



Prize of My Heart

Lisa Norato

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Massachusetts, 1815.

Will His Love Endure Once He Learns Her Secret?

Three years ago, Captain Brogan Talvis's late wife abandoned their son, leaving no clue as to the boy's whereabouts. After searching relentlessly, Brogan discovers his son was adopted by a New England shipbuilder. And the man's daughter, Lorena Huntley, acts as loving guardian to the child.

Lorena, who hides a dark truth, finds herself falling for the handsome captain and ex-privateer who's come to secure ownership of one of her father's ships. She's unaware of Brogan's own secret when another's deceit has her sailing toward Europe against her will.

Haunted by thoughts of Lorena in peril, Brogan is compelled to choose between the boy he longs for and the woman who has captured his heart.

Prize of My Heart Details

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Author : Lisa Norato

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From Reader Review Prize of My Heart for online ebook

Kav says

Rich language evokes such incredible images that I swear I can still smell the tangy scent of salt in the air! Norato's descriptive writing will send you back to a time when heroes were larger than life just like ex-privateer Brogan Talvis. (Insert collective sigh here!) A tortured soul filled with the grim determination to right a wrong on his own terms. Is there anything more swoonworthy than a reluctant hero in navy dress? The kind that has a keen sense of justice and the gall to set out administering it as he sees fit? Only to be laid low by the likes of a baking-diva heroine with a backbone of steel? (Insert another collective sigh...or two or three.)

Lorena makes a captivating heroine. Feisty but gentle, stubborn but compassionate, a lady as comfortable in the role as kitchen maid as she is entertaining her father's elite guests. What a wonderful paradox! And one that Brogan finds all too hard to resist.

Of course their love story is fraught with peril -- both physical and emotional. And tickled with humour. Often poignant. And hope-fueled even in their darkest hour! Prize of My Heart is definitely a delight to read and not one that historical fans dare miss.

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Paula-O says

My first book by Lisa Norato and I loved it, what a wonderful story of the larger then life Brogan Talvis-Capt'n.

Brogan lived his life looking for his "Prize of My Heart". This man had many disappointments in such a young man. He found an inner strength that let him move forward. He loved the sea and his men had total respect for him, I liked reading the passages about the sea and the nautical terms used.

He has a secret as he starts his journey, you will want to keep turning the pages hoping to learn more and more....

The Capt'n has a wife - a son - a career taking off to make him a man of means- one to be reckoned with. Returning after a voyage he finds his home burned, wife and son now gone.

Lorena is the daughter of a shipbuilder and when Capt'n Brogan Talvis commissions a great ship to be built by her father she is destined to become acquainted with him not knowing he has an ulterior motive. but then..she and her father have secrets as well and you will be astounded to read the end of the story and learn as they learn so many truths come out.

Two lives become tangled and are changed forever by the time you finish this story. The Capt'n looks for one prize and by the end of story he has found two. you must read this wonderful authors story of intrigue-adventures and love lost and found....

I was given this book to read and review by Bethany House Publishers-a division of Baker Publishing Group. thank you ...

Carrie Pagels says

I loved this book! I received a softcover book from the publisher and it read fine. But I enjoy using my Kindle and so I purchased it to read the story.

The War of 1812 is over and a privateer, Captain Brogan Talvis, can search out his son, Ben, now five-years-old. Having acquired money through his exploits, he has arranged for a ship to be built in the shipyard of the family who adopted his son. His wife, shortly before her death in a fire, gave away their son to strangers.

Little Benjamin was renamed Andrew and called “Drew” and is being cared for by Nathaniel Huntley, a widower. Huntley’s daughter Lorena has essentially been raising the boy. She is a winsome character with a strong faith.

Brogan plans to take the child with him when he departs with his ship. But he falls in love with Lorena, whom he initially mistakes for a household servant, startling her on the beach one morning.

