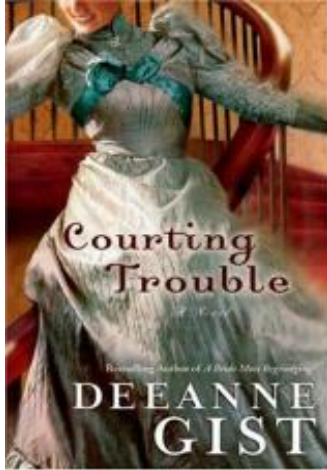


# Courting Trouble

by Deeanne Gist

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## About the Book

Whether it's riding bikes, catching snakes, or sliding down banisters, Essie Spreckelmeyer just can't quite make herself into the ideal woman her hometown --- and her mother --- expect her to be. It's going to take an extraordinary man to appreciate her joy and spontaneity --- or so says her doting oil-man father.

Unfortunately such a man doesn't appear to reside in Corsicana, Texas.

It's 1894, the year of Essie's thirtieth birthday, and she decides the Lord has more important things to do than provide her a husband. If she wants one, she needs to catch him herself. So, she writes down the names of all the eligible bachelors in her small Texas town, makes a list of their attributes and drawbacks, closes her eyes, twirls her finger, and...picks one.

But convincing the lucky "husband-to-be" is going to a bit more of a problem.

Join Deeanne Gist for another unforgettable tale and find out whether Essie's plan to catch a husband succeeds or if she's just COURTING TROUBLE.

## Discussion Guide

1.How did you feel at the end of the book when Essie didn't get a man?

2. Do you think a woman needs a man to be a "complete" person? Why or why not?

3. Do you think it's all right to marry a good, decent man you aren't in love with? Why or why not?

4. What is the difference between being "joyful" in life and "content" with the life?

5. What are some practical things we could do to change "content" into "joy"?

6. We live in a culture that goes two-by-two.

What can we do to be more sensitive to the needs of our singles?

7. What was your favorite scene and why?

8. Essie learned a different lesson with each man.

What lesson did she learn after her experience with Hamilton?

With Adam? With Ewing?

9. What are some ways that Essie could have avoided being deceived by Adam?

10. What was the overall lesson Essie learned?

What are some other situations (besides singleness) that we could apply this truth to? (barrenness, etc.)

11. On a five star system, how many stars would you give this book? Why?

## Author Bio

DeeAnne Gist has rocketed up bestseller lists and captured readers everywhere with her very fun, original historical and contemporary novels. She has received three RITA nominations, two consecutive Christy Awards, and rave reviews. With a background in education and journalism and a degree from Texas A&M, DeeAnne has written for *People*, *Parents* and *Parenting* magazine. She has four grown children and lives in Houston, Texas, with her husband. Visit her online at [IWantHerBook.com](http://IWantHerBook.com) and at [Facebook.com/DeesFriends](https://www.facebook.com/DeesFriends).

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**Publication Date:** June 1, 2007

**Genres:** Christian, Historical Fiction

**Paperback:** 336 pages

**Publisher:** Bethany House

**ISBN-10:** 0764202251

**ISBN-13:** 9780764202254