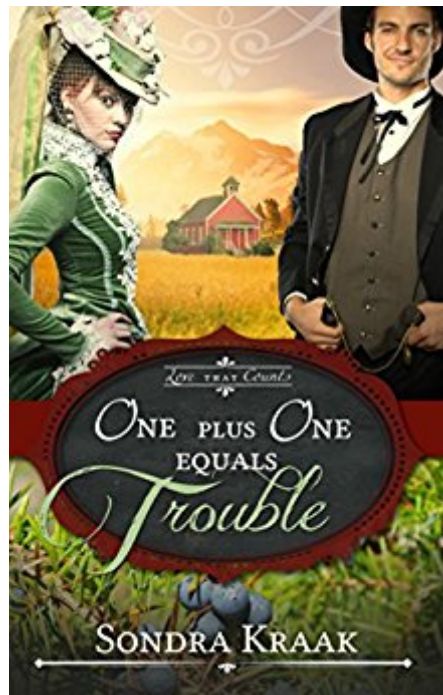




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One Plus One Equals Trouble (Love That Counts Book 1)



Synopsis

The one room schoolhouse isn't big enough to hold thirty-four students, let alone the egos of two teachers. He can't afford to lose the position, and she refuses to lose her heart. Humiliated after her broken engagement, Claire Montgomery flees her comfortable life in San Francisco for a teaching position in Pine Creek, Washington, a dot of a town nestled in the rugged Cascade Mountains. She's determined to succeed—for once in her life—only to discover, upon her arrival, that success will have to be won. Thanks to a school board error, two teachers have been hired. When scandal forces professor Barrett Clarke from his position, he returns to Pine Creek where his uncle, chairman of the school board, sets forth an irresistible offer: teach one year in return for ranchland. For this would-be rancher, nothing is more tempting than resurrecting his childhood dream, and nothing can deter him from earning that land. Except perhaps Claire Montgomery. Losing the battle for the classroom means losing the ranchland, but winning may mean losing Claire's heart. With large doses of humor and romantic tension, this Christian historical love story offers a picture of grace, forgiveness, and finding true worth.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

One Plus One Equals Trouble is the perfect title for a book I had trouble putting down! Sondra Kraak's debut novel is filled with delightful characters and a humor-laced, yet believable plot. When Claire Montgomery arrives in Pine Creek, Washington, she learns she will have to earn the position she thought she'd already been awarded and the competition, the handsome former professor, Barrett Clarke, will be her biggest obstacle. Having fled San Francisco following a broken engagement, Claire needs to prove to herself that she can succeed at something but Barrett is equally determined to win the ranch land his uncle has promised if he wins the position. As tension mounts between the two teachers in the tiny, one room schoolhouse, both must learn that true happiness is not measured by their accomplishments but by embracing God's plan, even when it differs from their own. Skillfully crafted and beautifully written, Kraak's novel about grace and forgiveness will leave you wanting more from this new author!

Claire Montgomery arrives in Pine Creek, Washington determined to leave embarrassment behind and prove her worth as a teacher in the town's small schoolroom. Imagine her utter astonishment when she learns that due to the school board's mismanagement of applicants, she will be sharing that very tight space with another newly hired instructor; one that is tall, homegrown, infuriately handsome and amazingly talented. Caught in a competition of wills and expectations, Claire and Barrett Clarke quickly assess each other's strengths and weaknesses, leaving the entire town to wonder just who will earn the title. Unfortunately for Claire, there are those working behind the scenes in Barrett's favor, but is gaining this coveted position really worth what Barrett will ultimately lose? Fun, flirty and fascinating, this story took off with the pace of a small town sack race, only to morph mid-way through into an inspirational heavyweight, captivating in its intensity and brilliant with implications. Claire and Barrett both discover things about themselves, their pasts, and God's power of redemption that leave them both trembling with remorse and joyous anticipation. Sondra Kraak has penned an impressive debut!

One Plus One Equals Trouble invites readers to linger in a one-room schoolhouse located in the mountain town of Pine Creek, Washington. Upon arriving in Pine Creek, the main characters, Claire

Montgomery and Barrett Clarke, discover that by accident they have both been hired to teach the town's 34 children. To solve the problem of having an extra teacher, the school board allows both Claire and Barrett to stay for a trial period as it is determined which teacher is a better fit for the job. Because both characters see the teaching position as a new chance at life, both are determined to prove themselves worthy. Kraak creates likable characters (of course some unlikeable ones are tossed in as well!) and a setting readers will imagine themselves visiting. In addition, I like the way the author weaves history, romance, and faith all into one well-told story.

One position. Two teachers. Each has solid reasons for needing to win, but ultimately, what is truly at stake? *One Plus One Equals Trouble* pits two likable characters against each other. Claire struggles with past failures – a struggle with which many can relate. Barrett has his heart set on his dreams, but sometimes when we focus so intently, we miss greater things along the way. Despite their differences, or perhaps because of them, Claire and Barrett find themselves in some comical situations, and their banter is delightful. I particularly enjoyed their vocabulary challenges! The story is not all comedy, though. Subtle messages of truth will likely linger in your mind after reading *One Plus One Equals Trouble*. There is no soapbox, but instead a simple truth woven through the pages. *One Plus One Equals Trouble* is the first in a series, and I look forward to reading the rest of the stories as well. Sweet debut!

Books set in one room school houses always intrigue me. Add in a second teacher to make a male/female teaching duo and I was extra excited! Claire's character showed a lot of real-life flaws but also showed a huge degree of development. I loved watching her teaching skills evolve throughout the book. I enjoyed watching her become more creative and take more risks. Barrett was also a great character with plenty of flaws and room for growth in his life but I definitely related with Claire more. Kraak's ability to take Claire and Barrett's opposites and wield them into a story filled with inter-personal conflict, internal conflict, and a more than share of town gossip was impressive. Watching the two teachers duel to see who would get the teaching position was a little nerve wracking because they both showed great qualities as teachers. But you'll have to read the book to see who won! And the love story... Well that was pretty fun too. It is always fun to read stories where two people are falling for each other but trying to fight off the feelings on one or both sides. I loved the banter. I loved that it wasn't an easy happily ever after. Yes, in the end I knew what the outcome would be but Kraak didn't make it easy for her characters and I always appreciate that. If you're looking for a good Christian historical romantic fiction book this is the one for you.

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