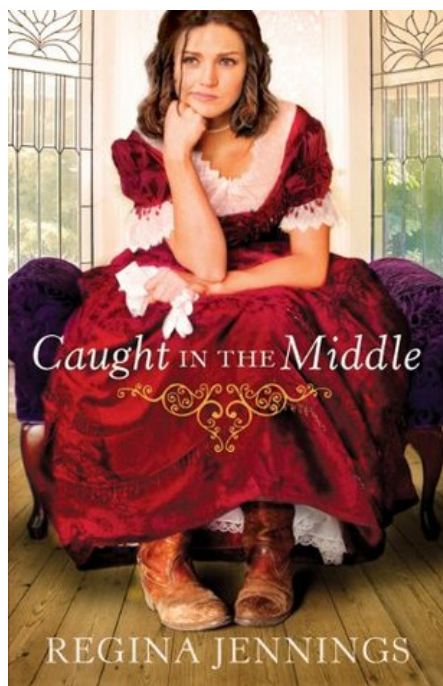




Caught in the Middle

Regina Jennings

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Caught in the Middle Regina Jennings

The train to Garber, Texas, is supposed to bring life's next victory to Nicholas Lovelace. Instead, it gets held up by robbers who are thwarted by the last person Nick ever expected--Anne Tillerton from back home in Prairie Lea.

Anne's been hiding away as a buffalo hunter. She's only in Garber to find their runaway cook, but the woman flees--leaving Anne with her infant son. With Nick the only person Anne knows in Garber, the two form an unlikely team as they try to figure out what to do with the child.

But being in town means acting and dressing for polite society--and it's not going well for Anne. Meanwhile, Nick's work is bringing new pressures, and being seen with a rough-around-the-edges woman isn't helping his reputation. Caught between their own dreams, a deepening relationship, and others' expectations, can the pair find their way to love?

Caught in the Middle Details

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From Reader Review Caught in the Middle for online ebook

Sarah says

While Jennings writes great romance, what I really love are her complex characters. Anne Tillerton may be a damsel in distress, but you wouldn't know it when you first meet her with her buffalo hunting attire and quick draw. And Nick Lovelace is certainly a dashing hero, but he also seems a bit of a dandy. They certainly don't seem to go together--until you begin to learn their stories. Jennings handles Anne's abuse with an honest sensibility that has the potential to shed light on the plight of abused women. And the gentle way the romance develops fits her past. With nicely drawn secondary characters and the REAL love story between Anne and abandoned Sammy, *Caught in the Middle* is more than an entertaining read. It's a heart-warming, hopeful story about second chances and hope for healing.

Lydia (Overweight Bookshelf) says

Full review here: <http://www.overweightbookshelf.com/20...>

A dandy with both naive and arrogant inclinations, an anti-conformist heroine with impenetrable emotional barriers. A more unlikely romantic pairing would be hard to find, but Regina Jennings opted to test the old adage to see if opposites really do attract. Initially there is certainly a role reversal when Anne rescues Nick from train robbers and her brusque nature. Nick is not above preening and fawning over the social elite to further his business interests, but he still manages to come across as masculine and competent in the rugged Texas setting.

The chemistry between these two characters wasn't wholly believable for me. They are thrown in to each other's lives by circumstance and their incongruent personalities naturally result in sparks, not necessarily amorous in nature. The battle of wills that ensues is moulded in to a romantic storyline that takes time to find its footing but picks up pace midstream.

What I appreciated the most about this novel was delving in to Anne's abusive past and witnessing her transformation and restoration as the story progressed. Her ruthless deceased husband squashed all her joy with his words and fists until all that was left was the shell of a woman too traumatized to allow herself to feel. The catalyst for her healing is when she is unexpectedly bequeathed custody of a precious baby who begins to chisel away at her enclosed heart. For me, this was the love story of the novel: a traumatized woman renewed by the innocence and unconditional love of a child.

Caught in the Middle will appeal to lovers of western romances seeking a story with a resounding message and heart.

