



## Love Stays True

*Martha Rogers*

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**Can Sallie and Manfred overcome the distance that the war has put between them and find love?**

In April 1865, the day following the surrender at Appomattox, Manfred McDaniel Whiteman and his brother, Edward, are released in an exchange of prisoners. They are given a few provisions, and they begin a long journey to their home in Bayou Sara, Louisiana.

At home Sallie Dyer is waiting word of her beloved Manfred. Though just a young girl when Manfred left, Sallie has grown into a caring young woman who is determined to wait for her love—despite her father's worries that she is wasting her life on someone who may never come home.

On their journey Manfred and his brother encounter storms and thieves and are even thrown in jail. Will he make the journey home before someone else claims Sallie's hand?

## **Love Stays True Details**

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Author : Martha Rogers

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## From Reader Review Love Stays True for online ebook

### Hallie Szott says

<http://pagebypagebookbybook.blogspot....>

Within the pages of Love Stays True, Martha Rogers tells a sweet, historical love story: the Civil War separates childhood sweethearts, Sallie and Manfred, for several years, but with the fighting coming to an end, they soon discover whether their love endured through the complications and obstacles of war. With surprisingly very little action, thoughts and emotions almost entirely keep the plot moving, as Sallie and Manfred wait and hope for the chance to be together. The novel's pace is slow and leisurely, without much urgency.

Throughout the novel, I found it easy to like and root for these main characters – although I must say they do lack depth. Manfred, a soldier released from a war prison, seems entirely unaffected by the horrors he saw in war and easily relies on his faith in God to keep him safe. While both admirable and honorable, the simplicity of his conflict-free thought processes make him appear a bit one-dimensional. Sallie, on the other hand, easily doubts her faith in God (and Manfred's love) after one night requires her to do a harsh, burdensome act to protect her family. I understand why the event is traumatic for her, but the way her same thoughts seem to repeat without any change until the very end make her, too, one-dimensional.

Still, Love Stays True is a perfectly enjoyable read. It is nice and simple with a clean, heartwarming romance, so I recommend it to readers looking for just that. Thanks to Booketeria, I received a copy of Love Stays True and the opportunity to provide an honest review. I was not required to write a positive review, and all the opinions I have expressed are my own.

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### Kaitlin says

Martha Rogers captures the struggles and faith of the post-civil-war South in Love Stays True. Loosely based on the real-life love story of her great-grandparents, Sarah Louise Dyer and Manfred Whiteman.

When the Civil War ends, brothers Manfred and Edwin Whiteman are in a POW camp at Point Lookout, Maryland. Lee surrenders to Grant, and their release is imminent. But the long trip Woodville, Louisiana is a daunting task. Relying on God and the hospitality of others, the boys begin their journey to their homes, family, and sweethearts.

Sallie Dyer is not the same little 15-year-old that Manfred knew almost 4 years ago. And after what she's seen of the war has left her older and scarred. Is her love dead or alive? Does he still love her? Or will he when he's found out what she'd done?

Ms. Roger's writing is enthralling, and, knowing the story is (partly) true, all the more intriguing!

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### Patricia Kemp Blackmon says

Sallie Dryer has been through a traumatic time during the war between the North and the South. She fears God has turned away from her. In her mind she has done the unforgivable. What if her childhood love, Manfred Whiteman is not able to forgive her either? Sallie watches for her sweetheart to return. He is the first thing on her mind when she awakes and then dreams of him through the night. What if he never returns? What if he has been killed? All of these things among others is what go through her mind day in and day out.

Manfred along with his brother Edward, unbeknownst to his loved ones, have just been freed from being imprisoned by Union soldiers. They have a long journey before they reach their home. They have been through bad and good on their journey home but God has guided and protected them every step of the way. He is anxious to see his family but most of all he wants to see his sweetheart Sallie Dyer. Will she feel about him as he feels about her after all this time apart?

