



## A Timeless Romance Anthology: Mail Order Bride Collection

*Stacy Henrie , Kristin Holt , Annette Lyon , Sarah M. Eden , Heather B. Moore , Sian Ann Bessey*

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\*\*USA Today Bestselling book!\*\*

\*\*Amazon #1 Bestselling series in Clean Romance\*\*

Six Award-Winning Authors have contributed new stories to A Timeless Romance Anthology: Mail Order Bride Collection. Six historical romance novellas set in the Old West.

**WRITTEN IN HER HEART**, a charming novella by Stacy Henrie, Georgeanna is getting desperate. She can't fund her favorite orphanage unless she marries and secures the rest of her inheritance left by her father. But her father's financial planner, Clay, can't understand why she's not content with her current situation. Georgie determines to send out a notice as a mail order bride to attract suitors who won't know her financial situation. Little does she know, Clay takes up the pen and sends her letters of his own under an assumed name. After years of working for Georgie's father, Clay realizes he isn't ready to watch her marry another, not when his heart is already claimed by her.

In Kristin Holt's delightful novella **WANTED: MIDWIFE BRIDE** Dr. Naomi Thornton thinks she has it all: a beautiful house, a loving husband, and a fulfilling career. But when everything she holds dear is ripped away, Naomi has no choice but to start over. What will she find in the wild and untamed Wyoming Territory? Dr. Joe Chandler has waited years for a wife with the knowledge, skills, and tender heart he yearns for in a medical colleague and lifetime companion. When a midwife arrives with more expertise and secrets than he counted on, Joe quickly discovers there's more to love and marriage than a simple mail order contract.

In **THE SOUND OF HOME**, a captivating novella by Annette Lyon, Marilyn is given the choice of either marrying the despicable Victor or being charged with a murder she didn't commit. Refusing to believe that either is her fate, she finds a third option: she answers a mail order bride advertisement and boards a train to Wyoming to wed a man named Harry. Moments after her arrival, she learns that Harry isn't who he seemed to be, and the advertisement turns out to be a giant mistake. Harry's brother Thomas agrees to let her stay until she can figure out what to do next—after all, she simply cannot return to New York—but Marilyn quickly finds herself developing feelings for Thomas.

In Sarah M. Eden's endearing novella **FOR BETTER OR WORSE** Gerald Smith, on the advice of his well-meaning neighbors, has decided it's time to change his lonely existence. Mary Hill, on the advice of her empty pocketbook and non-existent roof over her head, has decided it's time to secure herself a future. A mail-order marriage, they both realize, is no guarantee of happiness, but it is a risk they are willing to take. However, coming face to face on the train platform, the hapless couple discovers an unexpected truth: marriage to a perfect stranger is sometimes far preferable to the prospect of a lifetime with someone you used to know.

Heather B. Moore's sweet novella **THE INCONVENIENT BRIDE** sees Carmela traveling from Boston to Colorado, eager to meet the man she's been corresponding with and will soon marry. Her brother's new marriage leaves little room for Carmela in her old life. Upon arrival in Leadville, she faces a rude awakening,

and the only one who can understand her predicament is her fiance's brother, Samuel. But Samuel can't possibly help her out of an awkward situation, can he? It would be better for all if she returns immediately to Boston and pretends she never traveled to Colorado in the first place.

THE PRICE OF SILVER, an engaging novella by Siân Ann Bessey, Katie leaves New York for Idaho to marry Jake, a man she's written to a couple of times. But when she steps off the train, his brother Caleb is there to greet her. Jake has gone to take a mining job he couldn't pass up. Caleb takes Katie back to the family ranch to wait for Jake's return. The more Caleb gets to know Katie, the more he envies his brother, but he can't let his heart overrule his head unless Jake changes his mind about his intended bride.

## **A Timeless Romance Anthology: Mail Order Bride Collection Details**

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## **From Reader Review A Timeless Romance Anthology: Mail Order Bride Collection for online ebook**

### **Kathy says**

I love mail order bride stories. This contains 6 stories which were all very good. They are novellas so all very short but I still enjoyed them all.

Content: Clean

Source: Review copy

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### **Kathy \* Bookworm Nation says**

**This has been nominated for a 2016 Swoony Award. Share the love and vote for it here.**

I think it would be terrifying to be a mail order bride in real life, but I love the concept in novels. I was really excited when I heard the Timeless Anthology group was planning on doing a MOB collection and marked my calendar for its release. I was thoroughly charmed with these stories and characters. I'm always impressed with how you can give six different authors the same idea, mail order brides, and come up with six completely unique stories. A great addition to the Timeless Romance Anthology collection.

