



## A Wish and a Prayer

By Beverly Jenkins  
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### Introduction

Anyone worried that living in a small town could be boring certainly hasn't lived in Henry Adams, Kansas. From the wealthy divorcee who saved this historic town founded by freed slaves to the romantic entanglements that have set tongues wagging and hearts fluttering (and everything in between), there's plenty to keep the lovably eccentric townsfolk busy.

Preston Miles is happy living with his foster parents, but an e-mail from his maternal grandmother is about to change all that. . . . Riley Curry, the former town mayor, is convinced his pet hog, Cletus, acted in self-defense when he sat on and killed a man. Now Riley just has to prove it in a court of law. . . . And as for Rocky, she has already had a lifetime of hurt. Will she risk opening her heart and her life to Jack?

Warm, funny, poignant, and unforgettable, Beverly Jenkins's latest excursion to Henry Adams is a true delight—a welcome return to a place that always feels like home.

### Questions for Discussion

1. How did the title *A Wish and a Prayer* resonate through the story?
2. Will the relationship between Jack and Rocky flourish or flounder?
3. Do you think Bernadine's guilt over the Stillwell family will affect her future philanthropy endeavors?
4. What did you think of Bernadine's and Mal's decision not to formalize their relationship?
5. Discuss Preston's story line. How did you feel about it?
6. Should a child's Internet activities be monitored by a parent or guardian?
7. Did Cletus have the right to defend himself, and did you agree or disagree with Judge Davis's decision in the case?
8. Have you or your family ever participated in a night-sky-watching activity?
9. Do you believe Dr. Margaret Winthrop and her mother, Lenore Crenshaw, will ever reconcile?
10. Discuss what you'd like to see happen next in Henry Adams.

### About the Author

Beverly Jenkins is the author of twenty-five historical and contemporary novels, including three previous books in her beloved Blessings series. She has been featured in many national publications, such as the *Wall Street Journal*, *People*, the *Dallas Morning News*, and *Vibe*. She lives in Michigan.