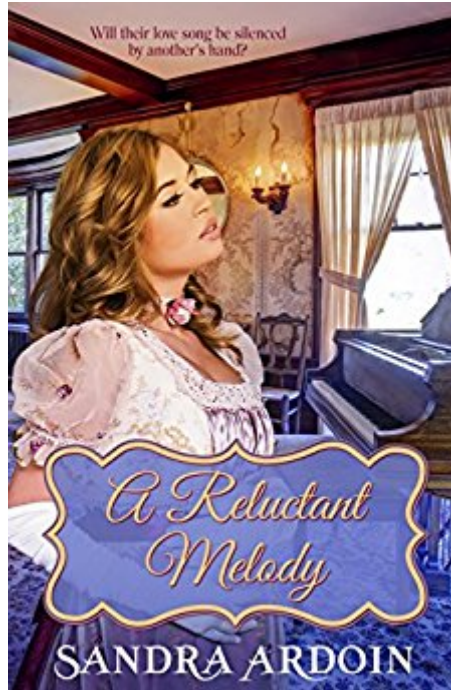


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A Reluctant Melody - Will She Find A Way Through The Pain Of The Past To Love And Trust Again?



Synopsis

"A strong romantic thread ... redemptive elements. Donâ€™t miss this one, or youâ€™ll be missing out on a real gem." ~ Sharlene MacLaren, author of the Tennessee Dreams Series
Kit Barnesâ€™ drinking ruined more lives than his own. Now sober, he wants to make amends by opening a mission for drunkards. The most suitable location belongs to Joanna Cranston Stewart, a love from his sordid past and the one person he hurt the most. A pariah among her peers, Joanna is all too eager to sell her property and flee the rumors that she sent her late husband to an early grave. But she will let the gossips talk and the walls of her rundown property crumble around her before sheâ€™ll allow Kit back into her life. When a blackmailer threatens to reveal her long-held secret, she must choose between trusting Kit or seeing her best friend trapped in an abusive marriage. Will Joanna risk another betrayal? Or will she find a way through the pain of the past to love and trust again?

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Customer Reviews

Joanna Stewart finds solace playing the piano. Kit Barnes used to find comfort in a bottle, but now his faith guides his life and work. Along with a pastor partner, Kit plans to buy and renovate a house to accommodate other recovering alcoholics. Joanna's house is perfect for their mission, and Kit might have convinced Joanna to sell her property, except for this: She would pay into eternity for her lapse in judgment, for loving a man who used her and tossed her aside. Hadn't her father said as much before he cast her out of his house? If Papa were here this minute, he would remind her again of the sin she'd committed, and the mercy she would never find from the almighty and judgment-prone Creator. Whoa! You can imagine Joanna's reaction upon seeing Kit again and the conflict that oozed from the pages! With a benefactor holding a ticking clock, though, Kit had no choice but to convince Joanna to sell. Her continued refusals made him wonder if he hadn't ran ahead of the Lord's will. Often, I worry the same thing in my own life. Favorite quote: "God doesn't demand perfection from us first, Jo. He perfects us through our faith in Christ." A sprinkling of historical tidbits, a trail of intrigue, and the abundance of spiritual nuggets pulled me in every chance I got to read. While I suspected some elements, a few twists surprised me. I appreciated the real battle Kit waged over his addiction, even after being saved, and how his struggle wasn't easy or glossed over. I generally prefer more sizzle in my romance reads, but because of their disastrous past and the constraints of the time period, I understand the restraint. Overall, though, *A Reluctant Melody* is a book I will keep in my library, just to reread and savor those spiritual goodies all over again.

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