



# Glory Road

*Lauren K. Denton*

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**Glory Road** Lauren K. Denton

**Written in Lauren Denton's signature Southern style, *Glory Road* tells the story of three generations of women navigating the uncertain pathways of their hearts during a summer that promises to bring change--whether they're ready for it or not.**

At thirty-eight, garden shop owner Jessie McBride thinks her chances for romance are years behind her and, after her failed marriage, she's fine with that. She lives contentedly with her fiery mother and her quiet, headstrong daughter. But the unexpected arrival of two men on Glory Road make her question if she's really happy with the status quo. Handsome, wealthy Sumner Tate asks her to arrange flowers for his daughter's wedding, and Jessie finds herself drawn to his continued attention. And Ben Bradley, her lingering what-could-have-been from high school days who's known her better than anyone and whom she hasn't seen in years, moves back to the red dirt road. Jessie finds her heart being pulled in directions she never expected.

Meanwhile, Jessie's fourteen-year-old daughter, Evan, is approaching the start of high school and trying to navigate a new world of identity and emotions--particularly as they relate to the cute new guy who's moved in just down the road. At the same time, Jessie's mother, Gus, increasingly finds herself forgetful and faces a potentially frightening future.

As all three women navigate the uncertain paths of their hearts and futures, one summer promises to bring change--whether they're ready for it or not.

## Glory Road Details

Date : Published March 19th 2019 by Thomas Nelson

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Author : Lauren K. Denton

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# From Reader Review Glory Road for online ebook

## Susan Snodgrass says

'Sometimes God puts things in our paths for a reason. Best to sit up and pay attention.'

Lauren K. Denton writes stories with great southern charm and this one is so moving. Perry, Alabama is home once again to Jessie McBride when she returns after her husband's affair and her divorce. Along with her 14 year old daughter, Evan, settles down in her hometown. She opens a garden shop next door to her house and across a field from her widowed mother, Gus. Jessie is happy, but when her old maybe could have been boyfriend from high school moves back to Glory Road with his teenage son, her heart gets pulled in a new direction. Add to that a wealthy businessman asking her to do flowers for his daughter's huge wedding and combined with his lingering attentions to her, Jessie just is not sure which direction her life is heading. Her mama, Gus, has been having some frequent and surprisingly odd memory losses and all their futures look uncertain.

Told in three points of view, from Gus, to Jessie, to Evan, this book is deeply moving on all fronts. Set against the backdrop of a red Southern dirt road, two women learn that love is never to be passed by and one teenager learns that the women she follows are pretty amazing. I loved everything about this book.

'I think you marry the one who, when everything else is stripped away---money, job, arguments, disagreements--he's still the one you'd want to sit with on the porch and...just...do nothing. Or do anything. Pick the one who matters more than all the stuff of life.'

\*I received a complimentary copy of this book from Thomas Nelson Publishers through Net Galley. Opinions expressed in this review are completely my own.

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## Jennifer ~ TarHeelReader says

### Another charming southern story from Lauren Denton! ?? ?? ?? ??

Jessie McBride is in her late 30s, a garden shop owner, and divorced when she thinks romance is not in the cards for her. She has a willful daughter and a brazen mother, and they are all she needs.

Two handsome men move to the area, and now Jessie's interest is piqued. Sumner Tate's daughter is getting married, and he asks Jessie to arrange her flowers. Ben Bradley is an old question mark from high school.

Also challenging is that Evan, Jessie's daughter, is about to start high school and has her own mixed emotions about boys and relationships. On top of that, Gus, Jessie's mother, is becoming more forgetful.

Something will change this summer, maybe multiple things? How will these women weather the storm together?

Lauren Denton writes charming southern stories. There's plenty of love and an atmospheric setting. Delightful storytelling and likable characters take the center stage. Smooth writing, brilliant characters, and the red dirt road draw you completely into this story.

Glory Road is another wonderfully enriching and huggable story from Lauren Denton!

I received a complimentary copy. All opinions are my own.

My reviews can also be found on my blog: [www.jennifertarheelreader.com](http://www.jennifertarheelreader.com)

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### **Megan says**

This year, I read all of Lauren K. Denton's books to-date. And, I have to say, I'm hooked! Her books have gotten better and better and I cannot wait to see what comes next from her.

Each of the books, including Glory Road, have vivid characters that you want to befriend and get to know. Her books leave me connected to the characters and wanting to know more about how their stories will continue. To date, she hasn't written a sequel or series, but I hope some of these characters will continue or cross paths in future books because I want to know how their stories continue and grow.

As in life, some of the storylines were predictable and played out just as expected. But, also similar to life, I was at times surprised by a character's decision or how life got in the way of the plan. It made the book interesting to the very end.

