



# Waiting for Morning

*Margaret Brownley*

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## **Waiting for Morning** Margaret Brownley

Molly Hatfield comes to Arizona Territory seeking stability and security. But living in Cactus Patch provides her with more than she ever dreamed of.

There is nothing Molly wouldn't do for her teenaged brother, Donny. Blaming herself for the accident that left him wheel-chair bound, Molly has dedicated her life to his care. But in 1896, gainful employment for a woman is hard to come by. So when Molly learns that an eccentric rancher in Cactus Patch, Arizona, is looking for an heiress--someone to take over management of the ranch in exchange for future ownership--she jumps at the chance to provide a real home for her brother.

If she proves to have a knack for ranching and agrees to remain single for life, the ranch can be hers. Neither stipulation worries Molly. She's resourceful and hardworking. And she gave up dreams of marriage long ago when she dedicated her life to her brother's well-being.

However, Molly didn't bank on meeting Dr. Caleb Fairbanks, the town's handsome and charismatic young doctor. Caleb has a way with Molly that makes her nervous. But it's how he is with her brother that really alarms her. Caleb sees past the wheelchair and genuinely likes Donny, but Molly fears he's putting unrealistic ideas into her brother's head. Falling in love with Caleb would threaten everything she's worked for, even her brother's future happiness.

But it could be the very reason God brought her to Last Chance Ranch.

## **Waiting for Morning Details**

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# From Reader Review Waiting for Morning for online ebook

## Hannah says

I don't have any actual complaints about this that I can put a finger on. It may simply be my mood. However, I found this way too easy to put down, and the characters—while solid and likeable—never jumped off the page and grabbed me enough to keep me going. Consequently, it took me three weeks to finish it.

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## Whitney White says

I quite enjoyed this story, with its unorthodox pairing of a former dance hall girl and a doctor. And, of course, Aunt Bessie's antics are always a fun sideshow.

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## Noela says

Set in 1896, in the Arizona desert, a land of contrasts and beauty, sits a large red-roofed two-story adobe ranch house with a wrap-around verandah, outbuildings, barn, corral, and towering windmills. This is the focal setting for 'Waiting for Morning', a beautifully captivating story about Molly Hatfield... an unlikely candidate trying out for the heiress position of the eccentric Eleanor Walker and her vast cattle ranch in Cactus Patch.

Pretty 21 year old Molly and her wheel-chair bound brother Donny are on their way there after losing everything including Molly's job in the Dobson Creek, Colorado fire. Molly is answering an ad by Eleanor, who desires an heir for her ranch and gives young women a trial period of 4 months to prove they're worthy. But there is also the clause that won't allow the successful recipient to ever marry... and they will have to sign a binding contract to that end, should they prevail. In Molly's case, she realizes it is of little consequence as she perceives no chance of landing a husband after 22 proposal's already... with all men disappearing when learning about Donny's condition. And now Molly sees this new opportunity as being one that can secure hers and Donny's future and is determined to succeed.

Eleanor Walker has no idea that Molly is an ex-saloon girl or bringing along her 14 year old crippled brother, for either is likely to fare well for Molly with the strict ranch owner. Molly will be desperate that Miss Walker believes that not only doesn't Donny need much care even, though he is completely reliant on her, but that she can also learn and work the ranch successfully.

Molly carries an enormous burden of guilt for her brother and his condition, and has made herself his protector and caretaker and consistently puts him above her own needs. Something will no doubt suffer with Molly trying to look after her brother and the exhausting and grueling work at the ranch. So can she learn to put God first and to put her trust in Him before it is too late?

The new young doctor of Cactus Patch, Caleb Fairbanks, and his dog Magic first meet Miss Hatfield on the road to Eleanor's ranch, when Molly mistook the backfiring of his horseless carriage as gunshots and proceeded to shoot in his direction with her double barrel shotgun. Many of his other encounters with Molly were no less fiery and before long he finds himself smitten with her. Caleb sees past Donny's wheelchair,

earnestly desiring to help Molly's melancholy brother who has given up all hope of being anything but helpless for the rest of his life. But how will Caleb ever get through to Donny and his extremely overprotective sister?

