



A Heartbeat Away

S. Dionne Moore

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Her mother's mysterious goodbye gift is filled with quilt blocks that bring comfort to Beth during the hard days and lonely nights, but as she sews each block, she realizes there is a hidden message of faith within the pattern that encourages and sustains her. Reunited with Joe, Beth learns his secret and puts the quilt's message to its greatest test--but can betrayal be forgiven?

A Heartbeat Away Details

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Author : S. Dionne Moore

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From Reader Review A Heartbeat Away for online ebook

Ruth Hill says

It would seem that the Civil War is one of those moments in our history that has engendered a number of films, documentaries, and books--maybe more than any other event in our history. And Ms. Moore has now added a very touching look at this moment in our history, and it is certainly well worth the read. Her powers of description and viewing the Civil War in a little different light bring the sights and sounds of this horrendous battle right into our present-day consciousness.

I had never considered the fact that normal, everyday people were caught in the cross-fire of the Civil War. It was chilling to consider that one may look out of their window and see an actual battle being played out. People never knew if a Reb or a Yankee would drop by their house and demand money, food, or just take over their home. Makeshift hospitals were set up for the wounded and the dying in the basements and cellars of people's homes. I had no idea how dangerous it was.

The story was good, for sure, and the idea of the heroine being disabled made things quite intriguing. I did find myself somewhat bored by the romance, and I would have preferred more historical details. The sovereignty of God does come through, and the Christian message is there, but it is not overbearing. I did find myself sometimes bored, but at least I did not have to endure profanity nor sex scenes. If you are looking for a quick read with a simple love story and some historical elements, this just may be what you are looking for.

I was sent a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review. I was not financially compensated, and all opinions are 100 percent mine.

Tricia Maloney says

I got lost somewhere in the middle of this book and wasn't really very interested in finding my way back. The concept seemed like a good one at the beginning, but the more I read, the more frustrated I got with the book and the author. Very disappointed.

Laura says

Title: A HEARTBEAT AWAY

Author: S. Dionne Moore

Publisher: Abingdon Press

May 2013

ISBN: 978-1-4267-5270

Genre: Historical romance

A quilt and a hidden message bring together enemies during the Civil War.

When a band of runaway slaves brings Union-loyal Beth Bumgartner a wounded Confederate soldier named Joe, it is the catalyst that pushes her to defy her pacifist parents and become a nurse during the Battle of Antietam

Her mother's mysterious goodbye gift is filled with quilt blocks that bring comfort to Beth during the hard days and lonely nights, but as she sews each block, she realizes there is a hidden message of faith within the pattern that encourages and sustains her.

Reunited with Joe, Beth learns his secret and puts the quilt's message to its greatest test—but can betrayal be forgiven?

A HEARTBEAT AWAY is book #7 in Abingdon Press' Quilts of Love series. The books are each stand-alone. Beth is not a nurse, but spurred by Clara Barton she goes to join her grandma and starts caring for wounded soldiers in the family's spring house.

Historical details are rich. Ms. Moore is a great writer, able to bring scenes to life. Some details were a bit too gory and gross (splattering blood, lice infected mattresses, etc.) but they were realistic for the time period and the events. I didn't realize that Pennsylvania was a battle ground for the Civil War (other than Gettysburg) so it was interesting reading about places I thought of being more Revolutionary War as being also Civil War.

Fans of historical romance, Civil War romance, and S. Dionne Moore will definitely want to read A HEARTBEAT AWAY. Recommended. \$12.99. 240 pages.

Kristin says

This is the first book I've read by this author.

My mother is a quilter and I was intrigued by the idea of quilting and storytelling.

The Civil War has always been an interest in mine—it was a very sad time in our history where brother fought against brother. I can't imagine how heartbreakingly this was for the families involved.

The fascinating thing to me is that there are documented stories of “enemies” that fought in the Civil War becoming close friends. How could two people that fought one another ever become friends? This book really focused on the power of forgiveness and shows how our lives can change when we soften our hearts towards our fellow man. I would be interested in reading more by this author!