****Disclosure:** Book has been provided courtesy of Baker Publishing Group and Graf-Martin Communications, Inc. Available at your favourite bookseller from Bethany House, a division of Baker Publishing Group******

Hannah says

4.75

It took me a little while to get into the story. Normally I don't connect well to defiant tomboy types, but something about Anne and the style in which Jennings writes kept me coming back for more. But once I got past the first hundred pages, I couldn't put it down. The character development was so real as Anne learned how to get over her past and trust again. And Nick was a very good representation of a hero.

Brittany says

Caught in the Middle is the third book in the Ladies of Caldwell County series. I have read the two books before this one and have been eagerly looking forward to reading Anne's story. It did not disappoint! If you have not read the other two books, that is ok. Caught in the Middle can stand alone. However, reading the other books really prepared me for the mindset that Anne had toward others and about life in general. It helped me to understand where she was coming from.

Nick and Anne are great characters. They are such opposites at the beginning of the book, yet by the end, they have both grown and changed so much in their attitudes toward God and toward each other. The author raises some challenging questions for her characters. The point is made that it is easy to follow God when things are going your way, but how about when things aren't? Will Nick or Anne be able to accept God's plans if they don't appear to be the answers they were looking for?

I appreciated the fun humor, the great characters, Anne's haunting back-story, and the sacrifices that these characters had to make as they grew into the people that God wanted them to be. I have enjoyed each book in this series, but this is by far my very favorite.

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

You can read this review on my blog at:
<http://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.co...>

Rebecca says

"Is God to be loved apart from His gifts?" "Is He to be obeyed despite the consequences?" Anne Tillerton and Nicholas Lovelace are about to find out.

First impressions are important; and first chapters can drive readers to distraction or immerse them into a story line with amazing results. "Caught in the Middle" has a great first chapter. Anne Tillerton, disguised as a man, happens on the same train as Nicholas Lovelace, obviously a man; when they suddenly discover that they have been acquainted in the past. Before they can fully decide what to do with that revelation, their train is overtaken with bandits; and Anne saves Nick's life with her quick thinking and even quicker draw of her gun.

Both head to Garber, Texas; Nicholas to resume his business as a railroad transportation specialist, providing valuable lumber for a large railroad company, and Anne to hunt down a runaway cook from the Pushmataha Indian Territory depot. Both become "derailed" when their paths cross again; Anne is homeless and guardian of the runaway cook's young son and Nicholas discovers that his recent appointment to the county commission is a ruse to ensure that he votes against a proposed bridge project.

There were so many things that I loved about this book; great characters, an interesting story line and deep, personal struggles that took courage to resolve. Anne is an amazing young woman; she has survived a difficult childhood and a murderous, abusive husband. Although smart and witty, her broken heart is terrified of love. Nicholas learns, mostly the hard way, that there are more important things in life than money and fame. People whom he thought were honorable friends become ruthless enemies when threatened with exposure. When Annie takes off with Sammy, to avoid relinquishing custody of a child she has grown to love, Nick follows her. They are both driven to overcome their fears of total commitment; to their God and to each other, if a deep attraction is ever going to grow into an enduring love.

"Caught in the Middle" is an amazing book that I was privilege to receive from the author as an advance reader. Regina Jennings has now written three great stories and I am thrilled to know that there is a fourth one on the horizon!

Tweety says

2 1/2

This wasn't for me. I never related to the gun totin', buffalo shootin' gal. And the hero was a contractor for building railroads and also had his fingers in another pie, the local government board meeting thingymagiy. (Sorry, I forgot which department he was in, it just didn't interest me enough to look back and see)

The heroine is tough as nails and about fun to be around as a prickly pear. The hero was a bit dull, at least I thought so. Other than nearly killing himself twice, not having damaged equipment fixed and therefore causing an employee's maiming, the hero didn't do much. He had no back bone when it came to dealing with his one client. Not till the very end when he had to, anyway.