Content: Clean

Source: Review copy

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### **Melanie says**

I absolutely LOVE stories about mail order brides! I would have never wanted to be one, though, since the idea is pretty scary. These six authors delivered a fabulous book!

Generally when I read these anthologies, there's one story that I enjoy above the rest. However, I loved each and every story! There's one where a woman applies to be a mail order bride and the guy who works for her secretly starts writing her to win her affection. There were plenty of mix-ups, too, where the men weren't planning to get married but found themselves attracted to the women who showed up to marry their brothers. In one of them, there was the added element that the mail order bride knew both brothers. One had left town so she was stuck with the one she didn't have a great relationship with. They got a second chance to figure things out.

Most of the women were leaving behind a life they didn't want to return to and were lucky that they wound up with great men to get to know better. What I love the most about this series is that the stories are always clean and I can recommend them to anyone. This is the perfect read if you want to escape to the 1800's and the time of the mail order bride!

I received a copy of this book to review. My opinion is 100% my own.

### **Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says**

For a collection of stories with such a specific theme, I was amazed by how individual and unique each plot is! What they had in common is well-developed characters, a vibrant setting, an unexpected twist on the theme, sweet romance, and a satisfying conclusion. In a novella collection usually just two or three stories stand out as my favorites, but I can honestly say that I absolutely enjoyed each of these stories equally. I loved reading about the uncertainty and anxiety of each situation that leads at least one member of the couple to take desperate measures to hopefully improve their circumstances. The blind faith it would take to be willing to make a life with someone you barely know astounds me, but loneliness, the desire for love, protection or just companionship compels the characters to move forward and trust that there is the potential for a better life waiting as long as they can work for it. The romantic moments were built up to which made me want to savor them. This is one of my favorite Timeless Romance collections and I highly recommend it!

(Thank you to Heather B. Moore for a copy of the book in exchange for my honest review)

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### **Melissa says**

SIGH.....sigh.....sigh. Oh I loved this anthology! Several stories about mail order brides that are sweet, clean and oh so sigh worthy. I loved each book and was sad-happy when each ended. They take about an hour to read and are so great and fun. I love these anthologys but this is my favorite!!!! So happy they did this one:}

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### **Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says**

Not bad for when you want a quick, sweet romance fix! This is a curious sub-genre of the marriage-of-convenience romance genre: the mail order brides.

Here we have 6 novelettes, about 40 or 50 pages each. It was on sale for 99 cents, so I snagged it and downed them all last night, like so much candy. **I couldn't stop.** It was addictive stuff. Even though logically it's all kinds of silliness, and pretty superficial, it's also fun.

These stories all take place about a hundred years ago, in an Old West setting. Interestingly, a couple of the stories have the would-be bride coming out for one guy and ending up with someone else. One woman is a doctor who's gotten all kinds of grief for being in a man's field, which has had an effect on her psychologically. A couple of the women are running from criminal accusations (they're innocent, of course). One couple even realizes that they already knew each other as teenagers -- and it was **not** a great relationship back then.

Several times I ended the story with the strong feeling that it needed to be just a little longer; the endings felt rushed. But I still would recommend them for a quick, cute and fluffy romance read.

3.5 stars, rounding up.

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## Cindy Nipper says

A Timeless Romance Anthology

Mail Order Bride

Six Historical Romance Novellas

Stacy Henrie

Kristin Holt

Annette Lyon

Sarah M. Eden

Heather B. Moore

Sian Ann Bessey

This anthology is set in the West and brings intrigue and history to the occasion of the mail order brides. This is the first one I've read and I was pleasantly surprised to learn there are many more out there to gobble up! I believe this one was number 16.

Well written with a wonderful variety of writers, you will find yourself drawn in and wanting to read more! As each bride has her own needs as well as the grooms, each story in this anthology brings these to light and gives you hope and compassion for these fictional characters. These clean romances leave the intimate times to your imagination. They are full of growing love and the mystery and suspense the heart yearns for in a romance book. Remember the delicacy of your first kiss and take a ride with me on the adventure of being a mail order bride!

I wrote this sincere review on the request of one of the authors and I received an advance copy of this anthology. I jumped at the chance to review it am so glad I did! I hope you enjoy these sweet novellas as well! ~ Cindy Nipper

Written in Her Heart by Stacy Henrie

A twist on the concept of a mail order bride; this woman seeks a mail order husband!

Filled with excitement from the beginning, Stacy continues to keep you on your toes with a nice twist in the middle AND the end. There are many chapters where Stacy explains the history of the situation almost like a remembered dream. I love how she not only adds the year but the time lapse so you don't have to turn back a chapter to figure out what's going on. (I wish more authors did this!) I thoroughly enjoyed this short read and I was able to finish it within an hour or so. Just like the characters, my own heart pulsed in the right spots as I anticipated what the answer would be. I recommend this book and I look forward to reading more by Stacy Henrie.

