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Greene's "A Christmas Belle" (Book Review)

Gary Averill

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The novella is set in the year 1877. It is about a mail order bride Amanda, a Southern belle living in a fishing town in Maine going to meet her perspective husband Jake, in Wyoming. There are some interesting twists in this book. In the secular world, this book would probably be called a paranormal romance. The author explains Amanda’s ability as being able to read cues not as extra sensory perception. Also, it is common in romance novels that the heroine hates men because she was jilted by one; this novella takes this hatred to the extreme. Not seen often in Christian novels, Jake has a baby which may have come about due to his wild days before he was a Christian. There is also a part about Jake bribing someone to be Amanda’s friend. This story is tied together at end by comparing it with the story of Isaac and Rebekah in Genesis. Due to Amanda’s hatred towards Southern men and insecurity on the part of Jake, there is so much more angst than romance in this book. This novella is more about description than plot. In this story it does seem that the amount of time spent on the angst does take away from the description. The author has won several awards for her writings. This story can be found in the Christmas Mail-Order Angels collection, second edition.

Reviewer
Gary R. Averill