Throw into that mix a baby who doesn't belong to either of them and we have something else to pull our hair out over. I don't really like it when kids get tossed into a story to add plot and conflict/excitement. I don't find it much fun. Too many books in this genre do this. Too many. I understand that the kid softened our tough heroine and made her semi human again. But the story is about her and the hero. I just don't feel like they really did much for each other. I guess I just wasn't feeling this story.

Others have, and will enjoy this. If you think you will, give it a shot. Otherwise, you won't be missing much if you don't.

PG one character was abused (beatings) in the past but all that is off screen.

Kav says

Wit and wisdom and rollicking good fun. I adore Anne in all her complexity. Snubbing her nose at society as she makes her way in a man's world. I mean how can you not love a heroine with thoughts like: "The woman studied her like a tracker studied scat." (p.163) I laughed so hard my tummy still hurts. And while the story is brimming with humour and snappy dialogue guaranteed to make you smile, it has a serious, contemplative side as well. And a wonderful inspirational thread about trusting God in the hard places.

Nick tips the swoonworthy scale in a major way. Such a polished gentleman with a decisive life and business game plan but that desire to succeed can also be considered a major flaw. And the poor man just isn't

prepared for a run-in with buffalo hunter Anne. Oh, the delight of those interactions! And the thing about Nick is that he doesn't look down on Anne. He's exasperated by her and frustrated and often confused but he treats her with respect. Even more than that, he looks beneath her façade in order to discover the real woman within. And when he discovers her...be still my heart. His dogged pursuit is utterly droolworthy. Big contented sigh. An exceptional mix of love, laughter and faith.

Carrie Pagels says

Loved Nick's and Anne's story! I'd just finished reading another book by a different author in which I was disappointed with the story and the ending and this wonderful novel was the antidote. In this story we are several years after the previous novel in the trilogy. Nicholas Lovelace has matured since book one and book two. Anne, meanwhile, has been through such hardship and transformation. Themes: spousal abuse, recovering from PTSD, child abandonment, betrayal. Anne is a spunky huntress who finds herself "stuck" with a little boy who is abandoned by her friend and whose father dies. Nick has know about Anne for years and admires her pluck if not her prickliness. One of my favorite chapters in this book is when Anne returns to the Lord--masterfully written. Lovely romance and a beautiful HEA and ending that is very satisfying and wraps up all the story threads, including comeuppance for the villains.

Wenona says

Some one posted this caption, "She wants the freedom of the open plains. He wants the prestige of a successful career. and the baby just wants his diaper changed!" That line and the book cover had me wanting more, to know what it was all about.

I can say I wasn't let down once - a great read from cover to cover. The author has a great way of telling a story and weaving all kinds of elements that leaves you Hooked! The heroin of the story Anne has a troubled past which causes her to shun society and head into the wilderness as a buffalo hunter - YES a female-pant wearing buffalo hunter in the 1800's. - can't you picture that???

Upheaval causes Anne to head into the big city - but on her way, she meets someone from her past and does some fancy shooting. Anne finds herself in the care of a baby, looking for work in the city (that's not saloon work), and trying to dodge the ever so disagreeable Mrs. Stanford.

Through wonderful characters, Anne learns to heal from her troubled past and what true family & love really means!

Looking for a great read that has a little of everything? - Give "Caught in the Middle" by Gegina Jennings a go - you won't be sorry!

Emilee says

Caught in the Middle is the third book in The Ladies of Caldwell County series. Though it's number three in the series it can certainly stand alone. Nicholas and Anne are a very unlikely couple with very different backgrounds. The sweet romance that transpires throughout the story was very enjoyable to follow. I loved all three books in this series but this one is my favorite!

Sarah says

Okay, I'm impressed.

I had the privilege of meeting Regina Jennings a couple of years ago, but this is the first book by her I've read. I was expecting a pretty typical romance story. While early on it is clear that the two main characters have some feeling for each other, it isn't until 70% into the book that the romance becomes anything huge in the story. This was more of the story of how Anne comes to grips with her past.