WANTED: Midwife Bride by Kristin Holt

Intrigued from the first lines of the story, this is NOT your ordinary traditional mail order bride book!

This one speaks of the women who break the mold of the traditional wife. Naomi is a doctor, a true surgeon, a daughter of a wealthy man. She is also a married woman. She is scorned by her husband who seeks to belittle her and find his pleasures outside of the marriage bed.

This book speaks of divorce. While a common subject in today's society, it was a rare and frowned upon reality of the 1800's. Men held all the cards, the power, the prestige.

Seeking refuge from all her husband plans to ruin her career and absorb her inheritance, Naomi flees New York to accept an offer to marry a small country doctor in Wyoming Territory.

I loved everything about this book. It speaks to the hardships women faced, and makes me appreciate more so, the equality we now have. It also speaks to the men who love these brave women and treat them with true respect and admiration. Dr. Joe is a hero in all aspects. He not only provides a job and family for Naomi but also gives her equality in the marriage and the medical practice. I highly recommend this book to those who love Westerns, Mail Order Brides, American History, Women's Suffrage, and Clean Romance. I can't wait to read more books by Kristin Holt!

#### **The Sound of Home by Annette Lyon**

Oohh! I really love these stories! Each one is so different from each other and so different from the mail order bride books I've previously read! Harry has the mental capacity of a 10 year old. Sweet as the day is long, the bride to be was ordered by Harry to be his new "Mother". Will Marilyn stay to take care of and love Harry as her child instead of her husband? Will she return back East to face the falsified claims of the evil man who will have her thrown in jail if she refuses to marry him? You've got to read this story to find the answer! Annette Lyon, I hope this book has a sequel! Maybe the spinster Miss Faye will find the perfect husband!

#### **For Better or Worse by Sarah M. Eden**

Mary and Gerald are matched up through a normal mail order bride arrangement, but the shock is, as soon as they meet on the station, they realize they know each other from being neighbors four years earlier! She was a thorn in his side then, what will happen now!

I enjoyed this quick read and was captivated by the "what ifs" and "what nows"! Come enjoy this novella and the rest in this wonderful collection of authors!

#### **An Inconvenient Bride by Heather B. Moore**

A gentle romance in a rough Western town! Carmela is intended for Samuel's recently deceased brother. Samuel feels obligated to assist her for a few days, until she can return to Boston and the home of her newly married brother. This story moves rather quickly and is a little bit more predictable than the other novellas in this book. Yet, very entertaining and full of beautiful descriptions that pull you in. I think I'll look up a recipe for Apple Tarts now!

#### **The Price of Silver by Sian Ann Bessey**

What a great way to complete this anthology! Caleb is always fixing his brother's mistakes and this time is no different. He has to pick up his brother's bride and bring her home to his mother while his brother is off looking for riches in a silver mine! With no word from his unorthodox brother, Caleb finds himself falling in love with the woman engaged to his brother! How can he betray his brother or his own heart! I recommend this book and hope you take the time to find out how this crazy sitcom ends!

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#### **Tori says**

**WRITTEN IN HER HEART** - Georgie has given up on the man she loves, Clay, ever loving her. She's decided to become a mail order bride, with Clay's help. Clay, however, doesn't know how he feels about

that... A sweet, yet fairly predictable novella, with a little bit of "You've Got Mail" mixed in. 4 stars

**WANTED: MIDWIFE BRIDE** - Naomi is a skilled surgeon is ousted from her successful career by jealous men and a cheating husband, when they accuse her of murdering the mayor- a man she's never met. Doc Joe is in need of a midwife/wife. There is an immediate attraction between Naomi and Joe. The only problem when Naomi answers Doc Joe's ad is she isn't sure if her marriage is legally over. Sweet story with some action. I found myself crushing on Joe a little bit... 4 stars

**THE SOUND OF HOME** - Harry is a man with the mental capabilities of a 10 year old child. He placed an ad for a mail order bride- thinking it meant a married woman would come to be a mother for him. Marilyn answered the ad thinking she would be a bride to a man. Should she stay and be a mother figure to Harry or return back home where she is being blackmailed into an unwanted marriage?? I know it sounds like a weird premise, but it's actually a sweet story with a few twists. 3.5 stars

**FOR BETTER OR WORSE** - Gerald can't believe that when his mail order bride arrives, his "Miss Hill" is Mary Hill from his hometown. She drove him crazy then, so of course she'll drive him crazy now, right?? I love Sarah M. Eden, and she didn't disappoint with this novella. 4 stars

