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# Smitten Book Club (Smitten (Thomas Nelson))



## Synopsis

The century-old *Gentlewoman's Guide to Love and Courtship* is no ordinary book club choice. But for the little book club in Smitten, Vermont, it might be their best pick yet! The thick, leathery tome Heather pulled out of the dusty cardboard box was definitely coming home with her. Not only was *The Gentlewoman's Guide to Love and Courtship* an appealing curiosity by virtue of its title, but it was also written by Smitten, Vermont, native Pearl Chambers, a local gentlewoman from three generations back. Little did Heather know the repercussions this little curiosity would have on her and her friends' romantic exploits. When Heather and her fellow book club members begin passing the book around, their respective interpretations are unleashed on their respective love lives . . . for better or for worse. Is it a mystery? An idealist fantasy? An intimation of Jane Austen? As romantic love finds its way to each woman, the Guide proves itself both surprisingly prescient and hilariously irrelevant. What's more, a handwritten inscription indicates that the arcane book might hold the only clues leading to buried gold • exactly what one of the members needs to keep her house. How could they not go treasure hunting? In this remarkable collaborative collection, besties Colleen Coble, Kristin Billerbeck, Diann Hunt, and Denise Hunter tackle the tale of *The Gentlewoman's Guide* by writing for one book club member apiece. *Smitten Book Club* is a hopeful, hilarious story of friendship and healing, written by friends for friends.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

USA Today bestselling author Colleen Coble has written several romantic suspense novels including Tidewater Inn, Rosemary Cottage, and the Mercy Falls, Lonestar, and Rock Harbor series. Visit her website at [www.colleencoble.com](http://www.colleencoble.com) Twitter: @colleencoble Facebook: colleencoblebooks

Kristin Billerbeck is the author of numerous Christian novels, hitting the CBA bestseller list and winning the coveted ACFW Book of the Year in 2004 for *What a Girl Wants* and again in 2006 for *With this Ring, I'm Confused*. She has been featured in the New York Times, USA Today, World Magazine, the Atlanta Journal Constitution and been seen on the "Today Show" for her pioneering role in Christian Chick Lit. She has a bachelor's degree in advertising from San Jose State University.

Denise Hunter is the internationally published bestselling author of more than twenty-five books, including *A December Bride* and *The Convenient Groom*, which have been adapted into original Hallmark Channel movies. She has won The Holt Medallion Award, The Reader's Choice Award, The Carol Award, The Foreword Book of the Year Award, and is a RITA finalist. When Denise isn't orchestrating love lives on the written page, she enjoys traveling with her family, drinking green tea, and playing drums. Denise makes her home in Indiana where she and her husband are rapidly approaching an empty nest. You can learn more about Denise through her website [DeniseHunterBooks.com](http://DeniseHunterBooks.com) or by visiting her Facebook page at [facebook.com/authordenisehunter](https://facebook.com/authordenisehunter).

Smitten Book Club Colleen Coble, Diann Hunt, Denise Hunter, & Kristen Billerbeck

**Book Summary:** At a rummage sale, Heather, a member of the Fireside Book Club, discovers a turn-of-the-century romantic advice book written by a once-famous Smitten, Vermont, resident. When she shares the precious volume with her friends in the club, they find clues about a hidden treasure rumored to be buried in their tiny town. As Heather, Abby, Lia, and Molly take turns reading the book, each projects onto it her own literary tastes. Heather sees it as a mystery. Abby discovers delicious dashes of Jane Austen. Lia sees in it the idealism of a bygone day. And Molly just wishes they'd made the book into a movie! One by one, each of the women finds romantic love—often in spite of the historic book's advice. And in searching for the legendary gold, the friends discover the best kind of treasure. The kind that brings hope and healing to each of their hearts.