Beth has gone against her parent's wishes in learning to become a nurse. When Beth arrives at her grandmother's she is completely loyal to the Union and finds it hard to serve the injured Confederates. Her grandmother however sees each injured man as a person with a soul and feelings and refuses to turn away anyone—regardless of which side they fight for.

Joe is one of the injured Confederates that Beth is caring for and she is intrigued by his gentle nature. He doesn't seem to be the monster she assumed a Confederate would be. As it turns out, Joe tried to help a

family of slaves and in doing so was shot—his brother killed.

Joe is struggling to recover emotionally and physically while Beth is learning to see past labels and the exterior and see the man that is inside. A promise of love develops between them but there are obstacles to overcome.

A quilt sent to Beth by her mother holds a secret message in the pattern. The design hides a message of faith and hope that Beth begins to discover as she pieces together the blocks.

This story was very touching and I was rooting for Beth and Joe from the start. I enjoyed this book very much and it was very well written. I did find one small editorial mistake in mid book in a misspelled word but was easily overlooked—especially because the storyline was so wonderful!

[View all my reviews](#)

I received this book free from the publisher through a fantastic program called Litfuse Publicity. I was not required to write a positive review. The thoughts and opinions I have expressed are my own. To view other reviews and learn more about the blog tour for *A Heartbeat Away* please visit the Litfuse group by clicking [here](#)

Kalyn says

When Joe is brought to Beth's attention, she nurses him back to health under her grandma's watchful eye. Joe seems to get better, then the fever sets in, and he is delirious most of the time. For a good 50% of the book, this is the plot that dragged on and repeated itself immensely.

Read the rest of the review here: [http://wordswithbooks.com/2013/06/11/...](http://wordswithbooks.com/2013/06/11/)

Lisa Johnson says

Title: *A Heartbeat Away* (Quilts of Love Series)

Author: S. Dionne Moore

Pages: 240

Year: 2013

Publisher: Abingdon Press

Being a Civil War enthusiast for me means learning about the time, reading stories in that time frame, both fiction as well as nonfiction. There are many theories about different parts of that era. The amount of life lost is something that still staggers my heart and mind. When I read about this timeframe, I see past the battles; I see quilts made that held messages of a variety I had never known.

Here is a fictional story about a crippled young woman from the North who believes she is to be a nurse, but when faced with the atrocities she can't bring herself to think of facing them every day. Beth goes to live with her grandmother, Greta, to learn how to help the hurting, but Greta wants her to see a bigger picture. Joe, along with his brother, Ben, has joined the war after facing the death of family members. One night,

after Joe has been shot, Ben is leading him to a place to be cared for when suddenly Ben is killed. The next time Joe wakes up, he sees Beth's face and there begins the journey that ends up changing both of their lives forever.

I can tell you there is so much more to the wonderful story woven together to place before the reader. Beth needs hope for her future after being hurt in the past. Joe needs hope when he has more questions than answers and his love for a northern woman is a mystery. The other characters need hope for everyday life and freedom. *A Heartbeat Away* is a faith-filled romance, action and adventure tale. In the story, you will see that hope is born and burned into the heart through faith in God as well as through adversity. Enjoy this fictional work as soon as you can, then share the message of hope with someone else.

My rating is 4 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://seekingwithallyourheart.blogspot.com> . Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

Michelle says

More like 3.5 stars. This was a sweet love story set during the Civil War. I tend to be a sucker for war love stories. This one had a bit more gore than a like to read about, though. I have a weak stomach. All the stuff about stench and lice was realistic I'm sure, but...ew. But I did like the way the characters interacted. I appreciated how loyal people were when they had seen sacrifice for people on the either side of the war. Poor Joe was sick for what seemed like forever. I thought it was sweet how he helped Beth heal by believing in her. She had rejection issues, and because of an injury when she was younger, the man she was in love with as a youth no longer wanted her. Joe saw beauty in her that made his former southern belle seem selfish and petty. It had the typical "wounded soldier from the other side of the war falls in love with the woman caring for him while he's feverish and at death's door" theme, so there were no surprises. One of them had to be angry with God and the other encouraged them to let go of the hurt. I didn't see how the quilt played a part in her emotional healing. I must have missed the connection. The story was pretty good, just not amazing.