I have no doubt that the author writes from her heart. She gives us many life lessons learned from reading this story. Most importantly is trust in God which the character Sallie was unable to do therefore it instilled her with doubt and fear. The author is a wise woman in that she creates stories that will encourage the weary and downtrodden soul to turn to God with our every need. I love an inspiring historical romance and that is exactly what the author has given us with much to ponder on in our daily walk with God..

I highly recommend this book.

I rated this book a 5 out of 5.

Disclosure: I received a free copy of this book from Booketeria/Realms for review. I was in no way compensated for this review. This review is my honest opinion.

**If you found this book helpful vote yes or no here.**

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### **Deborah says**

It is April of 1885 and the War Between the States is over. Manfred and Edwin Whiteman are exchanged as prisoners as war for Union soldiers, and are now heading to their hometown of Bayou Sara, Louisiana. But the journey promises to be long, hard, and arduous, and that's only if nothing goes wrong along the way. Manfred wants to return the kindness shown by strangers as they go homeward, and is willing to be delayed a day or two in order to honor his promise. But when keeping his word means being waylaid by thieves and being thrown in jail, will he ever get home to his girl?

Sallie Dyer is awaiting word of her dearest Manfred. She doesn't even know if he's alive, because mail has been unreliable and with a war on, no more can be expected. She is determined to wait his return no matter how long it takes, even though her father is equally determined to let other suitors vie for her hand. When three of Manfred's brothers return, that still leaves Manfred and Edwin missing. Are they buried in some unmarked grave far, far away from home? Or are they, even now, returning home to them?

It was fun to see Edwin grow from an angry, taciturn young man into a mature, responsible man that his family could be proud of. I know Manfred and Sallie's story was the main focus of the story, but the side stories of their families and friends really stood out to me. Ultimately, all their experiences in the war change

their lives forever, and they all learn lessons about life, love and what it means to come back as a country, as family, and as a community. I was very impressed by Rogers's sweet and poignant portrayal of what times were like after the Civil War; the people, their strength, but most of all their faith in the same God that allowed a country to be divided. This was the best post Civil War novel I have ever read.

This book was provided by the publisher for free in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Ibjoy1953 Hannabass says**

I have read many of Martha Rogers' books and I really enjoy them all. *And Love Stays True* is another wonderful historical story that was a joy to read. I live about an hour from Appomattox and been there many times, so after reading the back cover and saw Appomattox mentioned, I was excited to read this book. The story of Sallie and Manfred was captivating in itself, but the fact that they were real people and part of Ms. Rogers historical family was intriguing. Sallie was like so many of us at times, she just couldn't trust God to help her through difficult times. I always like that Ms. Rogers weaves Bible truths and principles throughout her stories, as she did with Sallie. Take these facts, and add all of the history involved in this story and you will find a historical fiction that will be on your mind for a long time.

I encourage you to give *Love Stays True* a try, you will be in for a treat! You will be taken back to a period in time that life was more difficult, but people are still the same and struggle with the same issues. Martha Rogers does a wonderful job of weaving it all together to give us a story to love and cherish.

I received this book from FIRST WildCard Tours to read and 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 55.

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### **Beverly says**

So many of today's books are filled with action, suspense, nail-biting terror, page turning frenzy, a gazillion sub-plots and details, twists and turns to keep us guessing that we barely have time to breathe, eat, and sleep because we don't want to put the book down for even a moment. Then suddenly the story is over, leaving us gasping for breath and reluctant for it to all end. We may think, "Oh my, what a ride!" I've read many books like that. Sometimes I want to go back and re-read the tale because I was sure I must had missed something. Don't get me wrong...I enjoy reading them from time to time. They are great for an adrenaline rush or a change of pace.

I also enjoy reading a variety of storylines in a variety of settings, times, and paces. For example, some stories specialize in providing a historical background with details that place us right into a genuine timeline. Some tales take time to explore a person's character by allowing them to work through a series of obstacles. Perhaps the character development is entirely internalized. There are some famous pieces of literature where there is no action at all. The development is entirely driven by the character's internal musings. *"Love Stays True"* by Martha Rogers has wonderful historical realism for its setting, and the two types of character development I just mentioned.

