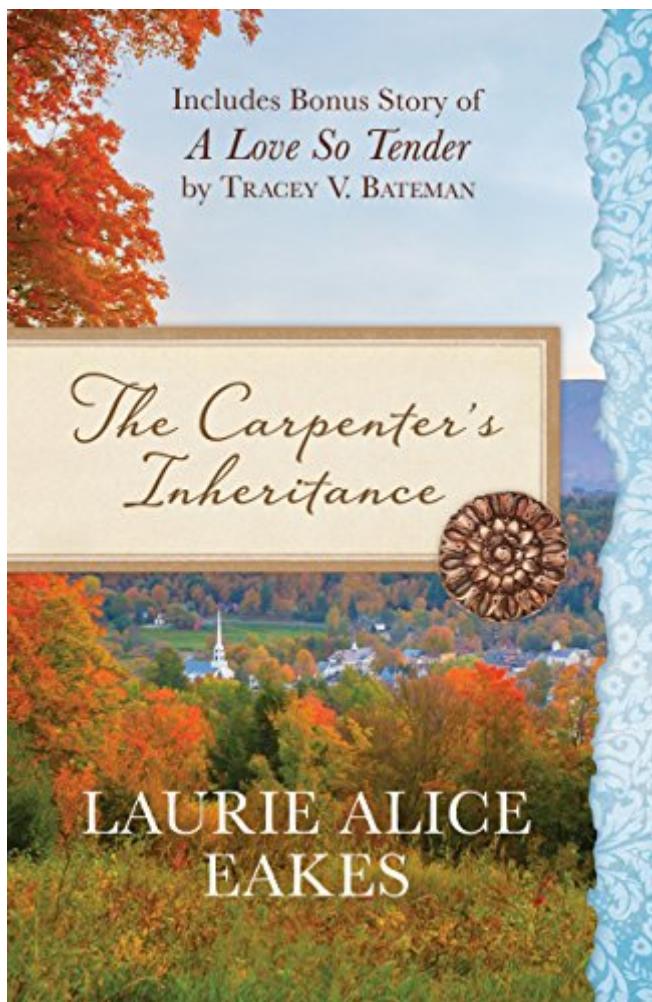


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# The Carpenter's Inheritance: Also Includes Bonus Story Of A Love So Tender By Tracey V. Bateman



## **Synopsis**

Join Lucinda Bell in 1893 as she leaves behind her family and fianc  to buy a dying law practice in Massachusetts, determined to prove herself in a male dominated profession. Matthew Templin, a local carpenter with a questionable past, is in need of a lawyer but knows hidden truths could destroy her ambitions and endanger their lives. When faced with a choice, will Lucinda choose career over love? Also includes a bonus historical romance, A Love So Tender by Tracey V. Bateman.

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## **Customer Reviews**

As a fan of sweet, historical romances and a reader somewhat familiar with both authors, I really enjoyed this combo of stories by Eakes and Bateman, released now as one book. Eakes gives us a look into the struggles of a young woman tearing down the barriers for women entering into the legal profession, previously solely a man's domain, as well as dealing with class issues as affection grows between her and a carpenter hired to renovate her office. He ruefully finds himself taking on the role of her protector which soon develops into stronger feelings. Neither felt themselves ready

for a romantic entanglement at that juncture of their lives. The characters are interesting and the plot holds the reader's attention although there did seem to be at least one loose thread in the end. The second story by Bates will appeal to those who empathize with an underdog. A young woman goes to live with relatives who run an orphanage after years of suffering unrequited love. She pours out all the unclaimed love in her heart to the orphans, especially one baby boy who she was responsible for rescuing. His mother died in childbirth and his father's whereabouts are unknown. She adopts Georgie and takes him back to her hometown. The father returns soon after the birth only to find the boarding house where he left his wife and child in ashes, and was told the only survivor was the woman who owned it. He continues to look for her to verify news of his wife and child, still hoping for their survival. He finds her six years later, learning his son was left at the orphanage. After locating his son and adoptive mother, the struggle begins. As in the first story, there is conflict and growing respect between classes, despite society's disapproval and their own preconceived ideas.

I was provided this book by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. I selected it because I am a fan of Laurie Alice Eakes. "The Carpenter's Inheritance" by Laurie Alice Eakes and "A Love So Tender" by Tracey V. Bateman are together in this 2016 volume published by Barbour Books. "The Carpenter's Inheritance" (2012) and "A Love So Tender" (2005) are re-releases of two previous "Heartsong Presents" books. I thoroughly enjoyed both stories, and will review them separately below. "The Carpenter's Inheritance" by Laurie Alice Eakes, set in 1893 Loveland, Massachusetts stars Lucinda Bell, a "lady lawyer" fresh out of law school, is new in town. Women are not yet widely accepted as lawyers, and it's only legal in some states. Lucinda would rather be near her family, but she's very committed to being a lawyer, particularly to represent "ladies' plights," and so has settled in Loveland. However, as a newcomer and as a woman, Lucinda is finding it a challenge to fit in, and is concerned about her ability to get enough cases to make a living. Lucinda's office space is shockingly in need of cleaning and a bit of carpentry. She finds a very talented carpenter, tall and confident Matthew Templin, by crashing into the man. Matt, 26, is lonely and is very drawn to Lucie, noting that she "was kind, appreciative, [and] beautiful." Lucie frequently notices Matt's kindness and likes him very much. What I liked: \*Matt is one of the sweetest heroes ever, and both Lucie and Matt are extremely likable characters. Watching their relationship grow early in the story was so pleasing.

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