Mary says

A moving story of an injured young girl in the midst of civil wartime. Her pain and rejection has colored her whole being. But one soldier, along with a loving Grandmother, point her in the right direction towards releasing pain and drawing close to God.

Jalynn Patterson says

About the Book:

When a band of runaway slaves brings Union-loyal Beth Bumgartner a wounded Confederate soldier named Joe, it is the catalyst that pushes her to defy her pacifist parents and become a nurse during the Battle of Antietam. Her mother's mysterious goodbye gift is filled with quilt blocks that bring comfort to Beth during the hard days and lonely nights, but as she sews each block, she realizes there is a hidden message of faith

within the pattern that encourages and sustains her. Reunited with Joe, Beth learns his secret and puts the quilt's message to its greatest test but can betrayal be forgiven?

About the Author:

S. Dionne Moore resides in South Central PA with her family. She is a weekly contributor to The Borrowed Book (<http://www.theborrowedbook.blogspot.com>) where she posts tips on the writing life, recipes, and teaches on various writing-related subjects. In addition to writing the LaTisha Barnhart Mysteries trilogy, beginning with *Murder on the Ol 'Bunions* and followed by *Polly Dent Loses Grip*, a 2010 Carol Award Finalist, and *Your Goose is Cooked*, all now available as ebooks.

Sandra pens historical romances that bring strong focus to locales within her region of Pennsylvania. *Promise of Tomorrow* and now *Promise of Time* are both Carol Award Finalists for 2011 and 2012, respectively. Both books are two of the three found in *Promise Brides*. <http://www.sdionnemoore.com>. In 2012 look for more romances featured in the Cattle Baron days of Wyoming in *A Shepherd's Song*, *The Cattle Baron's Daughter*, and *Valley of the Heart*.

My Review:

This novel is set during the Civil War. The heroine in this novel is Beth Bumgartner and her dream for as long as she could remember was to be a nurse and to work alongside Clara Barton during wartime. She goes to stay with her grandmother to receive her training. And before long she is faced with a decision that she is basically forced to make. Pretty soon they are both caring for the Confederate side which will not sit well with their family or anyone else for that matter.

Joe is brought to Grandmother Gerta's home by a group of runaway slaves to be cared for because he was wounded. The runaway slaves said that Joe and his brother Ben saved their lives and it was the least that they could do. Soon Beth realizes that even though Joe is on the wrong side of the war she doesn't want him to die. This is a heartwarming story that causes you to see compassion and generosity in a whole new light.

Disclosure This book was sent to me free of charge for my honest review from Litfuse.

Kathleen (Kat) Smith says

In the heat of the Civil War, Beth Bumgartner is called into action in a way she never dreamed. Her grandmother has asked her to join her as a nurse helping the wounded even though their very lives may be at risk as well as grandmother's home. Now that the Rebel soldiers have made their way into Harper's Ferry, many in the town have taken what little personal affects they possess and have attempted to make their way to safe places to hide until the war is over and they hope they still have a home standing. Only while her brother Jedediah has left to fight in the war against the North, she has been called to help care for the soldiers who have invaded their town.

It is through her grandmother's persistence that Beth finds the strength and will to at least offer what comfort she can provide, through reading Scriptures, writing last letters or simply praying for them before most slip into their everlasting sleep. She wonders just what effects her efforts will have on men that are doomed to die anyway, and despite defying her parents and at least trying to help, she knows she must stay. She can't leave her grandmother Greta alone.

When a Confederate soldier is brought to the home, she is asked to care for him despite that the odds are against this man. He has saved the lives of three slaves and it is through their pleads that Beth and her grandmother offer to help. Through faithful prayers and continued care, Joe fights his way back to the land of the living and offers a small peak into the war that many don't see. He fights night terrors where he faces losing his brother Ben to a mysterious man who seems bent on killing Ben and leaving Joe in the care of the slaves. He feels there is more to the puzzle that what bits and pieces his mind offers if he can only find those slaves that he helped. They might just provide him the answers he so desperately seeks.

