



Bring on the Blessings

Beverly Jenkins

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On Bernadine Brown's fifty-second birthday she received an unexpected gift—she caught her husband, Leo, cheating with his secretary. She was hurt—angry, too—but she didn't cry woe is me. Nope, she hired herself a top-notch lawyer and ended up with a cool \$275 million. Having been raised in the church, she knew that when much is given much is expected, so she asked God to send her a purpose.

The purpose turned out to be a town: Henry Adams, Kansas, one of the last surviving townships founded by freed slaves after the Civil War. The failing town had put itself up for sale on the Internet, so Bernadine bought it.

Trent July is the mayor, and watching the town of his birth slide into debt and foreclosure is about the hardest thing he's ever done. When the buyer comes to town, he's impressed by her vision, strength, and the hope she wants to offer not only to the town and its few remaining residents, but to a handful of kids in desperate need of a second chance.

Not everyone in town wants to get on board though; they don't want change. But Bernadine and Trent, along with his first love, Lily Fontaine, are determined to preserve the town's legacy while ushering in a new era with ties to its unique past and its promising future.

Bring on the Blessings Details

Date : Published (first published January 27th 2009)

ISBN :

Author : Beverly Jenkins

Format : Kindle Edition 383 pages

Fiction, Romance, Christian Fiction, Contemporary, Christian, Cultural, African American,
Genre : Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Adult Fiction, Fostering, Foster Children, African American
Romance

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From Reader Review Bring on the Blessings for online ebook

Lesley says

Beverly Jenkins, best known for steamy African American historical romances, goes contemporary with this sweet, life-affirming story. Wealthy black divorcee Bernadine Brown hears 2 news story that awaken her philanthropic impulses: a historic African American town in Kansas is about to go bankrupt, and a clutch of hard luck foster children are in desperate need of homes. Deciding to rescue 2 birds with one trust fund, Bernadine buys the town, rebuilds it, and then imports 5 hand-picked foster kids in need of strong loving families.

This is a terrific premise, with great characters, but I wish the conflicts had more bite. Nearly every crisis gets neatly solved with Bernadine's money, and the children are all too good to be true: the traumatized mute turns out to be a musical prodigy, the overweight video gamer reads W.E.B. Dubois under the covers, the hard ass ghetto sistah is a gifted and sensitive artist. None do any serious acting out or appear to have any adjustment problems beyond the Back to School Special level.

Still, I had to love the fantasy of an idyllic self supporting all Black community where elders are respected, everyone treasures their history, and the village raises every child. And a couple of second chance romances between characters all over 40 didn't hurt.

Nazarene Static says

I loved this book!

As I have stated, I have a Beverly Jenkins addiction that I do not want to overcome. However, this book wasn't just great because of said addiction. The story formula is totally different than her historical romances.

Bring on the Blessings is about Bernadine Brown, who pretty much becomes stinking rich after she divorces her lying cheating husband of 30 years. That is what people mean when they say channel your anger. After seeing the world, she decides she wants to do good with her money so she invests in buying a town, as well as adopting 5 children and finding them foster families. All this comes together in the small town of Henry Adams (I want to live there so bad).

Usually, authors get complacent. They write the same story over and over and the only thing that really changes are the names, and not by much either. Although, her historical romances are not all the same (**Which is partly why I adore this woman**), they all follow a similar story formula. This book broke the mold! There was some romance but the main focus was the rebuilding of the town. In books where there are many characters, the story building and plot often get muddled but this book is very detail oriented. No character is falling through the cracks. You literally learn about **EVERY ONE INVOLVED!**

I just feel like even if you have never read anything by her before, this is a book everyone should read! I adore the fact that she puts feminist ideals in her stories without being a preacher and making you gag. She also mentions characters from her historical romances in her character building which makes for a well rounded plot and character. I just ugh

Arlena says

Author: Beverly Jenkins

Published by: William Morrow Paperbacks

Age Recommended: Adult

Reviewed By: Arlena Dean

Series # 1

Rating: 5

Review:

"Bring on the Blessings" by Beverly Jenkins was very uplifting and engaging that turned out to be a quick, easy read. You will be presented with a variety of emotions from laughing and even tearing up somewhat as I read though this novel. I found "Bring on the Blessings" a moving novel about Bernadine Brown, who was a divorcee that became a multi-millionaire due to her cheating husband. With Bernadine having all of this money she wanted a more meaning and purpose in her life, so she decided to buy a historical small "Black" town in Kansas that was facing bankruptcy. Will Bernadine be excepted in this town? Bernadine also wanted to help foster children. How will Bernadine go about this? How will this town of 'Henry Adams' take to Ms. Bernadine ideas? She is 'Black' and they (town people) thought the new owner was 'White.' Some of the characters were really something ..some likable and then their were a few that I will just say I will let you decide from Bernadine Brown, Lily and Trent, Malachi and even Riley to Cletus(Pig) to name a few. Now, you must pick up this well written read to see how this author will present this all it to the reader. You will find out from the read if this women will be able to save the town and help the children brings wonderful blessing to her in her new town. Be ready for some funny scenes with Amari, Malachi, Riley and Cletis.