We meet again in this story, the riotous and classic sister duo of Bessie and Lulu-Belle. And this time they're taking on the saloons, feeling fed-up with the men of the town getting drunk so often. As well as the many entertaining light-hearted moments, there are valuable lessons to be gained in this charming story including the disproportionate dependence you can have with people and things. However the main message I believe that comes across is learning how to let go of our fears, doubts, and burdens and to trust God to help work all things together for good.

This is the second book in The Brides of Last Chance Ranch series with the third coming out later this year, but they can all be read alone. And while I'm waiting for the next to be released, in the meantime I'll be devouring all of Margaret's other books that I haven't read yet!

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### **Patricia Kemp Blackmon says**

Molly Hatfield no longer have parents to help with the care of her brother Donny. She has it in her head that it because of her negligence that her brother is in a wheelchair unable to anything for himself. She has to work as a saloon girl because for women of her status there is very little in ways of jobs. Dancing and singing is as far as it goes, she is a good girl. She has had several offers at marriage but as soon as the man realizes that her brother is part of the package they are never to be heard from again.

Molly finds out about advertisement for an female heir to a cattle ranch in Cactus Patch, Arizona. The woman that owns the ranch must be desperate to want to find an heir that will agree to never marry. Molly doesn't care what the reason is, she looks at this as a way to provide for herself and her brother and to become the owner of the ranch. The name of the ranch gives her hope, The Last Chance Ranch.

Dr. Caleb Fairbanks keeps crossing paths with the high spirited yet beautiful Molly Hatfield. She has a big chip on her shoulder and he just might be the one to remove that chip. The Doctor and her brother seem to enjoy each others company. Caleb thinks he can help her brother, not to walk, but to be able to care for himself taking his life back into his hands and not having to depend on his sister to do everything for him. Caleb tries to show both of them that God can heal their souls even though it appears Donny will never walk.

The author has created some sassy, cantankerous characters. Molly headstrong and determined, Donny somewhat spoiled in getting his way with his sister and tries to with Caleb. Let us not forget Eleanor Walker, the owner of the ranch, she could not have run the ranch all those years any better than if she had been born a man. No one knows that better than her beau who proposes to her at least once a year, just to be turned down.

I highly recommend this book.

I rated this book a 5 out of 5.

Disclosure: I received a free copy of this book from Thomas Nelson/Booksneeze for review. I was in no way compensated for this review. It is my honest opinion.

If you found this review helpful vote yes or no here.

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**BlueJeansAndTeacups says**

### **3 BOOKS - 1 REVIEW OF FULL SERIES - THE BRIDES OF LAST CHANCE RANCH SERIES is great fun!**

I recently binge read all 3 books in the series over about a one-week period. They were great fun, filled with outlaws, ranch hands with classic nicknames, rancher talk, fun supporting characters in the townsfolk and romance. The women were strong and the men were kind along with plenty of God moments that filled my soul. I would definitely recommend this series.

Eleanor Walker is a hard as nails 65-year-old ranch owner who doesn't take kindly to nonsense, dresses more like a man, refuses to be courted by her longtime friend the bank owner and wants her ranch left to a worthy woman who feels the same.

**Looking for a woman of good character and pleasant disposition  
willing to learn ranching business in Arizona Territory.**

**Must be SINGLE**

**and prepared to remain so now and forever more.**

**Will be given ownership of ranch.**

**-Eleanor Walker-**

So reads the ad placed by the formidable boss lady. Each book encounters a new potential heiress hungry for a new life and willing to swear off men. In **'Dawn Comes Early'** Kate Tenney is an author of romantic Dime Novels who has had her book banned in Boston and decides to start fresh when she sees the ad. Luke Adams is the town blacksmith, who Kate mistakenly calls Brandon, the hero of her novels after an unfortunate run-in with outlaw Cactus Jack. She is determined not to develop feelings for him, and ruin her chance at the ranch, no matter how drawn to him she is.