Along the way Beth pieces together a quilt that her mother had sent along as a reminder and a message from home. What that message is will be revealed as Beth pieces it together and finds hope in not only coming to terms with her own disability but being able to see this war through the eyes of God and let the hate she holds inside finally heal. In the end that is the message that truly matters and will resound with readers of *A Heartbeat Away* by S. Dionne Moore, one of the many novels in the Quilts of Love Series.

I received *A Heartbeat Away* by S. Dionne Moore compliments of Abingdon Press and Christian Fiction Blog Alliance Book Tours for my honest review and received no monetary compensation for a favorable one. This novel is part of the Quilts of Love Series written by a variety of authors and this is the first for S. Dionne Moore. This gives the readers an inside look at what life in the South really looked like in the midst of the Battle of Antietam and just how brutal it was from both sides of the war. It is hard to imagine men in our own country turning against each other but that is just one of the effects of a Civil War. The message in this novel is one about hope and finding it in one of the darkest times in our life. It's always there one just has to keep pursuing it in order to find it. I rate this one a 4 out of 5 stars and you can find this at your local retailer. Even though they are part of a series, since each novel deals with something different you can pick up any of them as they are stand alones in a greater series.

Jennifer Defoy says

I like historical romance, but I've never actually had the chance to read one from the Civil War. So I was interested to see how this one would play out. I also wanted to see how a quilt could be the focus of a war story. I was pretty happy with it.

Beth is a pretty good character. Like all people she has her strengths and her weaknesses. She wants to be a strong woman - physically and mentally, but in the face of so much death from the war she has to admit her weaknesses. I like when characters have both prominent strengths and weaknesses. It's refreshing to read about someone that I can connect with as being a "real" person. I liked Joe and Gerta also. They were good characters. But for some reason my favorite character in the book was Jim. Through the whole book I had a feeling that he was a lot smarter than he let on. He just seemed like such a lovable character though. I just really connected with him.

Outside of being a romance the story looks at war from the perspective of a soldier and of a civilian. It's kind of interesting to see how even though they're on different sides they still have some of the same reactions to

the chaos and destruction going on around them. Beth and Joe have to get through their own personal demons before they can begin to realize what's going on in their hearts. I liked watching the progression and changes they went through as they spend more time together.

The story was very fast-paced. With all the wounded soldiers and the war itself there was rarely a "down" point in the story. It was pretty much go, go, go from the first word. Even when the chaos would calm down a little there was still everything going on with Joe and Beth and Gerta. Because there was so much going on in the story I read it so quickly. It was almost like I was reading fast because the story was so fast. But even with all the chaos it was still a very enjoyable story. I liked the quilt image on the cover and as Beth worked on the quilt I liked having a visual approximation of what it was going to look like.

I was provided a copy of this book in exchange for a review. This review is my truthful honest opinion.

Rita says

A Heartbeat Away was set during the Civil War. The author did such a great job with her descriptions, that it made you feel as though you had actually been there yourself. There was a little romance in the story, but it seemed to take a back seat to the war efforts until the end of the book. Even though, for a Christian book, there wasn't much depth, I did still enjoy it.

Rachel says

This was very difficult to follow and even tougher to believe. I finished it, but only because I'm bed-ridden and desperate for reading materials. It took me more than a year after starting it to become desperate enough to go back and finish it.

Kathleen E. says

Thursday, May 30, 2013

A Heartbeat Away by S. Dionne Moore, ©2013 ~ Quilts of Love Series ~ Every Quilt Has a Story

About *A Heartbeat Away*:

When a band of runaway slaves brings Union-loyal Beth Bumgartner a wounded Confederate soldier named Joe, it is the catalyst that pushes her to defy her pacifist parents and become a nurse during the Battle of Antietam.