Normally, I quickly set down historical books where girls are wearing guys clothing and acting like they are as tough as the boys, but I got the feeling Anne had a deep reason for it...and I was right.

I loved Nicholas. I don't want to give anything away, but let's just say that toward the end, he took some stands that hurt Anne's feelings, but he did it anyway because it was the right thing.

I look forward to reading more by this author.

Alice says

This was my first Regina Jennings novel. I absolutely love her style! Rich. Engaging. Beautiful. Everything flowed so nicely and the plot progressed perfectly- not too fast, not too slow. The character growth was believable- not one of those one-extreme-to-the-other scenarios where they suddenly see the light and are a new person; instead, it took time, but it happened (cause I also don't like stories where the characters are so down in the depths of despair for SO long that you lose hope that they'll ever let it go and move on. ;)). Both Anne and Nick steadily built up faith, hope, and love. The result was a sweet- but not over the top- romance, with enough conflict, adventure, and banter to keep things interesting. The message of surrendering yourself to Christ- giving Him complete control, rather than refusing to trust Him and trying to handle everything on your own- was conveyed in a loving and non-condescending way.

I look forward to reading more of Jennings work in the future! (Especially going back and reading the first two books in this series. -How do I never seem to realize when I'm reading ahead in a series?! ;P)

I received this book from Bethany House publishers for my honest review.

Anne says

Look at all the four and five star ratings here on Goodreads. Just look at that! What on earth is wrong with me?!

I so wanted to love this book. I thought I would, and was so excited for it! But then I started it and -

Nope. Nope, nope, nope.

First of all, it was **boring**. The hero is a railroad contractor or whatever the heck that is, *and* launches into politics as well. I hate politics. They give me a headache. And there was soooooo muuuuuch talk about his

two jobs without actually explaining exactly what he did. What is a commissioner? What are its duties? There are ignorant people reading this book here, and we want EXPLANATIONS!!! And not only that, but we can we be serious? Politics? Railroad companies? Contracts? Elections? What am I reading, the electoral campaign?! Oh, I'm sorry, I thought it was a romance. My bad.

15 %: Bla bla bla, Nicholas Lovelace works with the railroads, bla bla bla, contract with that person, bla bla bla renew contract, bla bla bla.

20 %: Okay, when will the romance start? :) I'm not here to discuss politics!

25%: Anne doesn't trust anyone, especially not men because she's been abused, ok, classic scenario, can't wait to see how it turns out.

30%: Politics, bla bla bla, commissioner, bla bla bla, would you like to be the next commissioner, bla bla bla.

35%: I thought I said I did NOT want to discuss politics!!

40%: Seriously though, where is the romance????

41%: Are you two even attracted to each other?

42%: This is a romance novel, right?

43%: RIGHT?

44%: Say "commissioner" one more time, I dare you.

45%: DNF? Yes? No?

46%: Thank goodness I didn't pay for this!

47%: Ok, I have had enough, I think...

48: *"He had reached his decision. He loved her.*

WHAT?! WHAT, WHAT, WHAT?! EXCUSE ME, WHAT?!?!?!?!?

OK. *breathes* *breathes again* What just happened? He doesn't love her for real, right? This is a joke?

Of all the annoying, insufferable, irritating and absolutely intolerable character flaws, FEELINGS THAT DEVELOP OVERNIGHT ARE THE WORST. THE. VERY. WORST.

And, as if this wasn't bad already, do you want to know the worst? It doesn't happen only once. Not even twice. IT HAPPENS THREE TIMES. THREE DARN TIME, ON THREE DIFFERENT OCCASIONS.

How I have succeeded in not yet poking my eyeballs out, I can't even fathom.

Not only was this book hella boring, but the writing was so choppy and hectic that nothing flowed nicely. Everytime something happened I had a big "Where did that come from???" moment. I had so much trouble following the plot and what the characters were doing. Their thoughts often did not match their actions. Anne is used to going about in buckskins breeches and shirts, but there is a scene in which she has to wear a dress, and the hero asks her to wear it again on the next day. She refuses, but what does she wear the next day? The dress. And her change of mind is NOT explained at all. It was like that the whole time. We never knew what these people would say or do next, because they were so *inconsistent*.