**BOOK 1 FUN QUOTE:** Lula-Belle made a funny choking sound. "Passion was invented?" "Of course it was. How else can you explain its sudden appearance? Did you ever hear about it when we were young?" "No, but... but who would invent such a thing?"

**'Waiting for Morning'** has Molly Hatfield fleeing Colorado with her wheel-chair bound brother following a fire that leaves them homeless. She makes the long trek to Cactus Patch, AZ hoping to give her brother a better life at The Last Chance Ranch. She has no idea what she's in for, but she'll give it all she's got burying her guilt and happy to be rid of men for good. Dr. Caleb Fairbanks is the town's new doctor. He's young and drives a noisy, horseless carriage that scares half the town, but interests the other half. He's got a lot to prove and he doesn't judge people by the outside but wants to get to know the heart of them. He recognizes the potential in Molly and her brother, but she keeps him at arm's length. God will need to do a work to bring them together.

**BOOK 2 TEA QUOTE:** "Have him drink tea. Don't know what it is exactly, but there's something in tea that seems to help asthmatics."

**'Gunpowder Tea'** finds Miranda Hunt, an undercover Pinkerton agent, on assignment in pursuit of the Phantom. The ranch ad seems like the perfect cover to apprehend him. And who would suspect a female agent? Jeremy Taggart has also been assigned by Wells Fargo to go undercover. Each suspects the other of being in cahoots with the Phantom, despite their obvious attractions to each other and will do whatever it takes to capture him, including using the other for information.

**BOOK 3 FAITH QUOTE:** "Prices go up and prices go down. Rain comes and rain goes. But the Good Book tells us that no matter what happens, we need to store our trust in God's stables instead of our own."

And that's what's gonna keep this ranch goin."

**BOOK 3 TEA QUOTE:** "Now that we've settled our future together, let's go home. It's time for my afternoon tea."

I enjoyed reading about Gunpowder Tea inside the back of the third book:

It comes from the Zhejiang province of China. Originally the leaves were hand-rolled and looked like little gunpowder pellets. Today the rolling is mostly done by machines. It's fun to listen to the little popping sounds as the leaves unfurl during brewing. Brought to this country during the California Gold Rush, the tea was especially popular during the Civil War, and any soldier fortunate enough to secure some for his knapsack considered himself lucky indeed. Gunpowder Tea is good for what ails you and its health benefits range from preventing tooth decay to lowering blood pressure. It can even slow aging.

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**SERIES: The Brides of Last Chance Ranch**

1. 1895 / Dawn Comes Early / ©2012
  2. 1896 / Waiting For Morning / ©2012
  3. 1897 / Gunpowder Tea / ©2013
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## **June says**

What could be better than inheriting a ranch with a stipulation to never marry if marriage isn't an option anyway? A no-brainer!

Molly plans to never marry because her handicapped brother requires her attention and she will always put him first. So she answers the ad looking for an heiress.

Dr. Caleb Fairbanks is determined to help her brother learn to be more independent which is fine with Donny until he realizes that his lack of dependence will clear the way for Molly and Caleb to be together and set him aside. Then he's back and for in his desire for independence.

This was a very good story of life in Arizona in the late 1800's. I enjoyed it!

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## **Victor Gentile says**

Margaret Brownley, in her new book, "Waiting for Morning" Book Two in her The Brides Of Last Chance Ranch series published by Thomas Nelson takes us to the Arizona Territory in 1896 and into the life of Molly Hatfield.

From the back cover: Molly Hatfield comes to Arizona Territory seeking stability and security. But living in Cactus Patch provides her with more than she ever dreamed.

There is nothing Molly wouldn't do for her teenaged brother, Donny. Blaming herself for the accident that left him wheelchair bound, Molly has dedicated her life to his care. But in 1896, gainful employment for a woman is hard to come by. So when Molly learns that an eccentric rancher in Cactus Patch, Arizona, is

looking for an heiress—someone to take over management of the ranch in exchange for future ownership—she jumps at the chance to provide a real home for her brother.