**Review:** I liked the overall theme that the stories kept of the Treasure hunt through the book historic book of advice. It was fun to watch this time into the stories. I liked most of the characters but did not enjoy Molly's story as much. I felt sorry for her the book opened with the death of her husband. But for me I could not connect with Molly as easily as I did Lia, Heather and even Abby. I like the male characters in all the stories. I think the changing seasons lent itself to the moving of

time that led into Molly's story. I liked Heather's story the best overall. Usually if I like the first story I tend to enjoy all of them. Despite not connecting with Molly, I did find her spunk to be a plus by her learning to run the company. I think the most moving part for me is that Diann Hunt is now with the Lord and this is her last story. It is bitter sweet for her friends and family left behind. All that being said the book was worth the read and continues in the periphery the characters that have gone before always a real plus when reading a series style book. I would like to thank Net Galley and Thomas Nelson for allowing me to read and review this book in return for a free copy and I was never asked to write a favorable review by anyone.

**Hott Synopsis:** While preparing for a book sale Heather, Abby, Lia find A Gentlewoman's Guide to Love and Courtship and discover that it has clues that could lead them to missing gold that would rightfully belong to their dear friend and new widow Molly. As each of them read the book they close in on the clues and learn a lot about themselves. Love by the Book Heather is still embarrassed about how she acted when Paul shunned her advances but she has a son and divorce paper to prove her poor choice. Now Paul is back and is the same playboy he always was. Is Heather willing to let her guard down and give Paul a chance? **Review:** Loved it!! Heather is one of those people who is so wrapped up in helping others that she forgets that she isn't just a mom and employee. She just needs someone to see through the walls she put up for everyone except her closest girlfriends. **Author:** Colleen Coble **Grade:** A **Ages:** 16+ **Shelved Under** Romance **Abby** can't believe it when her friends tell her she acts like a grandmother instead of the twenty-seven year old she is. They insist on new clothes and try to help her be a bit more young. In walks Wyatt, adventurer extraordinaire. Not only has he been crushing on Abby from afar but he also made a death-bed promise to her father to help Abby learn to be more adventuresome. Can Wyatt & the girls get Abby to live life a little? **Review:** **Author:** Kristen Billerbeck **Grade:** A **Ages:** 16+ **A New Chapter** Lia has been in love with Joey since she met him way back in elementary school. She dealt with them only being friends and has patiently waited for God to give her someone to love. Now, he's back a widowed father needing his friend back. Could there ever be more? **Review:** Adorable! I loved Joey's daughter, Grace. It was a great story to get lost in! **Author:** Diann Hunt **Grade:** A **Ages:** 16+ **Happily Ever After** It's been a year since Molly's husband died and she's still buried under the debt and lies he left for her to deal with. Can she swallow her pride and ask her only competitor for help?

Especially, she this competitor and her husband disliked each other so intensely?Review: WOW! A strong finale. I couldn't put it down!Author: Denise HunterGrade: AAges: 16+Hott Review:What I liked: I LOVED the quotes from the book the girls found. They were absolutely perfect!What I didn't like: It ended :, (More)|Source: Thomas Nelson via Netgalley -- I liked it so much I bought it!Grade: ASteam: YASetting: Smitten, VermontSeries: Smitten Novella Series #3

"Smitten Book Club" is an ideally written book about four single women who have been friends for years and have a meeting of a book club in which they come together to discuss the book at the meeting. Each woman has read the book so she comes prepared to share her thoughts. All four women work in Smitten, Vermont. (Smitten is the invention of the four authors of this book, and others in the Smitten series.) Each store or business is an expression of each individual, and the whole town is neighbors helping each other in varied situations. Knowing this, and the bond among Heather, Abby, Lea, and Molly, makes for a very lively story, as each woman meets and falls in love with a Smitten resident. We watch each woman's relationship develop with each man, but the best part of this novel is that the story is put together by four authors who each have one woman to develop. All four women are intertwined in the other authors part of the book, and it is well edited and written. This is a very lively Christian novel.

Sugary, sweet this collection of four short stories is too simple, the characters are predictable and at times it's a bit preachy. Ok if you want a bland book with plenty of happy endings

It's difficult to review four short stories at the same time. I am in the minority with my review, but, in my opinion, all four lack interesting characters, the stories are a bit silly. I could not feel the emotions the characters seemed to feel. It's a very light read that I cannot recommend. The only redeeming value I found was the absence of steamy sex scenes and foul language. It is a bit religious, but not over the top. Maybe the stories are meant to reach a very young audience.

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