

HEARTWARMING INSPIRATIONAL ROMANCE

*Love & Hope*®

# Shelter of Hope

Lyn Cote

New Friends Street

Dear Reader,

I hope you have enjoyed the love story of Rosa and Marc. Two special people who had love to give but no one to receive it. Both of them suffered from guilt—some actual guilt and some false guilt. Guilt is a thorny emotion. If one is truly guilty, then confession can lead to healing even if one can't make things right.

Remember when King David finally confessed to the sin of adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of Uriah, he confessed that he had sinned against God alone. It is good to tell those you have wounded that you're sorry. But confessing to God and then accepting His forgiveness is the way to be free of the hurtful past.

And if someone has wronged you and will not admit guilt, free yourself. Ask God to heal your heart and make things right. Let the pain go. Let God set you free from grudges. It has been said that holding on to a grudge is like drinking poison and watching for the despised person to die. How much sense does that make?

*Lyn Cofe*

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why did Rosa carry guilt?
2. Why did Marc carry guilt?
3. Which of the two carried false guilt that is guilt over something unavoidable?
4. Does it make a difference if guilt is imagined or real? Does one affect a person less or more than the other?
5. Do you know a single mother? After reading about Rosa, do you see some ways you could help her carry the load of single parenting?
6. How did Naomi and Consuela try to help their grandchildren? Do you have good memories of your grandparents and their part in your life?
7. Why did Rosa and Marc want to pursue a career in law enforcement? How did you choose your career?
8. Have you ever had an experience like Marc's where you witnessed or were part of a tragedy? How did you cope with the effects of this?
9. Trent's father had a heart attack and that caused him to evaluate his life. Have you or someone you know well had a similar experience?
10. In the scene where Marc runs into his old high school teammate at the soccer practice, he compared himself

to the friend. Have you ever done that? Was it good or bad for you?

11. By the end of the story, Marc had decided that he wanted to pursue a different career. That happens often. The average American has five careers over a lifetime. How many have you had so far?
12. Did you know that one out of every eight couples in the U.S. met online? Have you ever known anyone who met someone through an online dating service? How did it turn out?
13. Many people volunteered to help build Rosa's house. Have you ever volunteered in your community?
14. Have you ever had to watch a loved one suffer and been unable to help? How did you handle this?
15. What would you say to Trent or someone like him? Is there hope for Trent?



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See the next page  
to enjoy a sneak peek from  
the Love Inspired® inspirational series.

*See below for a sneak peek at  
our inspirational line, Love Inspired®.  
Introducing HIS HOLIDAY BRIDE  
by bestselling author Jillian Hart*

Autumn Granger gave her horse rein to slide toward the town's new sheriff.

"Hey, there." The man in a brand-new Stetson, black T-shirt, jeans and riding boots held up a hand in greeting. He stepped away from his four-wheel drive with "Sheriff" in black on the doors and waded through the grasses. "I'm new around here."

"I'm Autumn Granger."

"Nice to meet you, Miss Granger. I'm Ford Sherman, from Chicago." He knuckled back his hat, revealing the most handsome face she'd ever seen. Big blue eyes contrasted with his sun-tanned complexion.

"I'm guessing you haven't seen much open land. Out here, you've got to keep an eye on cows or they're going to tear your vehicle apart."

"What?" He whipped around. Sure enough, mammoth black-and-white creatures had started to gnaw on his four-wheel drive. They clustered like a mob, mouths and tongues and teeth bent on destruction. One cow tried to pry the wiper off the windshield, another chewed on the side mirror. Several leaned through the open window, licking the seats.

"Move along, little dogie." He didn't know the first thing about cattle.

The entire herd swiveled their heads to study him curiously. Not a single hoof shifted. The animals soon returned to chewing, licking, digging through his possessions.

Autumn laughed, a warm and wonderful sound. "Thanks,



I needed that.” She then pulled a bag from behind her saddle and waved it at the cows. “Look what I have, guys. Cookies.”

Cows swung in her direction, and dozens of liquid brown eyes brightened with cookie hopes. As she circled the car, the cattle bounded after her. The earth shook with the force of their powerful hooves.

“Next time, you’re on your own, city boy.” She tipped her hat. The cowgirl stayed on his mind, the sweetest thing he had ever seen.

*Will Ford be able to stick it out in the country  
to find out more about Autumn?  
Find out in HIS HOLIDAY BRIDE  
by bestselling author Jillian Hart,  
available in October 2010  
only from Love Inspired®.*

FROM #1 NEW YORK TIMES  
AND USA TODAY BESTSELLING AUTHOR

# DEBBIE MACOMBER

## Mrs. Miracle on 34th Street...

This Christmas, Emily Merkle (just call her Mrs. Miracle) is working in the toy department at Finley's, the last family-owned department store in Manhattan.