However, Molly didn't bank on meeting Dr. Caleb Fairbanks, the town's charming unmarried doctor. Caleb has a way with Molly that makes her nervous. But it's how he is with her brother that really alarms her. Caleb sees past the wheelchair and genuinely likes Donny, but Molly fears he's putting unrealistic ideas into her brother's head. Falling in love with Caleb would threaten everything she's worked for, even her brother's future happiness.

But it could be the very reason God brought her to Last Chance Ranch.

No doubt about it I like Westerns. I grew up watching and reading a lot of them when I was younger and still watch and read them today. Margaret Brownley knows how to write a western. In her new book, "Waiting for Morning" Ms. Brownley gives us a working cattle ranch, a horseless carriage, a brother in a wheelchair and a doctor that thinks he can help him. On top of everything "Waiting for Morning" is an incredible romance that is full of charm and humor. It asks the question would you trade your future of being married for stability and security? All of this is set against a historical backdrop that is fascinating to read. Margaret Brownley has done it again. I am so looking forward to book three in this series.

If you missed the interview for "A Lady Like Sarah", a different series from Margaret Brownley, and would like to listen to it and/or interviews with other authors and professionals please go to [www.kingdomhighlights.org](http://www.kingdomhighlights.org) where they are available On Demand.

To listen to 24 hours non-stop, commercial free Christian music please visit our internet radio station [www.kingdomairwaves.org](http://www.kingdomairwaves.org)

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Thomas Nelson Publishers for this review. 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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## **Lisa Johnson says**

Title: Waiting for Morning

Author: Margret Brownley

Pages: 352

Year: 2013

Publisher: Thomas Nelson

What do you usually expect when reading a novel? Being a fan of the western genre, when I read one, I look for action! It isn't usually a romantic western that attracts my attention first, but the adventure. Some write westerns with hints of mystery, revenge, love, forgiveness, and a host of other themes. Others write with these themes and are able to paint a picture in the mind of the reader, so the reader can "see" the scene where the action is taking place. The setting is important to me as it gives a flavor of realism to a tale. The climax can draw a person into the story so much that he/she is spellbound!

The particular book, Waiting for Morning, takes off from the first word and doesn't stop until the last one. In the late 1800s, an older lady has placed an ad to let others know she is looking for an heiress, and the woman answering the ad must be single and willing to stay that way forever. Why would the owner of the Last

Chance Ranch want that stipulation for whoever becomes the heiress? Answering this ad is a young lady who has sole responsibility for her wheelchair-bound brother. A fire in the town where they lived burned almost all their belongings as well as took the independence of her brother. Molly is willing to answer the ad in order to provide for her brother and herself. After all, she is responsible for him being a cripple isn't she? When the town's doctor retires, a young doctor driving a horseless carriage takes over the practice. Caleb is the only one who owns one of these contraptions, and when he meets Molly she takes a shot at his carriage! Why? Molly begins to feel overwhelmed trying to be a caretaker as well as learning about cattle ranching. Her brother Donnie doesn't believe he has much of a future because he can't do anything for himself until Dr. Fairbanks approaches him and begins to work with Donnie in hopes of helping him gain independence. Will it work? What does the ranch owner decide to do with a young colt that is blind and is seen as nothing but a hay burner?

I find it hard to express how fun this story was to read, especially at the end when the author shares the story of how one character got his name! It was fun to see how the characters each learned about who they really were compared to what they thought they were. For example, Molly thought she was going to be a cattle rancher until she learned that God had other plans, even if she was great working with horses. When you read this novel, I hope you gain as much pleasure as I did. I hope I have inspired you to read it as well through this review.

My rating is 5 stars.