**AN INCONVENIENT BRIDE** - When a mail order bride shows up to wed Samuel's recently deceased "heathen" brother, he isn't quite sure what to do. Carmela has no where else to go and she's a widow before she was even a bride. I really enjoyed this story. It was somewhat predictable, but moved along quickly and was fun to read! 4 stars

**THE PRICE OF SILVER** - This one was a little similar to some of the others, in that the groom wasn't there when the mail order bride arrived. Katie has come expecting to marry Jake. However, Jake has left town to work in a silver mine, a left behind his mom and brother Caleb. Jake sends money for Katie to go back to her hometown, unless there's a reason to stay behind... This was a quick moving, sweet love story. 4 stars

\*I was given a copy of this collection in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Katie W says**

I always love these anthologies because I get a similar theme with a taste of six different authors, which makes for a lot of enjoyable reading sessions. Each story can be read in a sitting, allowing for a snippet here and there, or all together. Sometimes when I read similar types of stories, I get tired of them, but these are just the right length and the right amount of stories in each collection.

There is NO way I would ever be a mail order bride. Okay, so I'd have to be very desperate to do it. There are too many risks involved, as some of these women found themselves sent for by men who weren't competent, left town before she arrives, died, or other various things. These men left to pick up the pieces are all great men and true gentlemen, if a little rough around the edges, but there are men out there, as seen in some of the stories, who are downright scary! That said, I do love the idea of being "forced" into a relationship and finding the added bonus of falling in love, which makes me think of the quote, "Choose your love; love your choice."

It's so hard to choose a favorite story! I love how each story plays out, leaving me to swoon at the romance,

cheer for the couples, and enjoy the descriptive settings, as they all take place in the wild west. This collection is on my favorites list!

Content: some have a few non-graphic moments of peril and/or violence; mild romance (kissing). Clean!

\*I received a copy in exchange for an honest review\*

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### **Lisa Shepherd says**

This was probably my favorite of the Timeless Romance Anthology collections I've read. All great, light-hearted, fun reads!

\*I was one of the proofreaders for this book.

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### **Alisa says**

Another great anthology collection of six short stories!

I loved the twists some of these authors put on the mail order brides. One "bride" doesn't realize that the man she is writing is actually her co-worker who realizes he loves her and doesn't want her to marry a stranger. Another "bride" escapes a terrible marriage and answers an ad by a doctor advertising for a bride who is also a midwife; they both get so much more than they bargained for! Another "bride" shows up only to discover the man who sent for her was someone she knew, and four years ago they didn't part on good terms! So we got a second chance story and a mail order bride story all rolled into one!

Content: Clean

Source: Review copy (opinion is 100% my own)

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### **Chrissy says**

This is a collection of six short stories, all featuring mail order brides. These novellas are fun because you can read one in a very short amount of time, and still get romance and a happy ending. However, because these stories are short, and they have to introduce to characters, have the characters fall in love, and have a happy ending all within a relatively few pages, there is a lot of insta-love going on. So if it annoys you when people fall in love really quickly, just be warned that this does happen in these anthologies.

Because I do have a hard time relating to falling in love within a few hours or a few days, my favorite stories in this collection were the ones where the brides already knew their intended grooms. My favorite story was by Sarah M. Eden. She had such a fun idea of having a mail order bride who shows up to meet the groom and they realize that they both know each other and the groom can't stand his bride-to-be. He didn't like her four years ago and he is sure he doesn't like her now. So will he marry her? It made for a fun story line. I also liked the story by Stacy Henrie. Here our girl is applying to be a mail order bride but her friend who is helping her realizes that he has strong feelings for her and doesn't want to lose her. So will she end up as a mail order bride or marry her longtime friend and childhood crush?

These six novellas are well-written and fun for the romantic who enjoys clean romance (no sex) with happy endings.

I was given this book in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Maureen Timerman says**

A delightful collection of six historical Mail Order Bride novellas', they are quick reads and each can be read in a single sitting.

All of the brides have fallen on unfortunate circumstances, and for some they have been accused of terrible crimes, and others arrive to find things are not what they expected to find.

I can't imagine traveling a long way from where I live to a very unknown place, knowing no one, and end up marrying someone I have never met. Although, at least one of the stories end up with people who have met before, and another that yes they have met, but don't see what is right under the noses. In other stories when the bride arrives, the groom is nowhere to be seen, will they wait for him to return?

These are quick and interesting stories that will keep you page turning, and moving right on to the next.

Enjoy!