I love these down to earth, slice of life stories and hope the author will keep them coming!

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### **Taylor Metcalfe says**

Do you know what I loved most about this book??

All of the positive and healthy relationships.

Glory Road is the back drop to three generations of strong women as they navigate changes in their futures. Jessie, divorced and content, now has two men making her rethink her chances for romance. While her daughter, Evan, navigates the emotional summer between middle and high school and her mother, Gus, begins having frightening memory lapses.

I loved Jessie. I now strive to be more of a mother like her. This novel was steeped in southern charm and made me feel right at home. I have major garden fever now and can't wait to see what grows from it.

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### **BookGypsy says**

An unforgettable generational story about three women in Southern Alabama. Jessie McBride, her fourteen-year-old daughter Evan and her mother Gus and the summer that changes everything. This was heartfelt, witty and poetic. I loved it! I loved all of her books and I highly recommend them. This a great book club pick.

Dawnny Ruby-BookGypsy

Novels N Latte Blog

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## **Carol (Reading Ladies) says**

### 3.5 Romantic Stars

Thanks to #NetGalley #ThomasNelsonPublishers for my free copy of #GloryRoad by Lauren K. Denton in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own.

Fans of romance, southern settings, mother/daughter themes, gardening, and women's fiction will want to snatch up a copy of this endearing and quaint small town story.

Glory Road focuses on three generations of women from the same family during one summer of their lives on Glory Road as they build trusting and loving relationships with each other and also forge the path of their individual lives and future. Although some characters are stereotypical, the main characters are well developed and seem real. We are able to empathize with the grandmother's fears and feelings of distress as she experiences episodes of dementia; we understand the pressure Jessie feels as a single, working, entrepreneurial mom; and we remember how it felt to be a teenager through the experiences of fourteen-year-old Evan.

Especially captivating in this story is the atmospheric, southern, rural setting. We imagine swinging in the creaky porch swing, walking down the dusty country road (Glory Road), and we can hear the buzz of insects. Adding to the setting, the author inserts lovely, inspirational, and advice laden gardening quotes at the beginning of each chapter (reminding me of what we learned about the meaning of flowers in *The Language of Flowers*). For example, "Zinnias are traditionally a happy flower, and you can't go wrong offering a loved one a bouquet of brightly colored zinnias. In particular, the scarlet zinnia signifies constancy or steadfastness. Blue Hyacinths have a similar meaning, and the two flowers together would make a striking pair." (Warren Elliott, *The Secret Life of Flowers*) These thoughtful quotes set the mood for the chapter and enhance the southern setting and are completely congruent with Jessie's garden shop, *The Twig*. I appreciate the author's effort in finding unique and thematic quotes.

Poignant themes include facing difficult transitions, being true to yourself, supporting family, coming home, and reconciliation.

Recommended for readers who appreciate romantic and inspirational family stories, for fans of southern settings, rural lifestyle and gardening, and for those looking for a gentle read (no violence, offensive language, or steamy romance). It would be a good book club selection and a great choice for spring/summer porch reading. If you read and enjoyed *Hurricane Season* by Denton, I predict that you will also enjoy *Glory Road*.

Pub Date: March 19, 2019

For more reviews visit my blog [readingladies.com](http://readingladies.com)

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**Mary Jackson \_TheMaryReader says**

I really enjoy southern fiction. And I need to say Denton has done it proud y'all are going to enjoy this. Grab a mason jar full of some sweet tea and kick back on the front porch because this is a good read. The characters were fun getting to know, and Denton throw in a little romance for fun. I can't wait to read her next book.

The Mary Reader received this book from the publisher for review. A favorable review was not required and all views expressed are our own.

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## **Judy says**

This is a fine piece of southern fiction! While reading this I had a comforting feeling of home in the best possible sense. You could feel the love in this book - of family, friends, and the community. Memories of a simpler time came over me and I remembered sitting on the porch shelling peas, pulling weeds in the garden, making supper with Mom.

There are changes happening in the lives of the three generations of women in this book: the grandmother, Gus, who is gradually losing her memory; Gus's daughter, Jessie, who must decide how much risk she is willing to take - in business and in love; and Evan who is on the brink of adulthood and navigating those treacherous teenage years. The story is told from the point of view of these three women. The chapters are each introduced with quotes from gardening books and the quotes are relatable to what is happening in the lives of the women.

The writing flowed easily and the characters were well detailed. I could picture the surroundings of Glory Road - the Ice Box, the country road, the quiet. This is a wonderful, positive book and I truly loved it!

