



Ties That Bind

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It all started in college, in the turbulent sixties, when Randolph and Jenna became lovers. Randolph knew the moment he saw Jenna Haywood that he had to make her his. But the path to love is not an easy one. His wealthy Grandmother Julia disapproves of the match and unbeknownst to him, his brother's seemingly docile fiancee has a few plans of her own that she would like to set in motion. Betrayal and devastation lurks in unexpected places and tests the bond they believed was unbreakable. As they struggle with love and passion, secrets and lies the question is: Is love enough to help them see each other through the storms that await them ahead?

Ties That Bind Details

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Author : Brenda Jackson

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From Reader Review Ties That Bind for online ebook

Mya says

I expected to love this book because I read so many great reviews about it. I felt that the plot was predictable. I also thought that the historical updates and the way she tried to touch on all the major events happening in American history during the time the story is set felt very forced. Another issue that stopped me from really enjoying the book was the overstatement of the characters' feelings and thoughts. In my opinion, using the "show, don't tell" technique would have helped the story flow much more smoothly.

The sex scenes were too much. There was one that was 6 pages long. They were so much more intricately described than the rest of the book. I wish that creative imagery would have been used throughout the entire book. Aside from the sex scenes and sex-related issues, this story didn't really seem to be adult-level reading.

Also, none of the characters seemed to be very complex. This contributed to the predictability of the plot. Every character was very one-dimensional. Randolph, especially, was overly idealized. He was portrayed as the absolute perfect guy who could never be attracted to anyone else or tempted to do anything wrong. It made the story unbelievable. Jenna was the typical modest, lower class, good girl. Angela was the stereotypical jezebel with no complexity whatsoever. Just an incomprehensible obsession with Randolph that obviously had nothing to do with love. It would have been interesting if her story was more developed.

A lot of the side characters had the same personality - especially, Randolph's friends.

Jenna's friends were more interesting, but not really developed well. There would just be brief, intermittent updates about their lives. Their relationships with their friends did not vividly portray any depth or real love. Their friends seemed to exist only to further the love story.

As for the love story, it wasn't very original. It followed a commonly used formula for star-crossed lovers. The "love-at-first-sight" meeting and the inexplicable attraction Jenna and Randolph felt toward each other wasn't portrayed in a vivid or believable manner. It was just stated, repeatedly.

At the end, when there was a sort of mini-sequel about Randolph's son, I had no interest in reading about him. From the first few pages, I got the sense that he was just another flat character about to experience his own unbelievable love story. So, I did not even finish it.

Overall, even though it was easy to figure out where the story was going, Jenna was a likeable character. She wasn't very complex but it was easy to relate to her values, so, of course, I was rooting for her.

Tonia Smith says

Ties that Bind

Oh my goodness. Brenda Jackson has done her absolute best so far. I am truly speechless. If you are a true romantic then this is the book for you. Happy reading

Goodymob says

An all-time favorite and one that I remember 15+ years later

K. N. says

I have read this book twice! I love Brenda Jackson's work. I really got into the book. I even got upset with the characters and felt what they felt.

Bettye Griffin says

A heartwarming story, but a major error in the timeline rendered the whole thing implausible and considerably diminished my enjoyment. I believe this was the author's first attempt at writing expanded women's fiction. It was an ambitious project, spanning over 40 years, and it needed excellent editing, which sadly she did not receive. A good editor could have pointed out the problems for correction before publication. Unfortunately, editors don't do their jobs like they used to.

Two sets of grandparents seem to have pulled a Benjamin Button and gotten younger, to the point where they become a generation younger. When this book ended the hero was in his 60s and three of his grandparents were not only still alive (in itself pretty unlikely; many people no longer even have parents alive at 60), but showed no signs of being the slightest bit frail. Realistically, grandparents of a 60-year-old would be past 100. The one grandparent who did pass away was said to have been in her eighties at the time of her death, but the notation in the family bible showed that she was married in the early 1920s (which based on the time of her passing would have meant she was married shortly after her birth).

