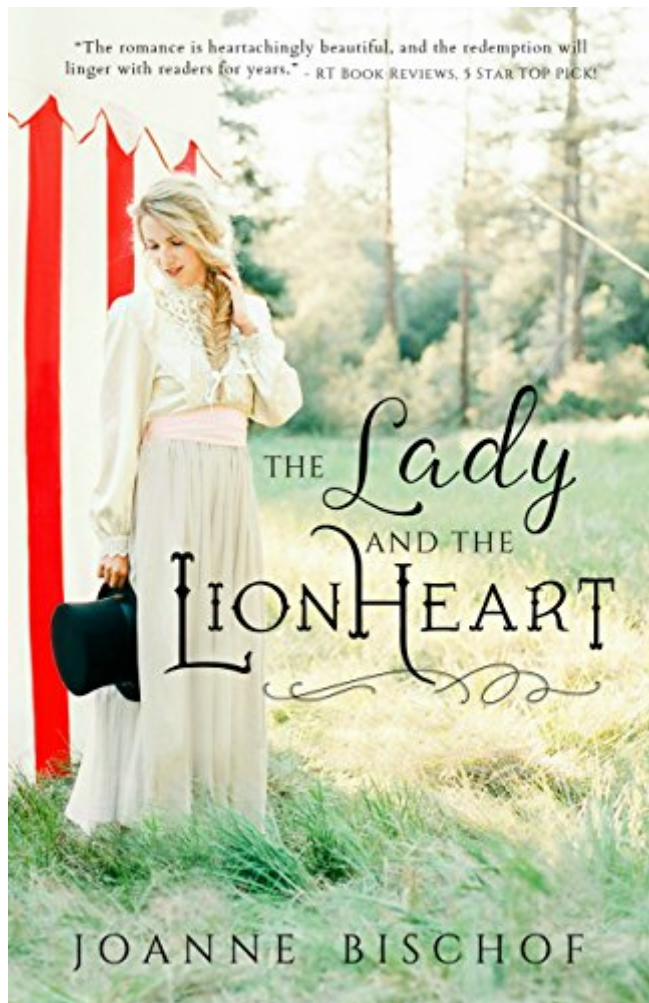




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The Lady And The Lionheart



Synopsis

"Heartachingly beautiful" - RT Book Reviews, 5 Star TOP PICK! Virginia, 1890 Raised amid the fame and mystique of the Big Top, Charlie Lionheart holds the audience in the palm of his hand. But while his act captivates thousands, it's away from the spotlight where his true heart lies. Here he humbly cares for his pride of lions as if they were his brothers, a skill of bravery and strength that has prepared him for his most challenging feat yet - freeing an orphaned infant from the dark bondage of a sideshow. A trade so costly, it requires his life in exchange for hers, leaving him tarnished by the price of that choice. As the circus tents are raised on the outskirts of Roanoke, nurse Ella Beckley arrives to tend to this Gypsy girl. All under the watchful eye of a guardian who not only bears a striking resemblance to the child, but who protects the baby with a love that wraps around Ella's own tragic past, awakening a hope that goodness may yet reign. When their forbidden friendship deepens, Charlie dares to ask for her heart, bringing her behind the curtain of his secret world to reveal the sacrifice that gave hope to one little girl - boldly showing Ella that while her tattered faith is deeply scarred, the only marks that need be permanent are his own. 2017 INSPY Award winner 2017 Carol Award finalist 2017 RT Book Reviews Reviewers Choice Award winner

