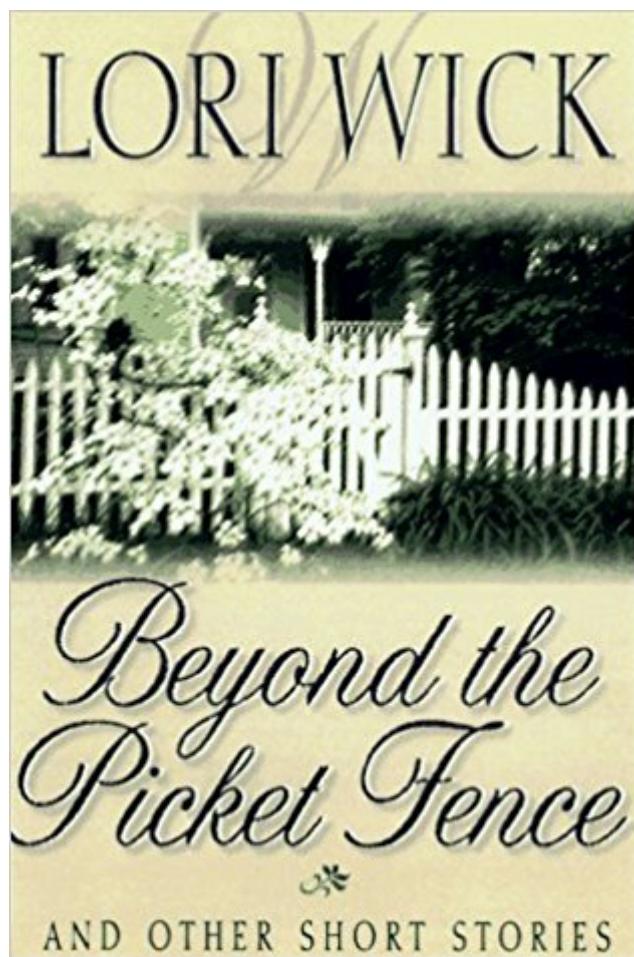


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# Beyond The Picket Fence: And Other Short Stories



## **Synopsis**

Endearing characters, tender romances, triumphs of faith--these are the gems readers have cherished in Lori Wick's novels. Now Lori brings the same treasures to this very special collection of eight short stories.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Well-known Christian fiction writer Wick (Promise Me Tomorrow: Rocky Mountain Memories Bk. 4, LJ 9/1/97) here gives readers eight contemporary short stories. Most are romances with a Christian theme, including "Be Careful with My Heart," in which pianist Casey Sheridan agrees to help out a friend by taking her place in a Christian musical trio. Soon Casey falls in love with fellow group member Hunter Riley, though past loves threaten to keep the two apart. Unexpected love is the theme of "The Camping Trip." Neither Hilary Farrell nor Adam Maxwell want to remarry, but when Adam becomes the coach of the baseball team of Hilary's son, the two soon fall in love. Easily the best story in the collection deals with love of a different kind. In "The Christmas Gift," an abused young girl finds tentative happiness in her foster home. Unfortunately, ten-year-old Brenda has been disappointed before, so she is reluctant to bond with the family. Over Christmas she realizes that they truly love her, and she is finally willing to accept their love. Overall, this is a charming collection of stories that should please Wick's fans. Recommended. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

An excellent Christian reading book for any Christian woman to read. Lori Wick stays within the boundary for proper conduct

Soon after ordering this book, I realized that I already owned the book, SO I cancelled. Thank you for all you help. I never actually received this book the second time. I appreciate the help you give.  
Mary Townsley

All of Lori Wick's books are wonderful. Somehow I had missed this book of short stories. I am so glad I found it in our church library. While all of the stories were delightful, I especially enjoyed the Rancher's Lady. I wish it had been a novel, I did not want it to end. As always, Lori Wick does romance the right way!

I like Lori Wick's books well enough, but I was a bit uncertain about a book of short stories as I'm not a huge fan of short story writing, especially in a book format. I find I lose focus too quickly. This collection was a delightful surprise, however. Each story stood on its own and all had a message - something that not all Lori Wick books contain. In fact, I found that most of the stories have a greater impact and message, as well as more realism than many of Ms. Wick's novels. One tiny point annoyed me, however. I seem to remember that in "A Rancher's Lady", Shasta, an Australian, mentions that she used to work on a sheep ranch. I am an Australian and I can assure any disillusioned Americans out there that we do not have "ranches" in Australia. We call them "stations" instead. A silly thing for me to bother about, I know, but I must be truthful. All in all, a lovely addition to the library of any fan of Lori Wick.

I'm a big, I mean huge, Lori Wick fan and have read every single book almost. I had shied away from this one because I wasn't really sure how I felt about the fact that they were only short stories. I hadn't found it anywhere except for the web and wasn't sure enough about it to buy it. I shouldn't have been worried though. I found it in a bookstore and fell in love with it immediately. I read the entire thing within 24 hours and felt deprived when there wasn't anymore. The last one, "The Rancher's Lady", and "An Intense Man" were my favorites. Some are quite lengthy, lasting for 40 pages. Others are shorter, but just as satisfying. If you are like me, any time you start a Lori Wick book, you want to do nothing else but sit down and read. This is easier because it is not one long story and is easier to break away from. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. Happy Reading!

As always, I was impressed by Lori Wick's fabulous gift to write down-to-earth stories with wonderful plots and loveable characters. Usually I am not a huge fan of short stories because I enjoy getting to know characters on a deeper level; however, Lori brought each person to life so when the charming story ended, I was sad to conclude a well developed story. A wonderful asset to the "Lori Wick Book Collection," and a great book to keep and read over and over again.

I enjoyed most of the stories in this book, until I read "An Intense Man" and "The Rancher's Lady". I will not read Lori Wick again. How is being emotionally abusive and oppressive toward women 'romantic'? The women portrayed in these stories are not meek and humble "women of God", they are unhealthy and codependent. It's time to join the real world Ms. Wick. We can't afford to advocate this kind of behavior toward women. You may think what you are writing is romanticism, but it's actually quite demeaning to women.

Before I bought the book, I read the negative reviews and disregarded them, thinking that anything Lori Wick writes is excellent. Now after reading the short stories, I think that it is safe to say that she needs to stick with novels. Wick tried to put more information into the short stories than necessary, which resulted in a poor development of plot and characters. Even for a dedicated Wick fan, this was a huge disappointment.

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