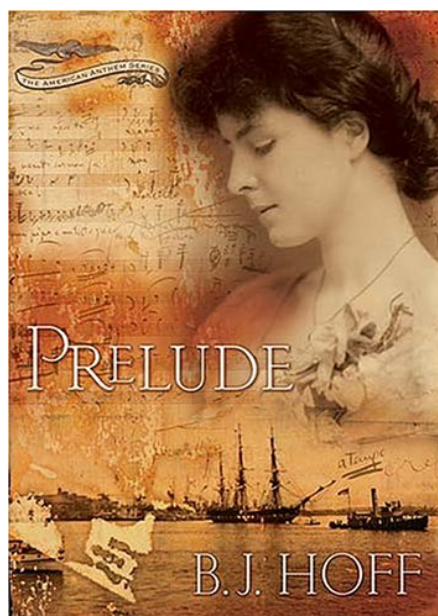




Prelude

B.J. Hoff

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Prelude B.J. Hoff

B.J. Hoff, one of CBA's premier writers brings this riveting historical fiction series that meticulously depicts nineteenth century America. "Prelude" transports you to nineteenth-century New York and invites you to step into another time--a time that shaped a nation and defined her faith. This lively story carries you from immigrant ships to opulent estates, from skating-rink evangelistic crusades to star-studded concert halls, and introducing you to men and women you'll grow to love: a brooding blind musician, his suspicious but sympathetic sister-in-law, an unlikely pair of medical partners, and a struggling immigrant family. Pulsing with romance and intrigue, shining with artistry and faith, "Prelude" sounds the opening notes of a tale with a voice as big as America.

Prelude Details

Date : Published November 1st 2002 by Thomas Nelson

ISBN : 9780849943898

Author : B.J. Hoff

Format : Paperback 281 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Christian Fiction, Fiction, Christian, Romance, Adult Fiction



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From Reader Review Prelude for online ebook

Jerry says

A great start to the series.

April says

Excellent story - well written - I couldn't put it down. However, it's the first in a series - so I immediately ordered the next book!

Odetta says

I didn't finish this book. I had listened to the 2nd book & didn't like it. Since I didn't have any other books to listen to, I listened to it, probably slept most of the way through it. I didn't like this book any better, but I have another book I can relisten to, so it's being sent back. Maybe I'll get more books to listen to or I'll relisten to some other books

Linda says

An Irish lass comes to America to take care of her niece who becomes mother-less. Her father is a musician of renowned fame. Susanna and Catrina soon bond and become everything to each other. Susanna finds out the mystery of her sister's death and becomes more than fond of Catrina's father, handsome Italian Micheal.

Holly (2 Kids and Tired) says

Set in 19th century America, with visits to Ireland, this was a fairly compelling story. There are several stories and subplots, some of which intertwine, so it's hard to name one main protagonist. Susanna leaves Ireland and comes to America to live with her brother-in-law and care for her niece, after her sister's death. Everything she ever heard about her brother-in-law, painted him as an unkind madman. Who she finds, causes her to see her late sister differently.

Andrew Carmichael is a lonely physician with a love of healing. As he finds his way through the teeming immigrant neighborhoods of New York, he meets a young woman doctor who shares his love of medicine and helping others.

The McGovern family travel in steerage from Ireland to America, leaving one son behind and nearly losing another from illness. They bring with them a ragged street urchin who learns about the love of God as she grows to love the people who provided her an opportunity above all others.

The ending is rather abrupt and I wish there was more, but this is the first of a series and introduces these characters whose story lines will no doubt be continued in future books.

B.J. Hoff has a remarkable way with words. This was an easy, enjoyable book to read. Her characters are compelling and it will be interesting to see how they progress in their future stories.

Danni says

interesting.

Melissa says

(My following review was written August 6, 2003. I might tone down my enthusiasm a bit now because of a few things.)

Reminiscent of the classic "Jane Eyre" and Mrs. Hoff's earlier book, "Winds of Graystone Manor", this book captured my attention from page 1. With multiple characters and scenes, it can be difficult to keep track or get into each person's life, but not here! B. J. Hoff keeps each segment interesting, so you won't want to skip a single bit.

Susanna travels from Ireland to America to be a governess for her late sister's husband. She immediately warms up to her neice, a sweet, intelligent young girl, and is surprised to find that Michael Emmanuel, her brother-in-law, is seemingly kind and pleasant. What of her sister's descriptions of a dark, hard man and being so unhappy with him?

Susanna begins to experience the captivating genius of Michael's musical talents, as well.

Bethany Cole, one of the few early woman doctors, is trying to establish herself and longs for her own private practice. Andrew Carmichael, a young doctor, meets and likes Bethany, and asks her if she would like to join his practice and have her own room. Bethany is happy to accept. There is something Andrew is keeping from her--a dark secret, or an innocent one?

Conn McGovern decides to leave Ireland and go to America since things are getting hard in his native land. His son, Aiden, is against leaving. On the way to the shipyard, Conn runs into a street musician girl who seems to be in trouble. After helping her out, he heads to the shipyard again. The girl, Renny McGee, follows later on.

There are also a few interesting appearances from some famous people of the past, such as Fanny Crosby and Dwight L. Moody.

Painful partings, emotional upheavals, new hopes, soulful music, and spiritual journeys. Add a touch of romance and mystery, and here is the result. A wonderful book with stories of characters we can't help but love.

Sky Destrian says

I saw these books at a used bookstore and decided to check them out at the library. They look really good and I couldn't wait to dig in. My thoughts afterward: I really enjoyed reading Prelude. It was refreshing to have so many diverse characters whose lives were woven together to create a masterpiece. I enjoyed delving into the lives of these deep characters. That said, I don't have much to complain about except for the fact that

it was a little slow at the beginning and towards the end, and due to the amount of characters there wasn't as much opportunity to get to know each of them as well as I would have liked. However, there are two more books after this series, which allows more room for development. I'm definitely going to read the rest of this saga!