Note: I received a complimentary copy for an honest review of this book. The opinions shared in this review are solely my responsibility. Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyurheart.blogspot...> . Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

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## **Janka H. says**

"All that is gold does not glitter,  
Not all those who wander are lost;  
The old that is strong does not wither,  
Deep roots are not reached by the frost." (~Tolkien)

Forgive me a little teatrality, but this is the poem what comes to mind when thinking about this novel. The authoress skillfully touches some dark topics (handicaps (both physical and spiritual), abandonment, guilt, low self-esteem), but does it with a gentle hand and a dose of healthy humour.

Molly Hatfield is another of the row of heiresses for Miss Walker's ranch and another of not-so-typical traditional heroines - she is former dance hall girl with love for eccentric colourful dresses and make-up. She would never try this heiress thing if not for her teenage brother Donny, who is wheelchair-bound. Having no place to call home after the fire, she apply for the heiress "position", bound to give it her best shot to be able to take care for Donny. And it is a tough life - when she is not doing her ranch job, she os taking care for Donny, always running, always bringing Donny's needs before hers - and this includes "no" for any possible romance. But this might be tougher job that she thinks, given that the local doctor Caleb Fairbanks is not just handsome, but also kind and loving man. He is the first one to see Donny for who he is, not just through the eyes of pity. Caleb is willing to help Donny to become more independent - will the Hatfield siblings be able to believe in the better future? Will Molly be able to let the horses she is taking care of to teach her a lesson about being whole even if somehow "broken"?



This is by far my favourite story in the series. Maybe because it tackles some heavy stuff with believability (I found myself nodding several times when reading descriptions of character's feelings).

I like Molly - she is sassy and fierce, but not rude and/or bossy (as the so-called "strong female" characters often are). She is mother hen to her brothers and loves him above all, but somehow is missing to see that she is somehow blocking his progress because of her overprotectiveness. She needs a man to complement her in this - and Caleb is the right man to add some drive for achievement and desire for independence (and also some unpremeditated carelessness) into the mix. Their dynamics feel true, which I need for my romances to be satisfactory. And I was satisfied here.

Donny is another character to love - fourteen and seeing no interesting future laying in front of him until he is provoked to fly higher - and he can fly far, given his intelligence and good heart!

I also like The Last Chance ranch staff led by fierce Miss Walker, hiding her heart under bossy demeanor, and Aunt Bess, willing to marry off every single character under her radar.

From the topics tackled I especially love the spiritual blindness one - some characters don't believe in God's caring hand because of the years of fighting and real heartbreak. But they can realize that everything is the part of a greater plan.

Another plus is intelligent humour, what can to lighten the harder issues.

Margaret Brownley is one of the authors to read when needing some fun after the difficult day, but also when you need some food for thought. This is nice combo and not an accomplishment every author can achieve!

I will definitely read more if this author.

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## **Virginia Campbell says**

Author Margaret Brownley returns to "The Brides of Last Chance Ranch" with book two in the series, "Waiting for Morning". After a close call with a fire in which she rescued her wheelchair-bound brother, Donny, Molly Hatfield is desperate to find a safe, secure home for the two of them. An unusual newspaper ad offering a ranch inheritance to a "hard-working woman of good character who agrees to never marry" seems like the answer to Molly's prayers, and she and Donny leave Colorado behind and head for Cactus Patch, Arizona. On her way to the ranch, she has an unsettling meeting on the road with Caleb Fairbanks, the town's new doctor. Caleb is driving a "horseless carriage", with his little dog Magic along for the ride, and he is also headed to the ranch for a meeting with Miss Walker, the ranch owner, and the lady who placed the newspaper ad. Caleb leaves Molly and Donny behind, and makes his way to the ranch where he is surprised to learn that he was summoned to treat an ailing horse. As he is leaving, his backfiring vehicle causes a stampede which follows him directly toward the arriving Molly and Donny and their buggy. Quick thinking by Caleb saves the day, but he and Molly have a second verbal confrontation. Things don't improve much for Molly when she finally reaches the ranch. Miss Walker hadn't expected Donny, nor had she expected Molly's colorful clothing, which gives a wrong impression. Molly and Donny had lost both their parents by the time Molly was seventeen, and she had found work where she could--working as a dance-hall girl. Her singing voice and determination to remain virtuous had served her well, but the stigma of the saloon made her an outcast to "decent folk". Molly convinces Miss Walker to give her a chance with running the ranch, and she and Donny begin their adventure in Cactus Patch. The handsome doctor and his little dog Magic become increasingly important in their lives, as does a blind pony named Orbit. This is a charming and touching story, filled with heart and humor, and abiding faith brings ultimate happiness to all those seek answers