This story is a leisurely stroll down a country lane lined with fragrant shrubs and trees on a warm sunny day. It is a pleasant cooling breeze on a lazy afternoon in the garden. It is derived from actual events that occurred

to two people of the author's ancestry. Sallie Dyer and Manfred Whiteman were real flesh and blood persons. The author found her inspiration in letters exchanged by the two young people while they experienced the events told in the story during the War Between the States.

Manfred and his brother Edwin were taken prisoner in battle in Tennessee and transported to a prison in Maryland for several months in the cold of winter. They slept on the chilly floors and ate the meager rations given them surrounded by many of their compatriots. In an effort not to dwell on their unsavory situation, Manfred and Edwin encouraged each other and kept their faith in God strong. The day the war ended, those left in the prisons were released. The story of the brothers' journey home began. With no means of transportation they set out to walk the distance from Maryland to Louisiana by foot. Their adventures in the subsequent weeks were both heart-warming and sobering as we catch glimpses of post war destruction throughout the South.

Sallie Dyer and her sister Hannah were frightened when Union soldiers attacked their small town in Louisiana. While their father and brothers stayed to help defend their home and village, the rest of the family was forced to flee to their grandparents' home in a village a short distance away. By this time Sallie had not heard from Manfred for nearly a year. She wondered if he would ever return to her.

After the army left, her father and brothers began repairs on their home. Her mother tried to keep the girls from dwelling on the frightening conflict by involving them in a variety of projects. Nevertheless, Sallie experienced troubling dreams and even nightmares that reflected how difficult it was for her to reconcile her faith in God with the horrors of war. How would Manfred feel when he discovered the troubling truth about her that she must tell him when he does return?

Martha Rogers has successfully created an opportunity for her readers to get a glimpse into the heart of the everyday man and woman of the South as they picked up the pieces of their lives and livelihood in the aftermath of war and devastation. While we draw closer to Manfred and Sallie, we witness their transformation from young idealists to mature adults ready to face the world together. If you enjoy historical fiction and character driven stories, then I'm sure you'll enjoy this series. I'm looking forward to book two when it comes out.

A complimentary review copy was provided to me by The Booketeria website which serves Charisma House Publishers (Realm Publishing). I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own.

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### **Wall-to-wall books - wendy says**

This book got mostly great reviews with a couple "OK" reviews. Honestly I just don't get the great reviews. This book was not terrible (hence the 3 stars) but it was nice and sweet, at best. For me it was slooooow. I think there were so many chances for this story to be taken to the next level and it just wasn't. The author played it safe every time. Even the exciting parts were not all that exciting.

The characters were OK, but again, to me they were boring. The people were blah, there was no oomph, no spunk, no guts. I also feel the character development could have been a little better. All the characters personalities seemed kind of generic.

This is book 1 in a series. While I don't think I will be reading the rest of the series... I do think I would try this author again, give her another chance.

Now - reminder - this book was not terrible! It was a "nice" read, quick and easy flowing. So if you are just

looking for that kind of book, not anything too earth shaking - then this is a good book for you. It was also a nice, very clean read!

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### **Paula-O says**

Series The Homeward Journey-book #1 "Love Stays True" by Martha Rogers

Can Sallie and Manfred overcome the distance that the war has put between them and find Love?

This question looms as we read the story...Sallie waiting day after day not knowing if Manfred is alive or dead.

Manfred along with his brother Edwin are in a prisoner of war camp being treated worse than animals, the only good spot in their dismal days with meager food is one soldier has a moment of kindness and returns their Bibles to those that had them. I believe that the faith of these men helped them to get through unspeakable conditions in war times.

The war finally ends after many long years and many lives gone, many disabled.

Manfred and Edwin start their long journey home by foot and it is amazing to read of the many kind and helpful folks they find along the way. It had been a trying time for all yet they would offer food and lodging thus restoring the mens faith in their fellow men. Both young men wanted to repay kindness and helped along the way. Hearts that could have been bitter filled with love....

On the homefront families had been torn apart, homes lost, fear at every corner as folks tried to live their lives and rebuild what once they had. Sallie stays true to her feelings for Manfred and though she hears little from him, believes he will return and she will wait for that day.