Mr. Huntley has sponsored and helped a gifted young architect, who has been friends with Lorena and who persists in seeking her hand in marriage despite her continual refusals. A British citizen, the suitor has accepted an excellent offer in England and intends to take Lorena with him.

Brogan has a choice to make when Huntley reports his daughter has been taken away on board a ship bound for England, apparently against her will. Should he take Ben and sail away or race after the beautiful young woman who has captured his heart?

Nice job with the spiritual arc of the hero, who has had a very rough life. The secondary characters are well-developed and add great flavor to the story.

The Huntleys have their own secrets, too. When these are revealed will Brogan be able to pick up the pieces of a heart and soul betrayed and deceived? Read and find out!

This was a refreshing and memorable story!

Virginia Campbell says

“Prize of my Heart”, by Lisa Norato, is an exciting, compelling historical romance. Set in early 1800’s Massachusetts, the story line is rich in detail and well-crafted, offering surprising twists and turns and poignant characterizations. Captain Brogan Talvis survived the War of 1812 as a brave, bold privateer while suffering a cruel deception from his own wife. For reasons unknown to him, Brogan’s wife, Abigail, gave up their young son and refused to reveal his whereabouts before she died. After searching relentlessly for his son, Brogan has found the boy, Ben, being raised by the wealthy shipbuilder, Nathaniel Huntley. Acting as young Ben’s caregiver is Huntley’s daughter, Lorena. Brogan’s plan to steal young Ben away is hampered by the boy’s attachment to Lorena, and by Brogan’s own deepening regard for his son’s loving guardian. Brogan

has no family other than Ben, and his own painful childhood and loneliness make him determined that his son will not suffer the same fate. As he works to win Lorena's trust, her innate goodness and loving heart begin to heal his scarred soul. However, Lorena and Brogan both have secrets which could destroy their burgeoning relationship. When Lorena is kidnapped by a former family friend, Brogan must decide whether to follow through with his original plan or risk all for "the prize of his heart". A wonderful romance read that is enthralling and inspiring and a real reader's treat.

Review Copy Gratis Bethany House

Melanie says

Prize of My Heart

Lisa Norato

Set in 1815 in Massachusetts, Lisa Norato takes us back to a historical time of shipbuilding, wayfaring and privateers. She has spent a vested amount of time in bringing the day to life in this novel with rich details, fantastic descriptions and emotions of the time past.

Captain Brogan Talvis has been searching for his young son for over 3 years. The son that his wife stole from him and 'hid' prior to her own death in a house fire. Bitter, and evil his wife never disclosed where young Benjamin went. Now Captain Brogan is in site of his 6 year old son and must earn his trust to carry out his own plan of stealing him back. Nathaniel Huntley, great shipbuilder came to be the guardian of his son along with his daughter Lorena. Will the Captain be able to slip young Drew (as he is named now) out of their clutches and return to the seas?

Deep in Captain Brogan he is dealing with his own loss of childhood, of being orphaned and unloved. He desires nothing more than to claim his son and make sure the same fate doesn't befall him. He doesn't plan to find love again, especially beyond his young son.. but Lorena has something in her that he desires.

Such a lovely novel! I love the seafaring history!. The characters are so well developed and I enjoyed seeing this tough Captain come to terms with his own life and his need for God. I enjoyed seeing the relationship between him and Lorena develop and see his plans change as he set aside selfishness for sacrifice.

Excellent book!!

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Alice says

I'll admit this is one of those books I was excited for mostly due to the cover. ;) It's just gorgeous... and there's a ship on it. <3

This story was SO sweet and captivating! I loved the characters and the constant use of nautical terms (and information). This is one of the first Regency books I've read set in America, and it was interesting to compare the American era to the British one. I appreciated the swift-paced plot line, and that all conflict was settled in a timely manner - not drawn out and tiring. ;)

I am really looking forward to reading Lisa's second book (which also has a gorgeous cover) and to re-reading Prize of My Heart sometime. :D

I highly recommend to all Christian historical fans.

