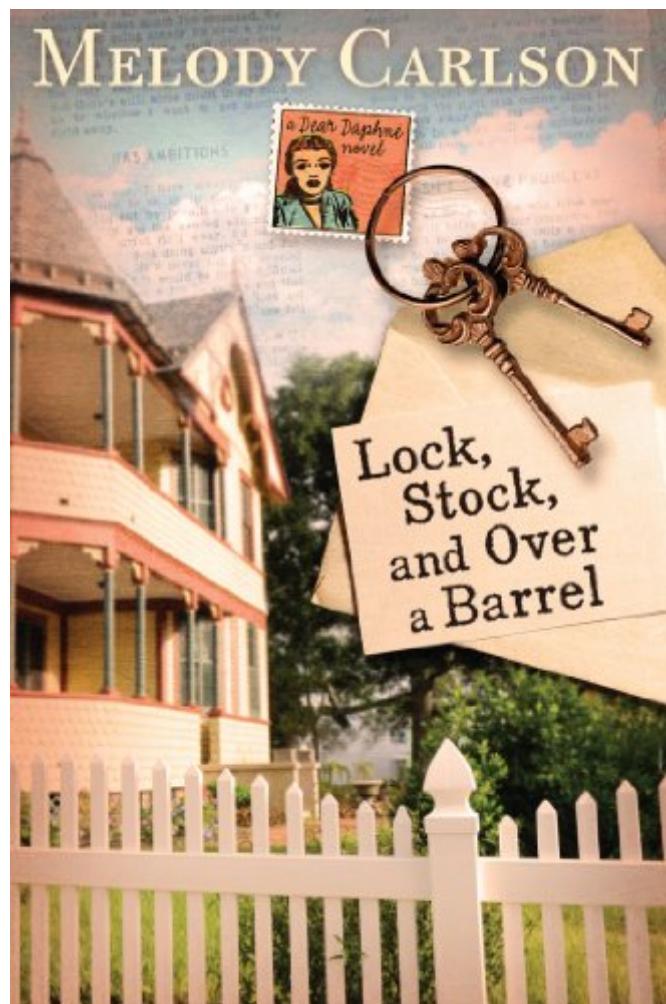


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# Lock, Stock, And Over A Barrel (Dear Daphne Series Book 1)



## **Synopsis**

With high hopes, Daphne Ballinger lands her dream job at The New York Times. But it's not long until writing about weddings becomes a painful reminder of her own failed romance, and her love of the city slowly sours as well. Is it time to give up the Big Apple for her small hometown of Appleton? When her eccentric Aunt Dee passes away and leaves a sizeable estate to Daphne, going back home is an easy choice. What isn't easy is coming to terms with the downright odd clauses written into the will. Daphne only stands to inherit the estate if she agrees to her aunt's very specific posthumous terms -- personal and professional. And if she fails to comply, the sprawling old Victorian house shall be bequeathed to . . . Aunt Dee's cats. And if Daphne thinks that's odd, wait until she finds out an array of secrets about Aunt Dee's life, and how imperfect circumstances can sometimes lead to God's perfect timing.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Is it the modern trend to end a book at the height of the story??? If so, count me out! The abrupt ending left me feeling cheated and sorry that I spent the money on this book. It should be called a serial, not a book, in my opinion. The sad part is that I think the writing is good, and I was enjoying

both the characters and the storyline, but I do not appreciate feeling like I read a long preview of the book, not a whole story. I really wish this story would have resolved SOMETHING! I will say that I liked the Christian content in the story, and the premise of the series looked promising. I will also say that I will not be ordering the rest of the series just to have short glimpses into Dorothy's life, and if I can remember this author, I will not trust her other books. Like the saying goes, you only have one opportunity to make a first impression!

I dislike books in a series...especially when I'm not aware it is a series. I began to wonder when I was getting close to the end how Ms. Carlson was going to wrap the storyline up. Sure enough, at the very end it is like you are reading "to be continued". Now, if I know the book is a series I don't usually buy it because by the time the next in the series comes out I've forgotten what the first one was. The book was very good and if it had concluded I would have given it five stars but I was so disappointed I couldn't do it. I wonder how many books will be in the series and how long I'd have to wait to get the complete set.

Daphne Ballinger wrote for the NEW YORK TIMES, but her job and her life in the city had not turned out like she'd dreamed. Even worse, the man she'd dated and fallen in love with turned out to be married with two sons. When her beloved aunt dies and leaves her the estate, she has no problem moving back to Appleton. The fly in the ointment turned out to be the conditions of the will. Aunt Dee said if Daphne didn't marry for love within a year, the estate would revert to charity. What was her aunt thinking, and what was Daphne going to do? I have enjoyed Melody Carlson's books before, but this one was rather disappointing. The book description even gets the main character's name wrong. It calls her "Dorothy," instead of "Daphne." This one was too simple, almost like it was one of Carlson's young adult novels, but the main character was in her thirties. In addition, the worst thing was it's not a stand-alone. You have to read the next one in the series to get the ending and know which man Daphne ends up with. Somehow, I failed to see that when I bought the book, and I'm surprised. Carlson is too good an author and too established to resort to this underhanded method. In my opinion, instead of garnering readers, it discourages them. It certainly lowered my opinion of her and her books, and I refuse to buy the next one under this circumstance. I will not be bullied or coerced into buying another book. What a sorry practice, especially for a Christian writer. "Over a barrel" is sort of how I feel about this, and it's not a comfortable feeling.

I also felt very cheated by the ending of this story. It was so abrupt that I actually kept paging

through the end pages to make sure I hadn't missed something. When I am reading an entire book that contains a conflict (someone that needs to satisfy the terms of an inheritance) then I expect at the end I will get to read the resolution to that conflict. This book left the reader so hanging that you couldn't even have a guess good of what that resolution would be. On top of that I found the book to be fairly slow moving and not as engaging as some of the authors other novels. I had this book on my wish list for quite some time. I was disappointed that I spent my money and time on it. I'd suggest if you have money to spend you use it on one of Melody Carlsons other novels.

I feel completely ripped off by the non-ending. The book doesn't conclude, it just stops. In the middle of the story, it quits. I enjoyed what there was, but is it too much to ask to write a complete story!?

This book had good character development and was easy and entertaining to read, but I was disappointed in the ending. It left the reader hanging completely. I felt like the book was unfinished.

I'm a huge fan of melody Carlson and have loved every book I've read. But, I have to say I was not a fan of this one. Allowing God to be the one to meet our needs is a message I can never hear too much of, but I also need closure if I'm gonna invest in a book. Feeling unresolved.

Although this is not a "heavyweight" book, it had an interesting plot. Girl unhappy in big city comes back to small town to receive aunt's inheritance. Only she finds out that aunt is not only not her aunt but there are "conditions" attached. So interesting storyline and. fairly well written. Unfortunately, the story just ends with no resolution. So how many more books will be purchased before we see how it turns out?? Now I have no problem with books written as a series. I even enjoy seeing the characters come back and see how they continue to develop from book to book. Having said that, I do believe that each of the books in a series should stand on its own and not be dependent on the next one or more for the story to be resolved. Then it starts to feel like a ploy to make me buy more books!

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