothers her a lot. At the same time, her inheritance is running down. She is setting out for a husband who is rich and can care for her but has to also find Nell to be important to them.

Melinda really annoyed me in the earlier half of this book but I started to really enjoy her character growth as the story went on. Nick had a great personality all the way through, in my opinion. I will say that either way, I was pretty sucked into this story once I got started. I read the last 200 pages within a day because of it sucking me in.

I feel this was a great close to the series. I shed tears and I smiled and adored the ending. The story flowed very nicely, which I appreciated.

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## **Romancebooksandmore says**

Love by the book By Cara Lynn James  
5 stars.

I found this book on bookoutlet I Had never heard of this author before this book. I loved it. It had me flipping pages and never wanting to put it down.

Melinda Hollister has lost her older sister in a railroad accident and is left co guardianship of her niece Nell. This would all be okay if she wasn't fighting with the other co guardian Nick Bryson her sister's brother in Law. Add on top of that the Hollister's are about to lose all their money and Melinda must find a wealthy husband by the end of summer. So off to New Port Rhode Island she goes in hopes of getting a marriage proposal before her family's financial troubles is leaked to the cottagers and all hope is lost. And then dealing with workaholic Nick does not please her but maybe she needs to look below the surface.

Nick Bryson has lost his brother Parker and now must deal with Melinda Hollister in the care of his niece Nell. He finds Melinda to flighty and to quick to spend money. But now Melinda has been invited to bring Nell and spend the summer on the beach with them. Nick wants sole guardianship but can he come to see the real woman behind Melinda and maybe see that she is the right one for him.

Things can't go to smooth with Jasper Van Tressal around Nick's unsavory brother in law but why is he so high up on trying to get Custody of Nell and the presidency of Bryson steamships. He's hiding something but can it be figured out before it's all too late.

This is a Christian Romance and a very well done one I think as it asks all the Characters to look in on themselves. It's lovely to see both Melinda and Nick struggle with what they believe God's path for them is. And I love their interactions with little Nell.

A heart warming story with a bit of action packed in. a book I'd read again and recommend to anyone.

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## **Giselle says**

I won this book through goodreads first-reads! The Ladies of Summerhill series only gets better. Love By The Book is a moving story that is difficult to put down. Cara Lynn James writes with a lovely lyrical style that brings the turn of the century era alive. Not only does she bring the era alive, but she highlights interesting points of history in all three of the series that have been published so far. I can't wait for the next book by this author.

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## **Myra Johnson says**

Cara Lynn James continues the Ladies of Summerhill series with a charming "marriage of convenience" story. On the surface, Melinda Hollister may seem like a spoiled society lady, but in truth she's a caring, devoted aunt entrusted with co-guardianship of her orphaned niece. Nick Bryson, the little girl's uncle, also has the child's best interests at heart, but he's busy trying to secure the future of his family's steamship line. The author skillfully weaves this couple's lives together amid conflicting agendas, the pressures of high society, and family bickering, resulting in a story that will keep you turning the pages until the happily-ever-after ending.

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## **Megan says**

4.5 stars.

*Love by the Book* was definitely my favorite of the series, but every book was great.

If you read the other books I'm sure you'll want to read this one. But for those who haven't I want to let you know that while the books don't have to be read in order, since each book is about a different couple who are almost entirely unrelated to one another, if your anything like me and you don't want even the little tiny spoilers you would get by reading them out of order to read them in number order - they were all great!

I really hope that there will be more books in this series, I love the location! However, I have a feeling there won't be, it's seems a lot of series only go for three books :(

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## **Elizabeth Hernandez says**

Great read!

This was the last series and I enjoyed getting to meet these two opposite characters. At first I have to admit that it took me a lot to understand Melinda at first since she was so absorbed in trying to be a society lady as she absolutely look down on those who would work hard for the money unlike herself.

I did get to like her near the end when she finally helps Nell; however, it was hard for me to see when she really fell in love with Nick.



An epilogue would have satisfied me to see how their relationship further developed.  
I wanted so badly an epilogue but again I was left disappointed.

We did get to see George Westbrook from the first novel but I was left wanting to hear more about his new marriage to Miranda. I feel the author should have done a book for them since before I never would have seen their romance possible.

I did love the way these two characters were able to change and develop throughout the story and I did like the kidnaping aspect but it was too obvious in knowing the culprit.

Overall this was an easy read. Although I do wish it could have had more aspects I have to admit that it kept me entertained!

Rating: 4.0 / 5.0

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