through prayer and contemplation. Set at the end of the 19th Century, "Waiting for Morning" authentically reflects the tremendous changes to technology, transportation, communications, social mores, religion, fashions, science and medicine, literature, art and entertainment, all of which occurred in a relatively short period of time. Margaret Brownley is a captivating storyteller, and I highly recommend her "The Brides of Last Chance Ranch" series along with her other works.

Review Copy Gratis Thomas Nelson Books

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## **Shari says**

In a day and time when wearing bright colours and make up will get you noticed for all the wrong reasons, Molly Hatfield does just that. Although it is against her character it's what she has to do to help protect her brother.

Guilt for the accident that left Donny in a wheelchair drives everything she does. She must take care of him, and she is willing to sacrifice everything she has, and is, to do just that. This is what drives her to take a strange offer for a job of ranch heiress. Falling in love is not on her radar since no one else sees past her brother's wheelchair....no one until Dr. Caleb Fairbanks.

### **Book Description**

The Brides of Last Chance Ranch, #3

Molly Hatfield comes to Arizona Territory seeking stability and security. But living in Cactus Patch provides her with more than she ever dreamed.

There is nothing Molly wouldn't do for her teenaged brother, Donny. Blaming herself for the accident that left him wheelchair bound, Molly has dedicated her life to his care. But in 1896, gainful employment for a woman is hard to come by. So when Molly learns that an eccentric rancher in Cactus Patch, Arizona, is looking for an heiress—someone to take over management of the ranch in exchange for future ownership—she jumps at the chance to provide a real home for her brother.

However, Molly didn't bank on meeting Dr. Caleb Fairbanks, the town's charming unmarried doctor. Caleb has a way with Molly that makes her nervous. But it's how he is with her brother that really alarms her. Caleb sees past the wheelchair and genuinely likes Donny, but Molly fears he's putting unrealistic ideas into her brother's head. Falling in love with Caleb would threaten everything she's worked for, even her brother's future happiness. But it could be the very reason God brought her to Last Chance Ranch.

Molly needs to work through her guilt, and try to figure out if she is willing to give up on the chance of being loved, and loving someone to make her brother's dreams come true. She forgets to think about her own happiness in the pursuit of her brother's happiness, and taking care of him. She has become so used to doing everything for him, that she can't imagine he could do anything for himself.

She finds herself running a ranch, running to help her brother, and running herself in the ground.

This is the 3rd book in the Last Chance Ranch series. I haven't read the others so I don't think it's necessary to read them in order to get into it. However, I do want to read them now! I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I

recommend this book, as it was a really quick and fun read.

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## **Julie Graves says**

Molly would do anything for her young brother Donny. After all she believes that it is her fault that he is in a wheelchair. Molly has been working as a dance hall girl in order to support herself and Donny since their father has died. When the town they live in catches fire Molly barely escapes with Donny and a few clothes that she can save from her tent home that they share.

When Molly hears of a rancher looking for an heiress to run her ranch in Arizona Molly and Donny head there. The only catch to becoming the heiress is to sign a contract to agree never to marry. Molly doesn't believe that she will ever have a chance to be married. Every time she has been proposed to, when the man finds out about her invalid brother Donny the potential groom runs for the hills.

On their way to the Last Chance Ranch Molly and Donny meet Dr. Caleb Fairbanks. When his new horseless carriage backfires Molly believes they are being shot at. Molly has always protected Donny so she instantly gets out her rifle and shoots back! Caleb makes an even lesser impression when once again his carriage backfires and he starts a stampede that runs straight for Molly and Donny's wagon.