Thanks so much to Lauren K. Denton and Thomas Nelson--FICTION through Netgalley for an advance copy.

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## **TeriLyn says**

\*\*I received a complimentary copy of this book from Thomas Nelson through NetGalley. Opinions expressed in this review are completely my own.\*\*

### **3 "*And in a way, we were.*" Stars**

This slow burning, familial book tells 3 separate stories of 3 generations of women who live in the country off an old red dirt road in Alabama. It's a testament to life in the south, of mistakes made and on-going battles faced. It's complex relationships, a little romance, and a lot of growing. I found the story charming and full of promise just not fully consuming.

It seems as all three women, two grown and one teenager, are at a crossroads of major life decisions in their sleepy little world. But on the surface they're consistently reminded of the strength they each hold no matter the trials through the love and deep respect they hold for each other.

*Glory Road* falls under general women's fiction for me. It's told from a 3 separate points of view and encapsulates the vulnerabilities, pride, and strength in each of the female characters. It holds a spark here and

there of romance but in not in a way that they romance dominates the story or the characters. I really enjoyed it and fans of women's fiction will too.

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## **Madison says**

In the midst of a stressful and very busy week it was such a pleasure to sink into Glory Road each night (and morning and lunchtime and basically any minute I could squeeze into my day). The relaxed, restful and charming nature and setting of this book was simply delightful and such a pleasure to enjoy. Glory Road is a multigenerational story of growing up, loving and learning.

Leaving a broken marriage behind, Jessie McBride and her teenaged daughter, Evan, have returned to the safety and comfort of home along Glory Road. Together, Jessie, Evan and Jessie's mother, Gus run a garden shop. This summer, each will face changes, new men in their lives and new directions for their future.

A story of three generations of women, Gus, Jessie, and Evan each take turns featuring in the chapters in Glory Road. Jessie loves the peace she has found on Glory Road, her hands in the soil and coaxing life from the plants she tends. But things are about to get a shake up when not one but two men walk into her life. Evan is starting high school and is balancing new relationships, growing up and making decisions about who she wants to be. Gus is also facing big changes in her life with the onset of a frightening and life changing disease but also enjoying her life with her daughter and granddaughter and the joy of a new love with a kind and gentle man. Together, these three women form a strong and loving family. They support each other, annoy and challenge each other, quip, tease and love. Their bonds are tangible, and a beautiful thing to enjoy.

I love books about gardening and gardens - there seem to be so few of them - and this one really revels in the beauty of the soil, plants and new life. I absolutely love the cover and it so perfectly reflects the peace and beauty of this book.

There is plenty of romance in this book, for all three women. While all at very different stages of their lives they each experience an awakening of the heart and how that might change things for their futures.

Glory Road is a charming novel, perfect for relaxing with.

The publishers provided an advanced readers copy of this book for reviewing purposes. All opinions are my own.

Find more reviews, reading age guides, content advisory, and recommendations on my blog [Madison's Library](#)

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## **Danielle says**

4.5 stars rounded up

Opening the pages of one of Lauren Denton's books is like wrapping your heart and soul up in a warm blanket...her books are comforting, reassuring, and make the reader feel that no matter what happens, life has a way of working out the way it should. I've loved her books since reading her debut, *The Hideaway*, and my

love of her grows with each book she puts out. Her writing and the worlds she creates makes this native NYer want to pack up and move to the South immediately! I've said many times that I want to live inside one of Lauren's books and I'm already eager for more!

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### **Sherri Thacker says**

This is a story about three generations living on Glory Road. I enjoyed getting to know each character while the author had them each come alive in the story. Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for the book for my honest review.

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### **Mackenzie Carol says**

This is the very first book that I have ever read by Lauren K. Denton, and I have to say, I am so glad that I got the opportunity to read it. Although Lauren has been on my radar for a little while, it often takes me a long time to get around to reading new authors (because I still have so many books left to read by authors who are already my favorites), so I wasn't sure when I would get the chance to read one of her books. Let me tell you, I am so, so glad that I was presented with the chance to read Glory Road! I had no idea Lauren was such a fantastic author, and I am looking forward to reading many more of her novels in the future.

There's just something about this story that pulls you in from the very beginning. It's the quintessential picture of Southern, small-town life, and you just cannot help but immediately fall in love with Jessie, Evan, and Gus. Even the tone of this book speaks to the slow-moving country life that the three of them live, ebbing and flowing like the river that flows through Sumner Tate's backyard. From the first chapter, you feel dropped right into Perry, Alabama, onto Glory Road where life is the same and yet still ever changing.