Katie says

First posted on my blog, Legacy of a Writer.

Prize of My Heart was a very sweet and touching read about a father's determination to reunite with the son that was taken from him years before. And, rather unplanned, through the course of it all...he finds love as well! This is the type of book where, after you read the synopsis and think you know how things will go, the book takes an entirely unexpected turn to surprise you!

The opening scene was a rather amusing—and memorable—start to this adventure. Drew's heroic rescue of his sister from "The Giant" afforded several rather humorous moments in the pages to come as Brogan tries to win the good-will of both Lorena and Drew.

All that said, there wasn't as much tension and climax to Prize of My Heart as I had expected and hoped for. When problems arose, they were easily resolved shortly after. Even the one hinted at on the back of the book—Lorena's abduction—was easily rectified.

The book picked up in the last few chapters when Lorena's "big secret" is revealed to Brogan—that was a twist I hadn't seen coming! So, all in all, while this was (in my opinion) a rather calm book with a mild climax, it was a good, one-time read.

Casey says

The opening of "Prize of My Heart" had a pull for me as a reader. Characters were immediately introduced and I was instantly wondering how these three main characters would play together upon the page.

There is a sweet chemistry between Lorena and Brogan. And Drew is such a sweetheart, the little boy you can see delving into the fresh cut strawberries, but giving a smile to melt your heart. He made me smile all through the novel.

The concept of Brogan searching for his son and finding him in this little boy who thinks he already has a family is one that definitely kept me turning pages. It's a great concept for a historical novel.

I thought a bit more of the book than I liked was too "telling" and took me out of the story, left me feeling distanced from the characters. The dialogue tended to clump together and give more information than I felt was necessary at times. I read the novel quickly and caught the strong undertones and overall themes and layers, but it didn't really "invite me in" as strongly as I would have liked.

The ending is totally sweet. Loved the epilogue. And of course, I love a happy ending, and this one is perfect.

This review is my honest opinion. Thanks to the publishers for my copy to review.

Margaret Metz says

I love, love, love -- these great books about slightly dangerous captains, seafaring adventures, mysterious secrets, and fabulous romance. This one adds family ties and even some humor to the mix. Stir and bake with a handsome hero and feisty heroine and there is a recipe for a wonderful book!

Brogan Talvis is the perfect name for our somewhat rakish hero. He is determined to get his son, no matter what it takes - even if he must pretend to court Lorena in order to accomplish his goals. His career as a privateer has made him very wealthy but some see him as little more than a pirate, and his abandoned faith doesn't make him seem more trustworthy or appealing.

Lorena is fiercely loyal to her family and very trusting of those around her. She is a talented baker and quite content with her life - until Captain Talvis walks into her life. She is like a momma Grizzly protecting her cub one moment - and drawn to him almost against her will the next.

This is one of those books that truly reminded me of a well-balanced recipe. There was some action, some romance, some mystery, some humor . . . none of it took over the book. The end has surprising twists and turns you won't expect at all. I loved that the author included an epilogue to let us know what happened in their lives down the road.

Judy says

The Prize of My Heart by Lisa Norato

Captain Brogan Talvis has been searching for his son. Three years ago his late wife had taken their two year old boy and brought him away. Brogan has been searching for the boy he loves and has finally found a small lead...one that pans out. A rich shipbuilder has his son. So he has Nathaniel Huntley build him a ship, the very man who has Ben, and when it's finished he will take Ben and sail away. Although plans of man and plans of God are often very different. Brogan was told he was too bad for God to care for him, a base-born orphan, but he was told wrong and perhaps a beautiful woman and his son can show him God's love.

Lorena Huntley will only marry for love and her childhood friend, George Louder, just don't want understand that she won't marry for less. He has turned into a man who just wants money and power...he wants to possess Lorena but he don't love her or she him. Now the new Captain in town catches her eye and perhaps her heart. A giant of a man who has a gentle heart when it comes to young Drew.