Martha told a wonderful story about life after the Civil war of folks waiting at home and of the soldiers returning.

I was given this book by The Booketeria to read and review...I have enjoyed reading it.

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### **Rayleigh says**

The Synopsis:

"In April 1865, the day following the surrender at Appomattox, Manfred McDaniel Whiteman and his brother, Edward, are released in an exchange of prisoners. They are given a few provisions, and they begin a long journey to their home in Bayou Sara, Louisiana.

At home Sallie Dyer is waiting word of her beloved Manfred. Though just a young girl when Manfred left, Sallie has grown into a caring young woman who is determined to wait for her love—despite her father's worries that she is wasting her life on someone who may never come home.

On their journey Manfred and his brother encounter storms and thieves and are even thrown in jail. Will he make the journey home before someone else claims Sallie's hand?"

My Review:

First off, love, love, love the cover! It is soooo beautiful, I just stare at it!!!!

Okay, this is a very fascinating story. From what I understood of the author's note, this book is based on her great-grandmother's and great-grandfather's story. I even think she used their real names as well as real things that happened to them. What makes it fiction however, is that she uses actual dialogue and she stated that she did exaggerate some of the incidents.

I have enjoyed reading it very much, although the story moves kind of slow. The characters are very well developed and understandable. Things that might keep the audience at an older level would be that one of the characters kills a man on accident and it is kind of descriptive, but other than that, nothing else that I can remember.

So, if you like historical books, this one is one for you!!

"I received this book from Realms publishing for the purpose of this review. All comments and opinions are my own."

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## **Laura says**

Title: LOVE STAYS TRUE

Author: Martha Rogers

Publisher: Realms

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Genre: Historical

Can Sallie and Manfred overcome the distance that the war has put between them and find love?

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On their journey Manfred and his brother encounter storms and thieves and are even thrown in jail. Will he make the journey home before someone else claims Sallie's hand?

LOVE STAYS TRUE is the first book in The Homeward Journey series by Ms. Rogers. As you can see from the blurb, the book is set during the Civil War. I wanted to like this book, but I just couldn't engage. It was slow... and at times Sallie seemed overly childish and melodramatic. She killed a soldier and then fretted over that during the whole book—it was war. Her boyfriend killed people... I understand, it's a Christian romance, murder is sin, therefore the characters must feel guilt for protecting themselves or their country.

It's probably just me and my mood at the time, but right now I'm not enjoying this book as much as I would've liked to. I have read (and loved) some of Ms. Rogers' books in the past and I'm sure I will again.

If you like Civil War romances then don't take my word for it. You might totally love this book! Check out

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LOVE STAYS TRUE for yourself. \$9.99 Kindle. \$14.99 paperback. 303 pages.

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### **Maureen Timerman says**

I have just finished this awesome book, and glad there is another to come! We meet real people in a real war, the Civil War. A war fought in our country, we meet it with real faces and trials.

Two young people who have been torn apart by the North and South...a fight that the principals of which neither agree, except for the right of States to control their own destiny, and not the Federal Government. Both are worried that the other has forgotten them. Manfred Whitman who is in a Northern prison when the book opens, and Sallie Dryer who is living with the reality of her actions during Northern occupation in Louisiana.

Manfred and his brother Edward were captured in the battle of Nashville, and have spent months without being able to notify their loved ones. When they are released, they can't wait to get home, but it is a long way from Point Lookout, Maryland to St Francisville, Louisiana. To begin with they are traveling on foot, can't even imagine. We journey with them to their unknown future. We meet some very interesting a wonderful people, also some very scary, but God really seems to have them in his hands.

Where Sallie faith seems to have wavered, so much happens to try and bring her back in the fold. Manfred on the other hand has held on to his God, and what happens to Edward and him on their way is so heart warming. Love it!! They happen into the right place at the right time.

Don't miss this one!!

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I received this book through First Wildcard Book Tours, and was not required to give a positive review.

