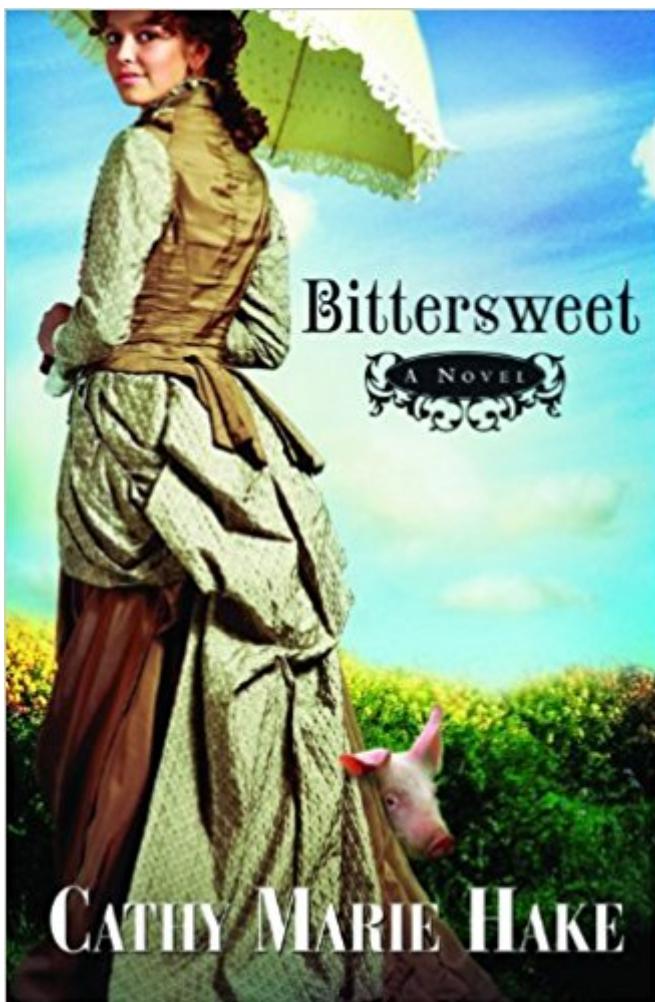


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# Bittersweet (California Historical Series #2)



## **Synopsis**

Laney McCain has unabashedly had her sights set on Galen O'Sullivan for years. And though Galen has treated her as nothing more than his best friend's pesky tag-along sister, Laney dares hope that now is the time he will open his eyes and truly recognize the woman she's become. But the arrival of Ishmael and Ivy Grubb, squatters on the O'Sullivans' land, diverts Galen's attention. Though the Grubbs are crass and uneducated, Galen shows mercy and allows them to stay in exchange for help around the farm. But it becomes a decision he lives to regret....Sometimes the Journey to Love Is Truly Bittersweet

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: Bethany House Publishers; First Edition edition (April 1, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0764201662

ISBN-13: 978-0764201660

Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 5.3 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 64 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #728,988 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #162 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Religious & Inspirational > Western #1389 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Religious & Inspirational > Historical #1518 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Religious & Inspirational > Romance

## **Customer Reviews**

"...a worthy and pleasant book, filled with believable, likeable and interesting characters." -- Olivera Baumgartner-Jackson, [readerviews.com](#)"Cathy Marie Hake has done it again! I found myself unable to lay this book down...." -- Lori Plach, [christianreviewofbooks.com](#)"Ms. Cathy Marie Hake has a true gift for story-telling and this book is exceptional." -- Brenda Talley, [theromancestudio.com](#)"...a moving love story.... A worthwhile read for fans of Hake and historical fiction." -- Pat Glans, [ARomanceReview.com](#)

CATHY MARIE HAKE is the author of Letter Perfect as well as more than 20 other books. She loves reading, scrapbooking, and writing. Cathy makes her home in Anaheim, California, with her husband, daughter, and son. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I really enjoyed this book about Galen and Laney. Bittersweet was named excellent title. I was shocked and felt angry at the turn of events. All turned out in the end, but what a wonderful Christian journey. Keep writing these excellent historical Christian romance novels.