And why is she going about in breeches and top-boots to begin with?! This isn't 2015, women can't wear whatever they want!!! It did not even create a stir! Everyone was accepting it! In 1883! No!

And what is up with calling your boss by her Christian name?! And letting her dictate how she wants your office to look? Plush carpets and potted ferns and all?!

And what about the time the hero and heroine were stuck in a cave overnight and no one said A WORD ABOUT THE HEROINE'S VIRTUE BEING COMPROMISED?!?!?!? It didn't cross anybody's mind that they had to get married after that?! It wasn't alluded to AT ALL. What about her precious reputation? Or doesn't she have one at all?

This was maddening.

M-A-D-D-E-N-I-N-G.

Oh, and can we take a moment to talk about the bear attack?!

Nick: OMGGGG A BEAR!!!! WHAT DO I DO?!?!?!?

Nick: *pretends to be dead*

Anne: *comes out of nowhere* WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?! GET UP AND FIGHT! BE A MAN ALREADY!

Me: ?!?!?!?!? Fight the bear with *what*? His bare hands? He doesn't even have a gun!!

Nick: But - how - what- how- when!!!!

Anne: Fight it I say!

Me: What. The. Hell.

Nick: *Stuffs a dirty sock in bear's mouth and crawls underneath it.*

Me: *speechless*

I kid you not he literally stuffs a sock in the bear's mouth. How the HECK do you even DO THAT?!?!!

And may I specify that in that scene, Nick is supposed to be following Anne and not the other way around, but she just pops out from behind him to tell him to fight the bear. Do they then discuss how she came to get there? Noooooo. Of coooooouurse not!

Just ARGH. Nothing in this book made sense. It was boring, and silly without being funny. I was extremely disappointed and frustrated the whole time I read it. Don't even know where I read it all.

Did I mention that the hero falls asleep right after a searing kiss from the heroine?

That was the last straw. I'm done.

Caught in the Middle happens to be the third book of a trilogy, and contrary to my rule, I have not read the series in order. In fact I haven't read book 1 or 2, and after this one I'm not sure that I want to. However, I know that I'm completely in the minority and that most people who have read this novel loved it, so take my review with not only a grain of salt, but a whole salt shaker. ;)

Michelle Lunsford says

Oh how I adored Nicholas and Anne! A bit of oil and water, but of the kind that makes for great romantic chemistry. I appreciated the way their romance grew on them slowly, unfolding in a deliberate yet unexpected way for them both. The circumstance and description for their first shared kiss was so perfect for the characters and their story, I honestly couldn't remember anyone a scene much more than that one. The romance mixed in with an entertaining narrative plot. Together it was a great opportunity to watch them grow as individuals and face the challenges that helped to deepen their faith, their character, and their love toward one another. A most delightful conclusion to the Ladies of Caldwell County series.

Victoria Bylin says

There's something special about book that makes the reader laugh and cry at the same time. *Caught In The Middle* did that for me, mostly because of heroine Anne Tillerton and her poignant journey from a female buffalo hunter to a woman who becomes both an average and extraordinary member of her community. For Anne, being average *is* extraordinary. Her past was violent and brutal, and it robbed her of the ability to feel, trust and be an ordinary woman. Her clothing is her shield, and when she finally dons female attire, I wanted to cheer for this brave woman. She's also witty and intelligent in a down-home kind of way. She has some fabulous retorts to Nick and others, and I found myself cheering for her from the very first page.

Businessman Nick Lovelace has a story too. It's less extreme than Ann's, but they're on parallel roads, kind of like parallel railroad tracks, which fits with the story. They're both learning to trust God in good times and bad. He's caring with her, patient, understanding and passionate enough to satisfy readers (like me) who like strong heroes.

I recommend this book to anyone who enjoys inspirational fiction, westerns and historical romance.