Adventure on land and the high seas are in this story of two people with dark secrets. Secrets that will have them holding back on love until they are revealed, and once revealed...will they still be able to hang on to their love? When a perfect chance comes for Brogan to take his son, who they call Drew rather than Ben, can he take his new ship and head home...or will he rescue the woman who has a piece of his heart as well and give up his son?

An enjoyable book set in 1815. There are secrets being kept, kidnappings being planned, a young boy who's hero is David the King and he has learned to wield a sling shot just as well! We have our devious villain and more. I really enjoyed this book and the author kept you wondering and wanting to almost the very end.

Which made it a book that I couldn't put down until the last page was read.

**Book received through Bethany House for review.

<http://justjudysjumbles.blogspot.com/...>

Christian Fiction Addiction says

I don't know where Bethany House publishers is finding all of these fabulous debut authors, but I say keep them coming!

Lisa Norato joins the rank of the likes of Regina Jennings (author of the recently released book 60 Acres and a Bride) in providing an entertaining and worthy first offering with Prize of My Heart. The novel captured my interest from the first chapter, when I found myself chuckling at the re-enactment of David and Goliath, while also pondering the secrecy and lies and deceit that are prominent in the story. As a father myself, I can only imagine the heart-ache of a man like Brogan, searching for his lost son and trying to do everything possible to be reunited. As the layers of secrecy were unveiled chapter by chapter, I found the book more and more difficult to put down, until I was racing towards the satisfying, if somewhat expected (or at least hoped for!) conclusion. Strong themes of forgiveness and redemption permeate the book, and are sure to have you pondering your own faith and relationship with God.

I strongly recommend this book and grant it 4 out of 5 stars.

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Judy says

Prize of My Heart – A Thrilling Love Story!

Captain Brogan Talvis searches for his son that has been abandoned by his late wife. He feels hurt and betrayed that she has done this to him. His burning desire is to find his son and reunite with him. Finally after years of searching Captain Talvis has found a lead to where his son is living. He is living with Nathaniel Huntley, one of New England's most notable shipbuilders. It is a mystery to Captain Talvis as to what plan Huntley played in his son's disappearance. When Captain Talvis learns of the whereabouts of his son he devises a plan to be reunited with his son and steal away into the night with him.

Upon arriving at the Huntley estate Captain Talvis watches a girl sitting on a flat rock. He wonders why a kitchen maid would be out so early in the morn. She immediately intrigues him. What Captain Talvis doesn't know is the kitchen maid is none other than Huntley's daughter Lorena. Thus the story begins.

There is so much action and suspense in this book. The characters come alive and pull you into this thrilling adventure. There are many twists and turns throughout this great read. This story is a real page turner. I was on the edge of my seat many times worrying over what would happen next!

I loved this book. I loved how the author Lisa Norato brings God into the picture. In her telling of this story she makes sure we are aware that Faith in God, Trust in God, and family is the most important things in life.

This is the first book that I have read of this author. It won't be the last!

I wish to thank Bethany House Publishers for sending me this book to read and review. The opinions expressed are mine alone.

Kathleen (Kat) Smith says

Lorena Huntley has a huge dilemma, she has attracted the hearts of more than one man who is captured not only by her beauty but by her heart as well. However one of those men is fast becoming more than just a friend to her if she can keep her emotions in check.

One of those is her strong-willed protector. Being one of the only men in her life besides her father, he has grown to love her in a remarkable way. He is Andrew Benjamin Huntley, otherwise known as her adopted brother of just five, but with a heart of gold in keeping Lorena from any man who wishes her harm, even if he is truly a giant and a pirate.

This is where we meet Captain Brogan Talvis, who happens upon a chance meeting with Lorena mistaking her for a simply maid in the Huntley household, and when he gains the opportunity to flatter her not only with his charm and good looks, he falls flat on his face. The victim of a simple sling shot and a rock, thanks to Andrew who has finally slayed his giant and now runs away with Lorena to the safety of their house before he awakens.

