

# THE HANDFASTING



by David Burnett  
Women's Fiction, Romance

*Ten years had passed since they had joined hands in the ruins of the old abbey church. Standing before the high altar, they were handfasted in the Celtic custom, engaged to be married.*

*A rose bush had bloomed beside the ruined altar. Stephen had reached out to caress one of the flowers. "I'll find you," he had said. "In ten years, when we have finished school, when we are able to marry, I'll find you. Until then, whenever you see a yellow rose, remember me. Remember I love you."*

*In those ten years, Katherine had finished college, completed med school, and become a doctor. For a decade, she had been waiting, hoping, praying, and, today — her birthday— she finds a vase of yellow roses when she reaches home.*

*Stephen, though, is not Katherine's only suitor. Bill Wilson has known her since they were in high school. He has long planned to wed her, and he finally decides to stake his claim. His methods leave a lot to be desired, and the conflict turns violent.*

***"The Handfasting is everything a good romance should be. It is rich, complex and it is real."~Amazon reviewer***

***"I was on tender hooks with the uncertainty of how the story was going to end, the suspense was amazing and I actually read half the book in one afternoon."~Amazon reviewer***

***"The Handfasting is a book I recommend for people who enjoy stories that can sound real and also that can make you visualize what love must endure to remain."~Amazon reviewer***

## **Available on *Amazon and Barnes & Noble***

**CIR:** What was the writing process like for your book?

**BURNETT:** I spent about a month getting to know my characters. I thought about situations in which they might find themselves and imagined how they would react. I was not writing scenes for the book, and very little of what I did actually appears in the book. The point was to discover how my characters behaved, what they thought and believed, what they enjoyed, what they hated. Once I began to write, I wrote about a thousand words a day, long hand, in a spiral notebook. I knew that if I wrote on my computer, I would try to make everything perfect, and I would spend more time revising than actually writing. At this point, I was simply trying to get the story on paper. I began to revise as I transferred the story to the computer. I began writing with a conflict and a basic outline. The story did not always develop as I imagined it would. For example, the conflict that drives the story actually changed when I was almost halfway through the first draft. Originally, the story was to focus on Katherine's life of privilege in her small hometown in Virginia and the conflict she experienced when she fell in love with Steven and imagined life with him. Instead, the conflict developed into one between Katherine and Bill Wilson, an old acquaintance and an aspiring suitor.

**CIR:** What do you hope your readers will get out of this book?

**BURNETT:** Happy endings are possible even in periods of adversity.

**CIR:** Tell us about Katherine.

**BURNETT:** Katherine is a romantic. She is smart, ambitious, and driven to excel. She graduated from college with honors and went to medical school. One of her roommates explains the fact that she does not have a boyfriend – the roommate does not know about Steven – by saying that no boy had ever been able to pry her book out of her hand long enough to date her. When the book opens, she is an ER physician in a hospital in New York City. She is strong. She knows what things are important to her, and she stands up for them, even if she suffers in the process. She suffers a traumatic event, but she survives.

**CIR:** What themes do you address in this book?

**BURNETT:** The love between Katherine and Steven permeates the book. The need for forgiveness when you have wronged someone and the idea that forgiveness is available if you simply ask is central to the story. Finally, we see that it is possible to triumph over adversity, even though in our darkest periods, victory seems to be impossible.

**CIR:** Is there any content that some readers might find questionable despite the overall "clean" feel of the book?

**BURNETT:** One of the characters is sexually assaulted. The assault takes place "off camera," and it is not described.

@DavdBurnett They promised their love with THE HANDFASTING. 10 years later, tragedy strikes. See interview w/ [DavdBurnett](http://bit.ly/1gRojLG) <http://bit.ly/1gRojLG> #wlcauthor