Her boss (who happens to be the owner's son) has placed an order for a large number of high-priced robots, which he hopes will give the business a much-needed boost. In fact, Jake Finley's counting on it.

Holly Larson is counting on that robot, too. She's been looking after her eight-year-old nephew, Gabe, ever since her widowed brother was deployed overseas. Holly plans to buy Gabe a robot—which she can't afford—because she's determined to make Christmas special.

But this Christmas will be different—thanks to Mrs. Miracle. Next to bringing children joy, her favorite activity is giving romance a nudge. Fortunately, Jake and Holly are receptive to her "hints." And thanks to Mrs. Miracle, Christmas takes on new meaning for Jake. For all of them!

*Call Me Mrs. Miracle*

Available wherever books are sold  
September 28!



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MDM2819

**“Why doesn’t my dad ever come to visit me?” Johnny asked.**

The words sliced Rosa’s heart into two. She looked away. *How could I know, Johnny, that Trent was just using me to rebel against his family?*

“You said he lives far away,” Marc said. With this, he swung Johnny up to ride on his shoulders.

This special treat, however, didn’t distract her son.

“Yeah, but he’s visited me before,” Johnny said. “I remember.”

“Johnny, people are the way they are.” Marc let Johnny down. Then he stooped to look him in the eye. “Only God can change a heart and only when the person wants their heart to change.”

“You think my daddy’s heart needs changing?” Johnny asked. “Is it a bad heart?”

“Not bad, Johnny. He just needs to understand more about loving others. That’s all I meant,” Marc said. “If you were my son, I wouldn’t let you out of my life. I wouldn’t want to live far away from you.”

Rosa experienced the truth of these words. They coiled around her heart.

Johnny wrapped his arms around Marc’s neck. “I want to be your son. Couldn’t you marry us?”

## Books by Lyn Cote

### Love Inspired

*Never Alone*

*New Man in Town*

*Hope's Garden*

*\*\*Finally Home*

*\*\*Finally Found*

*The Preacher's Daughter*

*\*His Saving Grace*

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*†Shelter of Hope*

*††The Gabriel Sisters*

*\*\*Bountiful Blessings*

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*†New Friends Street*

*‡Harbor Intrigue*

### Love Inspired Historical

*††Her Captain's Heart*

*††Her Patchwork Family*

### Love Inspired Suspense

*‡Dangerous Season*

*‡Dangerous Game*

*‡Dangerous Secrets*

## LYN COTE

Lyn Cote and her husband, her real-life hero, became in-laws recently when their son married his true love. Lyn already loves her daughter-in-law and enjoys this new adventure in family stretching. Lyn and her husband still live on the lake in the north woods, where they watch a bald eagle and its young soar and swoop overhead throughout the year. She wishes the best to all her readers. You may e-mail Lyn at [l.cote@juno.com](mailto:l.cote@juno.com) or write her at P.O. Box 864, Woodruff, WI 54548. And drop by her blog [www.strongwomenbravestories.blogspot.com](http://www.strongwomenbravestories.blogspot.com) to read stories of strong women in real life and in true-to-life fiction. "Every woman has a story. Share yours."

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Lyn Cote



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SHELTER OF HOPE

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Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,  
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you  
and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in  
heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my  
yoke is easy and my burden is light.

—*Matthew* 11:28–30



To DeeDee, a great knitter and a better friend



## Chapter One



Without warning, on a clear blue August morning, danger barreled onto New Friends Street. Glancing over his shoulder, Marc Chambers saw the cement truck take the corner a little fast. At the same moment, he glimpsed a boy running across the street. Not looking. *No!*

The cement truck's brakes squealed like a trapped animal. Marc raced for the kid. Scooped him up. The wheels of the cement truck, just feet away, jumped, skipped—trying to stop in time.

People were screaming. Marc wrapped himself around the small boy's body. Threw himself into a roll...

*I can't stop in time. The horrible wrenching sound of metal chewing into metal churned through his flesh like the grinding of some vicious machine. His heart pounded in his ears—*

"Marc," a familiar voice came through the din in Marc's head. "Marc, it's all right. You and the boy are safe. The truck missed you both."

Marc blinked. His mind tried to grasp his grandmother's words. What had just happened to him?

Marc looked into his grandmother's soft round face, surrounded by her wavy white hair and straw hat. Her kind