Caleb is attracted to Molly but Molly has put up many barriers to her heart. She believes that The Last Chance Ranch is definitely hers and Donny's "last chance". When Caleb starts working with Donny to help him build up his inactive muscles Molly is less than happy. Miss Walker the ranch owner is also less than happy when she realizes that Molly had failed to mention her brother Donny. But Molly is determined to make this last opportunity work for she and Donny. She promises Miss Walker that she will be able to care for Donny's needs along with all of her duties on the ranch.

Having been shunned and gossiped about in her former church Molly has had no use for churches since. She hates the fact that people judge her by her dress. Molly's reason for dressing loud is to bring attention away from her crippled brother. Through Caleb, Molly learns that she too has judged church people wrongly and therefore limited God in her life. It is hard for Molly to realize that the guilt she has carried around for years was false guilt and that God has directed her path throughout.

Waiting for Morning is the second book in The Brides of Last Chance Ranch series. The first is Dawn Comes Early. Also the character of Caleb Fairbanks is from another book written by Margaret Brownley A Vision of Lucy. I'm really liking The Brides of Last Chance Ranch series and am hoping that soon Miss Walker will have her romance. I think that in Waiting for Morning she was starting to soften a bit so I'm looking forward to seeing what the author has in store for her and her ranch.

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## **Shalini Ayre says**

April 1896, Dobson Creek, Colorado and Molly Hatfield feels something is wrong. Taking the job at the local Saloon has made her the contempt of polite society. If only they would believe that the only entertainment she gave to the drunk men were her singing and dancing.

When the fire alarm is sounded, Molly rushes to where she left her wheelchair bound brother, Donny. Her

fears are confirmed when it's the hotel that is on fire - Donny is in there. Taking a great chance, she rescues her brother from the flaming timbers. She won't allow anything to happen to him again - after all it was her fault he's in the rigid contraption.

Three weeks later and the siblings are on their way to Last Chance Ranch, Arizona because the headstrong, green-eyed beauty answered an advertisement. It called for a single woman to become the heiress of the ranch and the one clause is she can't be married or want to marry. In rides Miss. Eleanor Walker the owner of said ranch. A fearless, hardworking woman she is determined not to lose her ranch to a stranger and so grooming someone to take over the farm and its cattle is her priority. The only problem is that quite a few women have come and gone - is Molly the right woman for the job?

Molly is somewhat fearful about the position as she wasn't completely honest about her circumstances. What will Miss. Walker say when she sees Donny - a disabled young boy who needs a high amount of care Coupled with a chance encounter with the handsome, single Doctor Caleb Fairbanks sees life become a whole lot more complicated. Strongly attached to him, Molly pushes Caleb away. Not only will she lose the inheritance but she refuses to put Donny into a mental asylum (where those disabled were put at the time).

In the scorching heat frustrations are building, a rancher who doesn't want to lose all that she owns, a sister who won't allow herself to love because of guilt and feels she's the only one who can look after her brother. A young man whose disability sees him unhappy and scared that his sister will leave him and a doctor who is struggling to build a reputation as the town's medic but may lose the love his life.

Will these four different people with different needs find a happy medium? And what can the antics of the doctor's dog Magic and a blind horse Orbit teach their humans?

With rich and vibrant characters, Brownley's novel is an easy going story about faith, integrity and love. The gentle weaving of each person's circumstance so that they are embroiled in each other's lives is subtly done and the fierce compassion felt doing the right thing as well as allowing God to guide them shines through. It's dramatic without being over the top and the touches of humor throughout create a warm and inviting book.

Although book two of the 'Last Chance' series, this can be a stand-alone novel. I liked the portrayal of the rancher and Molly's compassion for her brother, perhaps a little misguided, is genuine. The burgeoning love is spot on but for me the real stars of the book are Orbit and Magic. Their strange relationship was a great analogy of how humans can help each other, look past the disabilities and just accept each other as they are - warts and all. A recommended read.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Thomas Nelson as part of the Booksneeze program. The opinions expressed are my own and I am not required to give a positive review.