Laney has been in love with Galen for most of her life. Everyone keeps telling her to give up on him, he has never encouraged her and only sees her as a pesky little sister. Laney just can't give up, though, and still hopes for a future with him. It has occurred to Galen that it might be time for him to look for a wife. He has started seeing Laney as more of a woman and partner, but there is a stumbling block to their love. Galen has given the Grubb family a chance and has shown them Christian charity. In return, he is accused of fathering a baby and gets a wife he doesn't want - shotgun style. Laney doesn't believe it of Galen, but what can she do about it now? I hated 96% of this book. I was getting closer to the end and was beginning to despair of getting that happy ending that I require in my books. I just didn't see how it was going to be possible. In the end, I got it, but the way it came about was a little morbid. I felt bad for Laney, even though I liked her character progression through the book. There were only two books in this series, and it is safe to read them out of order. The first book was called Letter Perfect. I'm on the fence about my overall enjoyment of the book. Most of the time, if I hate 96% of a book, it's a miss for me. BUT, with this book, it was well written and I got my happy ending. Pretty good book if you don't mind the morbidity.

A wonderful, emotional ride of a book! There were several instances of the book that caused me to question how I would react in similar circumstances, and would my faith be as strong. I enjoy books that cause me to reflect, and characters that challenge me in my faith. I did read a negative review that I wanted to address, with respect and from a different perspective. One reviewer felt that Ivy and Ishmael were negative southern stereotypes. I've lived in the south my entire life (South Carolina and Virginia). And while I agree if the characters were current day southerners. However, I found them to be somewhat true to the Appalachian mountain peoples of the era in which the book is set. These folks were typically descendants of Scot-Irish immigrants, and their speeches and mannerisms were far different than the southerners of, say, Charleston or Richmond. Even today, you will see differences in dialect between southerners of different regions. All in all, I found this to be a very enjoyable story, and I loved being transported to another time and place!

I haven't finished the book yet, but I know that I am rating it a 5 star. I am so torn, I am a person who

reads a few chapters and then checks the ending to see if I have figured out what will happen. I will finish a book even knowing the end isn't as I thought.BUT, as much as I want to read the end of this one, I am not going to because I have come to trust that Ms. Hake will present a Christian based conclusion that will make perfect sense whether I want it that way or not. And when she does that, my faith in God is strengthened because perfect ending are not always possible but if we let God, He will bring us to all joy.

Life goes on for Laney and her family in the 2nd book of this series. There is heartbreak, love; weddings and babies.

Bittersweet actually follows several stories at once, and does a great job of keeping you involved with the characters. One reviewer called the book boring, and didn't like that they followed Ivy and Ishmael so much, but they ended up being an integral part of the story, and a wonderful example of God's love and healing. Yes, Ivy is wrong on how she goes about 'capturing' Gallen, but she truly has a bittersweet story. And, of course, there is a happy ending - which I love!

I count Cathy Marie Hake as one of the best fiction writers out there today. I fell in love with her writing when I read, "Letter Perfect". Frankly I downloaded it on my Kindle because it was on free list and sounded like something I'd enjoy. But it was so much more. It was wonderful. Her talent is obvious from page one. "Bittersweet " was the second book about the same characters that I wasn't ready to lay aside after "Letter Perfect". It was every bit as entertaining and well written. I recommend it highly.

CM Hake's knack for humor never fails to be a saving grace. That and her penchant for unexpected but interesting plot twists make her stories fun to read. They're short enough, light enough, with just enough heartwarming romance mixed in to leave you feeling like the read was worth it, and you could do with another one of her books sometime soon. There is room for improvement in some areas, but the overall reading experience has a pleasant and simple homeliness about it that compels you to relate to her characters, and find the gems of wisdom liberally sprinkled throughout. I liked this book and the prequel. Made me laugh.

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