"Bring on the Blessing" was a wonderful first series novel and if you are in for a good read I would recommend this read to you.

Alicia says

Well, I do have to admit that at first I had a hard time putting this book down. It's because I am a social worker and I was really excited to see how the author managed the characters she'd created.

Then I had a hard time putting it down because I just couldn't believe that the book wasn't getting good anywhere. The elements were all there: Millionaire divorcee buys a historical african-american community to revamp it and use it as a treatment site for especially troubled foster kids.

What's not to love?

I'll tell you what became very apparent: I know too much about reality and the author.... didn't.

I know it's very difficult to create believable, likable characters with the realistic issues that come from the kind of character histories she created. Still, she fell unbelievably short of the mark. Her writing skills were not up to the task.

She had this idea that just loving and accepting these poor kids was all it would take to transform them into well-adjusted human beings. Yes, to a point, but there's way more distrust, manipulation, and fighting that goes into it. I've worked with these kinds of kids and I don't think she's ever met one in her life.

That's not the only reason I had a really hard time swallowing the story she gave me and how it played out. Despite having some great elements and starting with some great characters in the town, there never really seemed to be a conflict. Any conflict was quickly resolved by money and the characters all continued on their merry ways without a hiccup. Everyone in town was miraculously unified in all ideas about child-rearing and managing conflict except for the two very obvious bad guys who were trying to scam them all without anything nearing success (because if they'd been even close to successful in scamming them, it would have felt less trite). In all, the structure of the story felt more like a merry-go-round rather than the dramatic build of conflict before the resolution at the end that I enjoy.

Yeah. The overall impression I got was that the author--whose writing norm seems to be the equivalent of cotton candy--tried to take on a meatier topic using her cotton candy writing skills. Better luck next time, Beverly, but maybe you shouldn't publish the books until you get it right.

Angelia says

Great read! Can't wait to read the next one

Nedra Haymon says

Good. Nice read. Fun. Makes you curious what will happen to the all the different families in the book.

Erika Williams says

It's hard to say you didn't like a book with such an inspiring premise, but I just could not get into this book. I picked it up on free Friday for my Nook, hoping that it would give me the chance to read something I might otherwise pass by yet ultimately find enjoyable. Unfortunately, this wasn't one of those books.

The story itself is inspiring. A woman walks in on her husband with the secretary, divorces him, gets millions, and decides to buy a historical town in which to raise troubled foster kids. Very touching, and I would love to read an article about it actually happening.

The problems with this book fall with the execution. There are far too many characters for us to ever get really attached to any of them. Characters are introduced just to never come back again, and others who have no real impact on the larger story just keep coming back like a wart. Unfortunately, the character in question

has the personality of one as well.

Another problem, and this may just be an issue with the digital version, is that the perspective will frequently change without a clear break. At one point you'll be in the mind of one of the adults, and then without warning, you'll be thrust into the mind of one of the kids, leaving you wondering what exactly is going on. Especially when the other character was not involved in the previous scene. They just change.

The bigger problem, that several other reviews have mentioned on here, is the lack of conflict. There is absolutely none. At all. Any time a problem seems to be arising, Bernadine throws money at it and it magically goes away. With two exceptions. One conflict is resolved by an incident with a pig, whose owner is given far too much time for no other reason than to jack up the word count, and the other is solved by the judge suffering from an accident that conveniently takes him away from the courtroom. It would be nice if the world were that magical, but, sadly, it makes for boring reading.

Stacey says

Maybe 2.5 stars? This was the March selection for my bookclub. Bernadine is a 52 year old woman who divorces her husband after catching him cheating. The divorces leaves her very wealthy. She buys a struggling historical African American town in Kansas and decides to use the town to rescue some difficult foster kids.

Premise seemed interesting enough but the book was way too light for the subject matter it was trying to address. The few problems that arose were too easily solved with Bernadine's money. I hated the message that money can buy happiness. The character development was severely lacking and all characters felt flat and one-dimensional. The foster kids in particular had a lot of undeveloped potential. There were some tangential story lines that seemed very silly and distracted from the main story - namely an ex-mayor with a pet pig.

