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Carlson's "Courting Mr. Emerson" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Carlson, M. (2019). *Courting Mr. Emerson*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell Publishing. 340 pp. 15.99. ISBN 9780800735272

It is sort of a love story of Willow and George. It is not young love but more mature love. It is about mother and daughter relationship but it is not. This about the strained relationship of a mother and son but it comes across as a sister and brother relationship. The main story is about a teacher, George, who retires. Outside of teaching, he has had little contact with the outside world. His world is all within walking distance. He has no car, no friends, and no purpose in life. Willow enters his life and he is catapulted into the real world. This story is about the first three months of this tumultuous time for George after retiring. Willow is the catalyst that forces George into new situations and experiences. He finds through the subplots such as the tension between mother and daughter that he has gained a lot of wisdom throughout his life. He learns that this wisdom can help others. He finds old passions that have been dormant for many years. He learns about love and romance. He also learns to reconcile with the past. Even though there are many pages dedicated to Willow, her building, her family, and George's next – door neighbor, they are never fully developed as George is. Some of the situations are fantastical such as how quickly the relationship between the daughter and mother turns around but the subplot is crucial to the coming out of George. This does not have an ending which is true to what real life is. It is a very easy read. Christianity is talked about subtly in this story. It does talk about Christianity and how one may need it when times are difficult. It does have a pastor but the pastor who works with George as a counselor shows his faith by example not by words. I am not sure if a young person has had enough life experience to understand this story. I would definitely recommend giving this to a hermit who is attempting to enter the real world, to know that what they are experiencing is not unique. This book would work well for the public library.

Reviewer

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