

***Call Me Irresistible* by Susan Elizabeth Phillips.  
William Morrow, 2011. \$25.99, 387 pages.**

Have you ever read a book and been disappointed at the end because you fell in love with the characters and didn't want the story to end? Fans of Susan Elizabeth Phillips will be happy to know that *Call Me Irresistible* brings back many of the characters from the author's previous books and continues their stories.

Meg Koranda (introduced in *What I Did For Love*), daughter of Hollywood royalty, has traveled to Wynette, Texas for the wedding of her best friend, Lucy (introduced in *First Lady*). Lucy is marrying former golf pro and Wynette mayor, Ted Beaudine (introduced in *Fancy Pants* and *Lady Be Good*). As soon as Meg meets Ted and sees him with Lucy, she senses that something is off between the couple. She can't quite put her finger on it, but Meg knows that Lucy shouldn't go through with the wedding and voices her opinion. Just as Lucy is set to walk down the aisle, she has a change of heart and runs out on the wedding and her fiancé.

After Lucy disappears, everyone in Wynette turns on Meg, blaming her for Lucy's change of heart, but Meg maintains that she was only looking out for her friend and her happiness. Meg can't wait to get out of Texas, especially since the residents of Wynette seem determined to make her pay for hurting their "golden boy." But there's just one problem. Meg's broke. Tired of supporting Meg's worldwide travels and lack of ambition, her famous parents have practiced tough love and cut off her cash flow. If Meg wants to leave Wynette, she'll have to find a way to earn the money herself.

With no other choice, Meg finds employment in Wynette, first at the local inn and then at the local country club. After a few nights of sleeping uncomfortably in her car, Meg finds the old abandoned church Ted gave to Lucy as a wedding present, and she sets up camp inside. Before long, Ted finds her living in the church. Meg is astounded that Ted already seems to have moved on from his heartbreak, and she determines that there must be something more going on with him. As Ted and Meg build a tentative friendship, which includes some benefits, Meg realizes that Ted has built a wall around his heart, and she wants nothing more than to break them down. With the stamp of approval from Lucy, Meg continues to see Ted, all while hoping the people of Wynette don't find out. She knows they already dislike her. In fact, someone who dislikes her keeps playing mysterious pranks on her that seem to be an effort to scare her away from Wynette.

Not easily intimidated, Meg works to prove herself to everyone in Wynette, and she even takes part in the town's scheme to woo a wealthy bathroom fixtures tycoon to build a golf resort in the small Texas town. Meg finds that she's becoming comfortable living in Wynette, but she's still not sure that Ted is being honest with her about his feelings. Can she break down his walls once and for all?

Susan Elizabeth Phillips is a master of the romance genre, and *Call Me Irresistible* is a fun romp through a small Texas town with a lovable cast of characters. A hint of mystery, a dash of humor, and a slowly-burning romantic tension between Meg and Ted all work together to make this book hard to put down. The uncertainty of whether the hero and heroine would end up together kept me turning the pages, and as I closed the book, I was sad to be leaving Wynette, but knowing Susan Elizabeth Phillips, I'm sure we'll be seeing Meg and Ted and all the others again before too long.

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