When Captain Brogan is invited to the Huntley household for dinner and a possible business proposition, he has his eye on more than one prize. Andrew Benjamin is actually his long lost son that his late wife abandoned without telling him where to find him. Now that he has, he must find a way to gain the trust of not only Lorena but for Benjamin as well. But will he have what it takes to win her heart in order to steal back his son, or will his moral convictions of doing what's best for his son override his desire?

I received Prize of My Heart by Lisa Norato compliments of Christian Fiction Blog Alliance for my honest review. Here we find an interesting turn of events where we have a roguish sea captain bent on acquiring the one prize he hasn't been able to find, his son, until now. Thinking he would simply take the boy out for a boat ride and then sail off with him, he finds that trust is something he will have to earn in order to make his plan work. There seems to be no way to gain Benjamin's attention until he can win Lorena's trust first. This is truly a love story in the making as we see the rough outer exterior of Brogan blend with the warmth of love for his son. As tough as it is to want to race out and claim your son, he must realize it's not that simple and must be patient. Something that is going to be a challenge for him since he's been a privateer for most of his life. He simply has taken what he wants but that will not be the case now. This one rates a 5 out of 5 stars in my opinion and will capture the heart of all sea loving romance fans.

Meagan Myhren-bennett says

Prize of My Heart
By Lisa Norato

Three years ago Captain Brogan Talvis was betrayed by his late wife Abigail. Unhappy with her status as wife and mother Abigail abandoned their son Benjamin. Shortly thereafter she died in a house fire taking her secret to the grave with her.

But Brogan was not about to abandon his son to the care of strangers and thus embarked on an impossible search for his young son. By sheer chance he catches a glimpse of Ben's face in the window of Nathaniel Huntley's home. Having discovered the whereabouts of his son, Brogan commissions the building of a merchantman on which he plans to steal his son away on.

But Benjamin doesn't remember his long lost father whom he believes died years ago. Not only does Ben not recognize Brogan he is now called Drew by the Huntleys. Further complicating Brogan's mission is Lorena Huntley to whom Drew is very attached. Determined to win over his son's affections Brogan soon realizes he must gain the respect and trust of Lorena if he is to have any chance with Drew.

But as Brogan spends time with Lorena he is drawn to her for herself. But just as his happiness and greatest desire seems within his grasp Lorena is spirited away by a former employee of her father's. With Lorena being forced to England against her will, Brogan is left with a choice. Does he give up his plan to spirit his son away and save Lorena or does he steal another child Nathaniel Huntley? Brogan decides that he has no choice but to follow his heart.

I found Prize of My Heart to be a delightful read, perfect for a lazy week-end or a summer afternoon.

I received a copy of this book from Bethany House for the purpose of this review, a favorable review was not required.

Melanie says

<http://christianbookshelfreviews.blog...>

While Prize of My Heart isn't the best historical romance novel I've read, it was fairly good! It starts out with a scene I found hilarious (I seriously laughed out loud!). Drew (Captain Brogan Travis's lost son) shoots Brogan with a slingshot and knocks him unconscious - he thinks he is protecting Lorena from "The Giant" (i.e David and Goliath).

Even though the story was very good, there were times it seemed slow to me and it wasn't until I was almost finished that I really found myself interested in the story.

There was a major twist I didn't see coming (really, it was totally unexpected) and I loved that! It brought a little drama/suspense to Prize of My Heart.

The characters were great and I loved how there was an epilogue! It was great getting to read what transpired years later! :)

All in all, I did really enjoy Prize of My Heart and, aside from being a bit slow, thought it was a great read! I recommend it if you enjoy a good historical romance! :D

*I received a complimentary copy of this book for my review. I was not required to give a positive review,

only my honest opinion - which I've done. All thoughts and opinions expressed are my own.*