This book is a part of a series and unfortunately the bookclub chose book 2 as April's book so I will have to read more about Bernadine and the foster kids. I am hopeful that the author will do a better job developing the characters in the next book.

Nandi Crawford says

I really liked this character why? because she didn't go off on her husband, just got the goods on him, calmly and took him to court and got what she was entitled to. After travelling, she decided to settle down and buy a town in disrepair as well as bring children who have been in foster care and bring them into the town after reading about a similar situation in Illinois. Of course, the folks are expecting a white woman to come, but after seeing a sister, they warm up to her a bit, and then just fall for her after hearing of the things she wants to do with the historic all black town. Of course, she has some opposition from the former mayor and his partner, but things work out for the better. See what I like about Bernadine is that yes, she went through a terrible thing, and yes, she suffered, but she never forgot where she came from, and she didn't tear down or destroy, because of that, I feel God helped her in her plan to revitalize Henry Adams, Kansas. I highly recommend reading the book, and for those of you who have much, always remember that much is required of you as the book reiterates.

Christy Krouse says

Loved it!

Dina says

Loved this book! The whole time I was reading it I could see it playing out like a Hallmark or Lifetime movie! Looking forward to the sequel!

Teresa says

I've been stuck in the paranormal romance genre for awhile, so it was nice to read about regular humans falling in love and doing extraordinary things. I somehow read *Bring on the Blessings* without realizing it was part of a series until my book club discussion. Thus, I can confirm the story is very self-contained and open to pick up future books at your leisure. I'd recommend this book if you're looking for a funny, light read about unexpected events in a small town. And if you haven't read any books by Beverly Jenkins, this a great place to start! I also be amiss if I didn't recommend her prolific work in the historical romance genre. She excels at creating new romance pairings in the same time period. She weaves characters and acquaintances together with ease.

Full review on Cannonball Read - <https://cannonballread.com/2017/12/wh...>

Amanda says

Excellent novel.

This is my first read by author Beverly Jenkins. I have had this downloaded on my Kindle for at least 2 years, and I hate that it took me this long to actually read it. I am currently looking at what other titles I can delve into of Ms. Jenkins, and fervently adding them to my TBR list.

Bernadine Brown, having recently been awarded a cool \$275 million in a divorce settlement, asked God for direction over life. She knows that to whom much is given, much is required, so she takes her money and her MSW degree and does what any woman would do: purchases and rebuilds an historic African American town in Kansas called Henry Adams. Her plan includes introducing foster children and families into the new restructure, but will the townspeople want any parts of her ideas? Bernadine is hopeful and motivated to do everything within her power (and her bank account) to make sure that her detailed plans become a reality.

Along the journey, we meet the spirited and mostly charming characters who have spent their days in Henry Adams - some include Mayor/Mechanic/Engineer Trent and his dad the restaurant owner/vet Malachi. The

town Matriarch, Tamar who is Malachi's mother and raised Trent from infancy, and her friend, Marie and Agnes Jefferson. Also thrown into the Henry Adams hodgepodge is Riley and Genvieve Curry, and their pet pig, Cletus, who proves to be a thorn in the side of Bernidine and the townspeople, especially the former Mr. Curry. And of course, we meet the foster children and foster parents for whom this town is designed. All of whom will pull on your heartstrings.

I found this novel to be both endearing and heart-warming, even through the devastating details of the children's horrific upbringing (pre-Henry Adams) - several times I was in tears as the story unfolded, sometimes from the sadness of the children's experiences, other times from sheer joy of watching relationships being built and rebuilt, demons dealt with, and friendships formed. This is truly a wonderfully written story and I very much enjoyed being introduced into Ms. Jenkins catalog of works.

Barbara says

I was hoping to like this book more than I actually did.

Woman catches husband cheating on her & wins big in the divorce settlement. She buys a failing midwestern town and populates it with foster children and their new foster parents. The premise was good, but overall, it was a big letdown.

While I liked all the characters, every single one of them was one dimensional and I eventually lost interest in all of them. Every troublesome situation encountered throughout the book was quickly and easily solved by Bernadine throwing money at it, with the exception of the evil banker who was killed by a 600-pound pet hog. (It was at this point that I wanted to toss the book out a window; fortunately, I remembered that I was reading this on my Nook, and I didn't do it!)

This story could have been soooo much better! What a disappointment.

Pamela Sarratt says

Truly enjoyed this book and all of the characters involved. Can't wait to continue reading the rest of the series.