Her mother's mysterious goodbye gift is filled with quilt blocks that bring comfort to Beth during the hard days and lonely nights, but as she sews each block, she realizes there is a hidden message of faith within the pattern that encourages and sustains her. Reunited with Joe, Beth learns his secret and puts the quilt's message to its greatest test---but can betrayal be forgiven?

Meet Dionne:

Dionne Moore is a historical romance author who resides in South Central Pennsylvania with her family, surrounded by the beautiful Cumberland Valley and lots of fun, historically rich locations. She is a weekly

contributor to "The Borrowed Book" a blog for book-lovers and "Cozy Mystery Magazine" for all things cozy mystery. Learn more about Dionne at sdionnemoore.com

New Author to Me:

Dionne Moore is a new author to me and I was drawn by the Quilts of Love Series: Every Quilt Has a Story written by multiple authors.

Longing to help in the war effort, Elizabeth Bumgartner leaves her parents and all she has known to travel to her paternal Grandmama Gerta's. Drawn to nursing, Beth learns alongside as her grandmother tends to the wounded. She is hoping to join the Army of the Potomac and Clara Barton.

Gerta feeds and tends to both sides of the war effort. Confederate and Union soldiers are welcome, supplying them with her homemade sourdough bread, biscuits, meat pies, and remedies. What a spy she would make! Keeping one aided in the springhouse and the other continuing down the road.

Joseph Madison has been brought to Gerta as someone who would be kind to a Rebel during the healing of his wound received while giving directions North to hidden slaves. His brother was shot, intentionally, for another reason Joe later finds. While he is recuperating, his heart is being changed and so is Beth's as she shares tending of him. Do outward appearances decide what is in the heart?

Song of Solomon 4:7 You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you.

Does hidden pain exempt one from a future free to dream? Will Beth allow healing to occur in her own perception of who she is? Does pride enter in? Her mother has sent quilt squares with her to fashion into a quilt with bright colors amid the dark. Hope enduring, stitched together. Time in the seeing of it.

The historical period covered is September 14-18, 1862, in the depth of the Civil War between the North and the South led by Major General George McClellan, commander of the Army of the Potomac, and Confederate General Robert E. Lee. The two armies fought at the Battle of South Mountain, and on September 17th at the Battle of Antietam. McClellan halted Lee's invasion into the North, but did not pursue the Confederates.

Dionne's characters come alive with the sights and sounds of the turmoil without and within. Which would be the greater struggle; to be amid the scrimmage or to be hidden away, unable to be "useful" or deemed so in one's own mind?

Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Beth sees herself with her injury, sustained while attempting rescue of another, as unsuitable to be loved and cherished. I see her with endurance and the will to do right, bringing peace and hope among the chaos of these dark days. Joe struggles to regain his strength and fight the fever raging within his body. He projects encouragement and forthrightness in who he is. They are not alone and are uplifted by those who care about them, without whom it is unlikely they would have survived.

Thank you to Litfuse Publicity Group for inviting me to be part of the blog tour for S. Dionne Moore's A Heartbeat Away and for sending me a copy of the book. No other compensation was received.

Maureen Timerman says

A journey into the reality that came with the Civil War. We experience it with our own eyes and ears with the help of this Ms Moore.

Death and tragic loss of human life is everywhere. We see all of this though the eyes of Beth Bumgartner and her Grandmother Gerta. They have been called upon to nurse the wounded Confederate soldiers. We feel the shells shaking the house and breaking the windows. We smell the blood and unwashed bodies, and we see the pile of legs and arms the surgeon has cut off, along with the flies. Not a glamorous site here.

We also see the compassion of people who sympathies are not with the South, including some emancipated slaves. Where hate could have lived, there is a kindness to man and the love of the Lord.

We see God work in these poor people. There is a bit of romance in this story, and we loose people we have come to love.

This is a very different War story, and includes the working of a beautiful quilt throughout the shattering affects of battle. The book is a very fast past read, and will leave you wanting more, and there is a preview of the next book in this series included.

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