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Customer Reviews

Have you ever read a book that when you finish, you close the book and hold it to you just so you can hold the story closer? *The Lady and the Lionheart* by Joanne Bischof was one of those books for me. Ella is a girl from a small town that moved to Roanoke, VA to escape her past and the whispers of her neighbors. She wants to become a nurse and has gotten a job at a doctor's office where she is more like a maid than a nurse since she does more organizing and cleaning than nursing. Late one night a man comes into the physician's office frantically looking for the doctor for his little girl and she is left with the responsibility to care for her. Charlie has been with the circus since he was born. He is the lion tamer, just like his father was. When his ward, Holland, become ill he seeks a doctor's help in the town the circus is in. The doctor looks down on him for being a member of the circus and sends him and Holland back to his tent the next day. The nurse, Ella, comes to his tent daily to help care for Holland and he quickly develops feelings for her. Charlie has a dark secret that he keeps hidden from rubes, non-circus people. Can Charlie trust Ella to share his secret with her? Will it change how Ella sees him? Ella has secrets of her own. Can both of them trust each other enough to share their secrets and their hearts? What will happen when the circus has to move on? What does a lion tamer in the circus have to offer her? *The Lady and the Lionheart* was one of the best books I've read all year. I couldn't put it down. I wanted to find out what happens with Charlie, Ella, and Holland but I didn't want their story to end! It will definitely be a story that I'll read over and over!

This is an entertaining story from back when circuses traveled from town to town and carried with them human freak shows, animals, and all the set-up. The elephants helped put up and take down circus tents, and the public paid to go and gawk and ridicule. A nurse helps a gypsy child, and she begins to care for the man she thinks is the baby's father. Later, she finds out how much he has sacrificed for a child that's not his. It's a sweet story, and a nice little romance. I think it holds a deep sadness, too, because of the prejudices of the day. The writing is good. It sometimes slows, but overall, the simple plot keeps you turning pages.

Everyone remarks upon what a beautiful cover this is, and to be sure, it is. But the CONTENTS of this book are more beautiful still. Themes of freedom, forgiveness, and redemption flow through this unforgettable story, merging into a modern-day beauty and the beast tale that goes so much deeper than the original. Charlie Lionheart. Holland. Ella Beckley. These names will not be forgotten to readers, as they join the traveling circus, seeing the sights and experiencing it in a whole new way. With emotional nuance and threads that effortlessly tie together, Bischof has crafted a novel that will stand the test of time. This is one of those rare books that cross that "Christian fiction" divide--it is something I would feel comfortable recommending to believers and nonbelievers alike. Universal themes, tied together with the hope of Christ. Not heavy-handed, but the story speaking the truths of the Bible more loudly than wordy monologues. This is one of those rare books I feel I MUST own in softcover so I can loan it out to everyone. Beautiful cover, beautiful writing, and beautiful story. A masterpiece.

Heartaching and beautiful, this story will sweep you away to the colorful sights and sounds of the circus. Bischof has a way of painting pictures with her words. Both lyrical and addictive, her writing style had me drinking in every single word. An inspiring story of sacrifice, unconditional love, forgiveness, hope, faith and redemption. This is a real gem. I can easily say this is my favorite book of all time. Never before has a story struck me so deeply. I was thoroughly engrossed in the book and I truly did not want it to end. The characters are wonderful. With raw emotion and real struggles they are full of emotional depth. I felt that the story was perfectly paced, never rushed. You really have time to get to know the characters (which I loved), and you'll find that you can't help but fall in love with them. I am positive that this will be a favorite for many years to come. Seriously, trust me when I say you need to read this as soon as possible!

Just finished this book, the second time in less than a month. It's a bookclub book you see, and since I read it early in the month wanted to refresh my memory. The tale of Ella and Charlie, Holland and Regina. The tale of lions, and love, of pain and healing.. A tale of a love born of family value, of pain, suffering, and yes of redemption.. I don't think one could read this with dry eyes. You can try, but even the second time around I found myself sobbing quietly with tears flowing. Joanne Bischof wove her tale with a heart for her characters, with a clear vision of who they are and of what they have endured and of what they will overcome. Always strengthening the story is God's Grace, His love and compassion for His children. You will smile, you will cry and when you read the final word, you will want more. Not because the story doesn't close itself well, it does, but is so good you just

want more!! Well done Joanne Bischof !!!

What I loved about this novel the most is the symbolism. Although symbolism was my favorite aspect, there was much more to appreciate about The Lady and the Lionheart. The imagery was very strong and I could easily picture the hospital, midway and other places described. Main characters Charlie and Ella are from vastly different worlds. Charlie is a lion tamer in the circus. He was raised under the big top and knew no other way of life. Ella grew up in a large and supportive family in the hills of Virginia. Despite their differences what they share is pain and loving hearts. This was a beautiful love story.

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