I received this book through I Am A Reader, Not A Writer, and was not required to give a positive review.

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### **Amanda says**

Overall this was an enjoyable collection of novellas. My favorite was the last one.

Written In Her Heart by Stacy Henrie-3 stars

Georgie has loved Clay for years but Clay has not returned the feelings. Georgie decided to become a mail order bride and Clay realizes he doesn't want Georgie to marry someone else. This was a cute story. I liked it and the characters.

Wanted: Midwife Bride by Kristin Holt-4 stars

Doctor Naomi Thornton leaves her home under a cloud of suspicion in the death of the town mayor. Her husband plans to divorce her so she answers an add and becomes a mail order bride to a doctor. I really enjoyed this story. They fell in love fast but it felt believable.

The Sound of Home by Annette Lyon-3 stars

Marilyn answers an add to be a mail order bride to escape a man she despises. I liked this story and the characters. The falling in love happened in one day which was too fast to feel real.

For Better or Worse by Sarah M. Eden-4 stars

Mary agrees to be George's mail order bride without realizing he is the Mr. Smith she knew when she was 15. He did not like her then and is not happy to see her now. I liked this story. Mary and George are likeable

characters. I was happy they didn't immediately fall in love, some time passes during this story.

An Inconvenient Bride by Heather B. Moore-4 stars

Carmela heads west to become Gideon Butler's mail order bride. When, she arrives his brother Samuel informs her he has died. Carmela and Samuel fall in love. I enjoyed this story. I liked Carmela and Samuel.

The Price of Silver by Sian Ann Bessey-5 stars

Katie agrees to be Jake Walker's mail order bride but when she arrives she finds he has left to try his luck at mining. His brother, Caleb takes her back to their ranch where they live with their mother and await Jake's return. In the meantime, Katie and Caleb fall in love. This was my favorite in this collection. I liked Katie, Caleb and Elisa. I appreciated that their story took place over a longer period of time. They were attracted to each other immediately but it was not instant love.

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### **Tressa (Wishful Endings) says**

4.5 Stars

MAIL ORDER BRIDE was another enjoyably sweet, heartfelt, and quick read. With six novellas that were easily read over a day or two, great characters, swoon-worthy moments, emotional and romantic tension, and happily-ever-after endings, this was another fabulous addition to this line of books! Definitely recommend for those who have enjoyed the other titles in this series or read sweet historical romance.

WRITTEN IN HER HEART by Stacy Henrie: This was a fun story! I liked both characters and how the plot was a little like a historical remake of the 1998 movie, You've Got Mail. I wasn't quite sure how I felt about Clay deceiving Georgie and both of their internal dialogues could have been shortened, but otherwise an endearing story.

WANTED: MIDWIFE BRIDE by Kristin Holt. The beginning of this story had me riled right up. Thank goodness things worked themselves out! I loved the first time Doc Joe meets his mail-order bride and the way that so much emotion was conveyed over a few pages. Some of the endearments and inner thoughts were a little long, but still a very sweet and lovely story.

THE SOUND OF HOME by Annette Lyon: This was such a heartwarming story! I loved how Harry plays his role in both getting Marilyn there and in keeping her there. Their interactions were sweet. Add to that a man who falls in love not because of Marilyn's looks, but because he feels a little bit responsible and then loves who she shows herself to be, and you have one very sweet story. Enjoyable from beginning to end.

FOR BETTER OR WORSE by Sarah M. Eden: This story was so fun! I loved the dialogue, the nice twist that really livened things up, the characters, and the heartfelt story that practically had me in tears at the end. Sarah is a master at pulling emotions from a reader. A favorite from this set.

THE INCONVENIENT BRIDE by Heather B. Moore: This was another enjoyable story with a little passion and a few swoon-worthy moments. I really liked both of the main characters and how they were both strong and different, but fit together so well. There was some nice tension and it was an overall sweet story.

THE PRICE OF SILVER by Siân Ann Bessey: Loved, loved, loved this story! Definitely my favorite of the set. It was full of a hard-working, caring, and charming cowboy, his dear and kind mother, and a sweet and endearing lady. Katie came with nothing in answer to a mail-order bride advertisement and finds that the brother who sent for her isn't the one she ends up caring about. I loved the dialogue, the plot, and the romance. So much told in so few pages and it was perfect! It left me with a content sigh and smile on my lips.

I enjoyed all the stories from this collection, although it was worth reading for The Price of Silver and For Better or Worse alone. Those stories made this series for me. I'm looking forward to the next collection and more sweet stories.

Content: Clean

Source: I received a complimentary copy from the tour host for the purposes of the book's tour, which did not affect my review in any way.

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