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### **Akshara says**

This is the most beautiful love story I ever read. I'm now a huge Martha Roger's fan and just can't wait to pick up her other collections. In this book she portrays the daily life style and day to day events of a Girl sallie and a boy Manfred, set on a civil war back ground. And the fact that it is based on real life incidents makes it more exciting. It is by far the best character driven story I ever read. My favorite character in the book is Manfred. He is handsome, well built soldier, helping, kind and most importantly chivalric. Next best is Sallie who deserved to be wid him. I just can't wait to read the next book in this series....2 more months to go :)

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### **Chere Weaver says**

Story takes place towards end of the Civil War. A woman waits for her man to come home and he goes thru a lot to get home to his family. I enjoyed the read and it read pretty fast. It's a clean story with characters you might want to hug if you could. LOL

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I didn't get the chance to read it in one day but one could.

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## **Cherie Kasper says**

Though historic romance is not something I have read a lot of I did really enjoy reading this book. In fact, I would love to read the next one in this series. I did learn a lot about what happened after the Civil War in the South, which is when this story is set.

The goal for Sallie and Manfred was that they make their way back to each other, physically, emotionally and spiritually as quickly as possible. Manfred and his brother Edwin were in prison at Point Lookout, Maryland. When the war ended they started making their way back to Louisiana. The trek that they took was prayed over by Manfred each step of the way. Good things and bad things happened, but Manfred leaned on God to be able to make the right choices and get home. Sallie had her share of bad things happen at their home so her family was living with the grandparents, not far from Manfred and Edwin's family. Sallie is afraid Manfred will not forgive her for what she did.

Sallie's family were not all convinced that Manfred and Edwin would be coming home. They had not heard from them for quite a while. Because of this decisions were being made for Sallie that she did not agree with, but she had to honor her father.

There was lots of places I had a ball reading, some of it sad, some happy. There were times I could have shed a tear with Sallie, and times when I could laugh with Manfred and Edwin on their trip home. Manfred's faith was really great to see in a man, he had no doubt they would get home and he would get to ask Sallie to marry him. And I felt really close to Sallie with all her fear and indecision, and joy and life.

I would recommend this book to any who love historical romance. It was a fun read, flowing very well.

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## **Debbie says**

"Love Stays True" is a Christian historical romance set in the American South from April 4, 1865 to June 7, 1865. I was expecting a deeply historical and realistic novel because the story was loosely based on actual journals from the time. While the situations were realistic enough, there were a number of improbable or inaccurate historical "daily life" details.

I also didn't feel much suspense. Manfred wasn't worried about making it home due to his deep trust in God, he was patient during any delays, and any danger was quickly over. Sallie's troubles (corsets, parties, being courted) didn't seem weighty compared to what others were dealing with. Also it's hard to have a romance when the two characters haven't seen each other in over a year and don't interact for most of the story. Their personalities and beliefs were so different that I wasn't actually hoping they'd get together.

The main characters' reactions often seemed too simplistic. Manfred didn't have emotional trauma from fighting in the war and cared only that he was free. All of the main characters basically said, "Oh, well, we lost, but at least everyone's coming home and things will get back to normal!" They quickly dismissed any bitter or mixed feelings about losing the war or the assassination of President Lincoln.

While Sallie did suffer bad dreams after killing an enemy soldier in self-defense, her reaction seemed impossibly naive. She didn't even seem to realize that Manfred and the rest were killing people in the war. Her reaction never moved past "God won't forgive me because I killed. I don't want anything to do with God because he won't prevent bad things from happening to everyone, even my enemies" until the very end of the book.

And Sallie worries that she'll fall in love with a handsome, kind suitor even though she loves Manfred "with all her heart and soul." She tries to stop the suitor from visiting with her so she won't fall in love with him instead. She avoids anything that might make her question the basis and strength of her love rather than maturely considering the situation.

There were frequent mentions of God working things out and of Sallie blaming God for letting bad things happen. There were no sex scenes and no bad language. Overall, I guess I'd recommend this novel to those who like uncomplicated romances with historical backdrops.

I received this book as a review copy from the publisher.

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