I'd be surprised if this one is ever reissued.

Pearl says

I truly enjoyed this novel. It took me a while to get into it because I was trying to read as I was moving, but once things got settled I was able to really get into the book. I really enjoyed the romance and the struggles Randolph and Jenna shared. There were times in the book when I didn't think it was going to be a happy ending, but it truly was. I was even more happy with the outcome of Angela. She really did have some issues that needed to be resolved. I am always puzzled how anyone can be that consumed with another individual that clearly doesn't want anything to do with you. And to go to the extremes that she did spoke volumes that she had some mental issues. I was glad that Trey believed his father at the end and they were able to rebuild the father/son relationship, because his father really suffered a life time because of Angela and her crucial ways. Yes it was a happy ending. Great novel and well written. There were a few typos but not to the point that you didn't want to read it.

Tamm says

This book was AMAZING!!! One of my most favorite books of all time!

Pamela says

This book was beyond words to explain. This should be the first book ever read by this author , I have read it 10 times , please dont skip this one.

Shawnette says

Couldn't Put It Down

I thoroughly enjoyed this novel. Brenda Jackson is definitely a master of the written word. Couldn't stop until I was finished. Enjoyed the romance between all the couples but especially Jenna and Randolph. It was a story that contained so many things, history, love, suspense, betrayal, corruption, happiness and it spanned almost 50 years of family and friends. It should be a mini-series.

~Gen hearts books.~ says

This was one of my favorites by Brenda Jackson. I loved it! There was a big timeline in this book (it spanned over decades-around forty years or so), but Brenda Jackson did a good job with the timeline. There were many couples in this book and there were different settings. Some of the settings were in Paris, Washington, Florida, South Carolina, Virginia, California, Vietnam... I hope I didn't miss any of the other settings. That beach in South Carolina, Glendale Shores was magical! Ties That Bind was unlike any other love story that I have ever read. There was never a dull moment in this book. It is impossible to be bored while reading this. I loved Jenna and Randolph. Their love was so strong and unbreakable, so many people tried to break them up. But, eventually they were able to be together and be truly happy. I also loved Noah and Leigh and Haywood & Trey. I disliked Angela Douglass and Julia Fuller. They seemed so spiteful and hateful. I loved Grandma Mattie and Grandpa Murphy too. I was so glad that the family finally found Ross Fuller's child, Adrianna. Thirty-four years was a long time to search for someone. I loved the happy ending. It was the perfect ending. I have only read three or four of Brenda Jackson's novels, but this one was one of my favorites. She knows how to write a good romance novel and the love scenes are always good. This one is a must read. If you have never read any of Brenda Jackson's books, this one may be a good one to start with.

Jodie says

This is my Favorite book I have read so far

Demiko Davis-cherry says

SUPERB

Linda Edwards-White says

Second Reading and I will read again

Moved to tears. The love shared in this saga by these characters was beautiful. The relationships were complex, happy, touching and real. The classism was embarrassing but real; and, the hatred, abuse of power, family and position was sickening. Brenda Jackson is a true artist. Each character was developed like a portrait. I could see each person as they matured throughout the story. The basic goodness and or deceitful traits of individuals reached the highest heights or sunk to the deepest depths. The hurt was palpable. BRAVO MS. JACKSON. Very Well Done.

Tyeshia says

This book will always and forever be: my first love. This is the book that took me from being a casual reader, to a self-proclaimed: BOOK JUNKIE!! I read this book years ago, but still remember every bit of it. If you haven't taken the time to read this book, please do so; you won't regret it!!!

Anne Brown says

This book was a step up from beach read/chick lit but I liked it anyway. Historically it gave me some insight into how blacks viewed the 60s although the characters in this book were mainly upper middle class blacks. Parts of it were fairly predictable but Jackson has a good way with words and character development.
