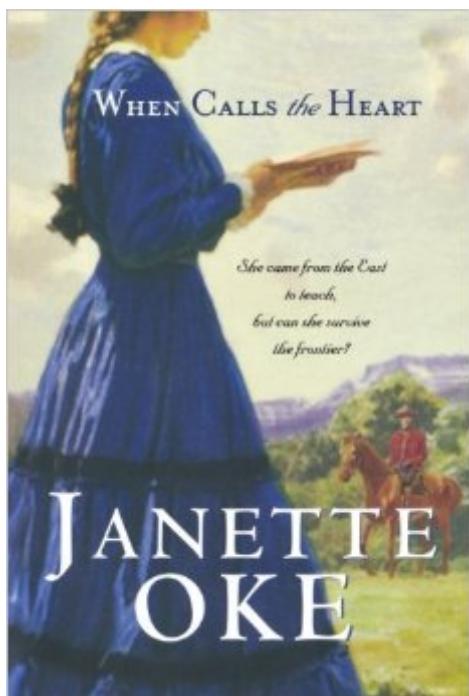


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# When Calls The Heart (Canadian West #1)



## **Synopsis**

Nothing in her cultured East Coast upbringing prepared Elizabeth for a teaching position on the Canadian frontier. Yet, despite the constant hardships, she loves the children in her care. Determined to do the best job she can and fighting to survive the harsh land, Elizabeth is surprised to find her heart softening towards a certain member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Book 1 of the bestselling Canadian West series.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I have read most of Janette Oke's books, and this series is my favorite by far. The story takes place in a different setting from most Christian historical fiction (i.e., not the prairie), and with the first-person narration Elizabeth's voice shines through. If you are tired of finding the same plot in many books, try this series; the books do stand out. They are also laugh-out-loud funny in places.

I found this book delightful because it was different. Yes it had a lot of the typical things that you expect to find in historical Christian romance novels. But it also had a lot of new twists and a very different setting and plot. I too, enjoyed the first person narration, it served to pull me into the story much more effectively. The only down side to the book was that the ending was a bit too predictable. This is my favorite Janette Oke series just for the sheer difference in writing style and plot.

I absolutely loved this novel. I am a Christian, and I enjoy Janette Oke's books dearly. They are so wonderfully written--such wonderfully story lines, great details, great plots, and great faith in God. I have read many of her novels, but I must say this one was my favorite. Something about this wonderful story made me just couldn't put it down! I found myself wanted to read it until I finished. The story is wonderful, with Elizabeth's heart for teaching and her courage to moving to the west, and I love that is a love story at the same time. And her faith in God is so wonderful as well...It's so neat cause when I read Janette's books, I don't just read a great story, but I learn something at the same time---great principles to apply to life - every timelf you want to read a great story (with no worries if younger readers want to read it) I truly recommend this story!! loved it!!!!!!! And you will too.

When Calls the Heart has just been released. I had the privilege of receiving a free copy for review. It's a movie based on the book of the same name by Janette Oke. I first read my first Oke book back when my oldest son was a preschooler. She's had several of her books made into movies. You might recognize the Love Comes Softly series. We enjoyed this movie very much. The scenery, the costuming, the details were wonderfully rich. The acting was superb. The music was appropriate and good. We liked everything about this movie from beginning to end. Except. One. Thing. I forgot that this book was the first in a series. Therefore, when we got to the very end, it ended. Abruptly. Without Closure. Ugh! My kids complained. Will we watch the television series when it comes out? No, at least not unless it comes out on video someday. We don't have television access. We just watch selected movies. Would I still recommend the movie? Yes, it's really good. I loved the interplay of the characters. Two story lines are being told at the same time.

I originally read this book about 20 years ago as a teenager. At that time I would have rated it 4 or 5 stars because it was such a sweet story. But, having just finished reading this for the second time, I find my tastes have changed considerable and I'm pickier than I used to be with what I read. I would give it 3.5 stars. The beginning of the story starts out very slow. It's easy to see from very early in the first chapter that Elizabeth will be moving West. The first ten chapters or so summarize a great deal, making it extremely difficult to get immersed in the book. It reads more like a letter to a friend (I did this, and then this, and then this.) About two-thirds of the way through the book it starts to read more like real time. There's more dialogue and more introspection on Elizabeth's part. I was sorely disappointed that the romance barely sparked in any way until very, very late in the book. I would have loved to see more depth in Elizabeth's reflection of her feelings--something more than "I loved

him, I hated him, I pined for him."This book is a prime example telling versus showing. Much of the story is relayed in a "tell" way which really prevents the reader from feeling connected to the characters or a part of the story. I thought Janette Oke's collaboration with Davis Bunn (the Songs of Acadia Series) does a much better job of showing versus telling.

I was so disappointed how abruptly this movie ended! Its like somebody ran out of ideas and just ended it. It started out as a very interesting story and then changed into someone's else's story and then back to the original person's story and then left both stories hanging and the viewer going "huh?!"

This is one of my favorite series of Janette Oke books. I was so excited to see this movie come out. Then I watched it and wondered...What happened to the story line??? It's been totally rewritten. The Elizabeth and Wynn characters (that, in my opinion, are what make the When Calls the Heart story) seem to barely be part of the plot. There are new characters, a different plot, a different location, and a different time period. I was so disappointed. The movie itself (if you aren't expecting it to be anything like the book) is a good movie.

Although I found this to be a cute (though mediocre) film, I didn't know that it was a movie setting off a series, however, and that the end was a kind of cliffhanger. I would have liked it to be wrapped up instead.

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