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## **ACS Book-finder says**

**Review:** The book Waiting for Morning in The Brides of Last Chance Ranch series by Margaret Brownley will keep your interest from beginning to end. This book is set in the late 1800's out west when employment for a woman is hard to come by.

The main character, Molly Hatfield, has dedicated her life to caring for her wheelchair-bound teenaged

brother Denny. So when Molly learns that a wealthy rancher in Arizona is looking for an heiress, she put her whole heart into this opportunity. This way she has the chance to provide a real home for her brother. While trying to gain permanent employment, Molly meets the town's charming, unmarried doctor. Molly decides to avoid her feeling for Caleb since she would jeopardize her new job and her brother's future well-being.

Falling in love with Caleb would threaten everything she's worked for. Could this be the very reason God brought her to Arizona?

This book was very well written and would be a fund read for high school girls. One of the main problems within the western town is an alcohol problem among the townsmen. I don't feel the books makes a big enough stand against drinking to get drunk and even the preacher character drowns his sorrows in alcohol on one occasion. Parents should be cautioned on this particular aspect of the book. (rev. M.Hicks)

**About the author:** Thrills, mystery, suspense, romance: Margaret penned it all. Nothing wrong with this, except Margaret happened to be writing for the church newsletter. After making the church picnic read like a Grisham novel, her former pastor took her aside and said, "Maybe God's calling you to write fiction."

It turns out God was and Margaret did. She now has more than 20 novels to her credit. In addition, she's written many Christian articles and a non-fiction book. Still, it took a lot of prodding from God before Margaret tried her hand at writing inspirational fiction which led to her Rocky Creek series. "I love writing about characters at different stages of faith," she says of the new direction her writing career has taken, "and I'm here to stay."

DISCLOSURE: A complimentary review copy was provided by BookSneeze on behalf of the publisher, Thomas Nelson, and the author, Margaret Brownley, to facilitate our honest review.

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## **Valerie (Val's Vicinity) says**

Margaret Brownley has done it again, masterfully crafting a story that is just downright entertaining! Molly, the heroine, is easy to like, and her former occupation as a saloon girl (a singer only!) serves as a great reminder to not judge based on perception or outward appearances. I quickly found myself rooting for Molly to overcome her difficult past and to succeed in building a life for herself and her younger brother.

Dr. Caleb is a good guy, but it was the little details about him that really made him stand out to me. I loved how he seemed slightly eccentric--and rather modern--by driving a "horseless carriage" far before they were commonplace. It sort of became his trademark, and I just couldn't help but enjoy the excitement that always surrounded his automobile. I also liked how Caleb took his dog everywhere he went.... it may seem like a small detail, and it's not even necessarily a "manly" thing to do, but it really added a nice touch to the flow of the story.

With the inclusion of Donny, Molly's wheelchair-bound brother, the story offers a unique and interesting look at the life of a handicapped person in the 19th century, which is a topic I haven't previously found in fiction before. Dr. Caleb has a wonderful forward thinking and cutting-edge air about him, which makes it exciting to watch as he tries to help Donny by teaching him how to care for himself despite his disability. I do have to confess that I grew a little weary of Molly's protests against Caleb's methods of treatment for Donny... however, these disagreements did add to the tension between Molly and Caleb, so I can see why they were included.

Overall, this novel is one that I really enjoyed. It's actually the second installment in the "Brides of Last Chance Ranch" trilogy, but in my opinion it far outshines the first novel and could easily be read as a stand-alone. Now, I can't end my review without mentioning Orbit, the little blind horse at the ranch, whose unique personality deftly pulled at my heartstrings. He was an unexpectedly great addition; you'd be surprised how much a blind horse can enhance a story! ;) If you're a fan of historical novels, *Waiting For Morning* is one that I would definitely recommend.

4.5 stars. Thanks to the publisher for providing me with a review copy in exchange for my honest opinion.

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