As the story unfolded, I found myself completely wrapped up in everything that was happening, and I had no idea how it would all work out in the end by I was absolutely dying to know. Now, I used to read entire books in a day so the speed at which I read a story is not usually surprising, but between school and work and everything else that is taking up my time I don't often get a chance to finish novels very quickly anymore, but this one was the exception. I just couldn't wait to find out how this story would end, so I found myself reading it at every opportunity I could (one of the benefits of having it on the Kindle app on my phone).

Then there was the ending. Oh, how I loved the way this story ended. How I wish I could tell you my favorite parts from the end, but I don't want to spoil it. However, I have put some quotes on Goodreads, so if you're ever there and you want to read some of my favorite parts, look up Glory Road. Absolutely everything about the ending of this novel was simply perfect, and I just know I'm going to read it again and again every chance I get.

I received an electronic copy of this book through the JustRead Publicity group in exchange for only my honest review. I was not given any incentives to give a positive review; every opinion expressed was my own.

This review is from my blog, [soiwriteblog.com](http://soiwriteblog.com)

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### **Jen says**

I read the first line of Glory Road and then paused and sighed. I actually turned to my daughter and said, "I



really missed me some Southern Fiction. This is like stepping into a warm hug.” Being the booknerd my daughter also is, she understands this crazy talk and said, “You should put that in your review, Mom.” Well, kid. I think you’re right.

Reading that first line of *Glory Road* really was like stepping into a warm hug. There is something soothing that I absolutely adore in Southern Fiction. I have been reading and reviewing Denton’s books since her debut and she has been a favorite of mine from the very start. Her characters are real, their troubles could be your own. You just want to settle in on the porch with some sweet tea and dive in.

Of course, *Glory Road* is her best yet. Jessie is a southern girl back home on her red dirt road. She’s got her mama and her young teen daughter Evan. They have a tight bond, a good system. She’s running her shop, Twig. It works for them. Never in her wildest dreams did Jessie think she’d see Ben again. In her blast from the past, Jessie is thrown for a major loop. And then there’s Sumner. What is going on in her steady, predictable life? Well Jess, it ain’t over just because you’re 38 and divorced.

*Glory Road* is a story of second chances, family bonds, and really, really good pie. All of these things are incredibly essential in living life to it’s fullest. So grab that tea, hell, grab some pie too, and settle in. You’ll even get some gardening tips in the process.

I received an advanced copy of this book, all opinions are my own.

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## **Carole Jarvis says**

Reviewed at The Power of Words: <https://bit.ly/2TztTa4>

I’m not one to “gush” over a story, but an exception simply must be made for *Glory Road* by Lauren K. Denton. Long on my radar of authors to try, I’m berating myself for waiting until now to discover this incredible author. Women’s fiction, especially books with southern settings, is my favorite genre. This is Denton’s area of expertise, and she can hold her own with any author I’ve read in the general market. Actually better when you consider that the writing is clean. *Glory Road* is a captivating and poignant story, a “best of the best” read for me.

*Glory Road* is rich in all the essentials – vivid imagery, lyrical prose, complex characters, and a storyline that captured my emotions from the first page and never let go. The fact that I live in the southeast and have relatives who live in areas similar to the setting of Perry, Alabama (15 miles northwest of Mobile) makes the story so very relatable. This description of Jessie’s view from her home is so peaceful ... “Long sweeps of wildflowers in the summer, fields dotted with cows and horses, straight rows of corn and cotton and soybeans lining the roads.”

How does an author convey an ambience replete with aromas that you can literally smell? I don’t know, but Denton certainly does this – from freshly-shelled peas and juicy cobbles, to sun-warmed dirt and that just-before-the-rain scent in the air. Small-town southern living is slower paced, and that’s the tone of this novel, yet it is never boring; every sentence begs to be savored.

The story itself revolves around three generations of McBride family women, and dealing with change in their lives. I easily connected with each one – Jessie, who returned home to Perry with her young daughter

after going through a divorce; Evan, now a well-grounded young lady about to start high school; and Jessie's mother, Gus, beginning to experience bouts of forgetfulness. These characters have depth and the relationships between them are complex. Delightful romantic elements relating to all three are secondary, yet key to the overall story.

Spiritual themes are subtle, but very much present. Gardening quotes from various sources are creatively placed at the beginning of each chapter, beautifully setting the mood and conveying the strong link between the care and nurturing of plants to our spiritual lives. I loved the outspoken wisdom in these words from Gus ... "Sometimes God puts things in our paths for a reason. Best to sit up and pay attention."

Glory Road comes to a heartwarming, fulfilling conclusion; these characters will forever linger in my thoughts. Very highly recommended.

I received a copy of this book through JustRead Tours and Thomas Nelson. The opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own.

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