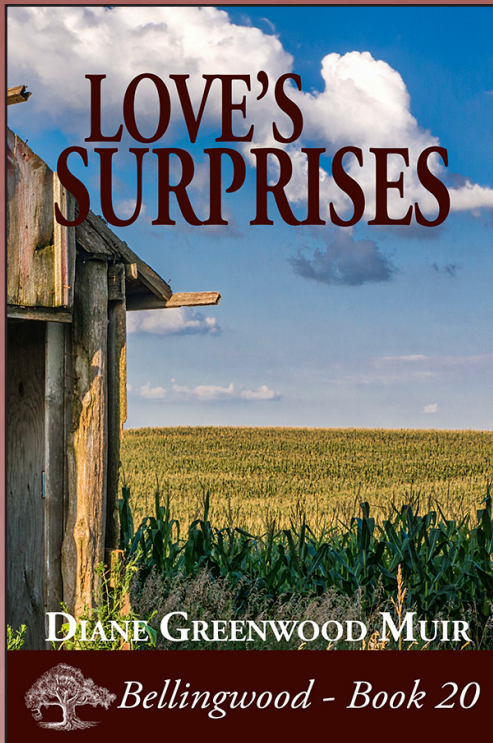


SURVIVING THE WAIT

*A Countdown to
Bellingwood Book 20*

by Diane C. Wendt



SPOILER ALERT:

If you have not read all of the Bellingwood series, read these at your own risk.

Eighty-eight - - - - -

There are eighty-eight long days
we must survive.

There are eighty-eight long days
until we arrive.

Back to Bellingwood
we must go.

Back to Bellingwood
so we can know.

Will Polly's family grow
with a girl abused for years?
Will Polly's family grow
adding hippies who have no fears?

We love spending time at
Sycamore House where Percherons abound.
We love spending time at
Bell House where secrets can be found.

What will Diane tell us next
about Polly and her friends?
What will Polly tell us next
in this story that better not end.

Eighty-seven - - - - -

There are eighty-seven long days
we must survive.

There are eighty-seven long days
until we arrive.

With Polly and friends
we want to spend some time.
With Polly and friends
we want to solve a crime.

How many bodies
will she discover?
How many bodies
with secrets to uncover?

Will the Bell House kids
have adventures here and there?
Will the Bell House kids
find new friends everywhere?

What will Diane tell us next
as new friends we get to know?
What will Polly tell us next
as we watch her family grow?

Eighty-six - - - - -

There are eighty-six long days
we must survive.

There are eighty-six long days
until we arrive.

We're waiting for Jeff
to get swept off his feet.
We're waiting for Grey
to meet someone so sweet.

Will Drea's hot brothers
ever come back to town?
Will Drea's hot brothers
stir things up or calm them down?

Are adventures going to
start in Elva's brand new stable?
Are adventures going to
bring a false friend to Polly's table?

What will Diane tell us next
as new friends we get to know?
What will Polly tell us next
as we watch her family grow?

Eighty-five - - - - -

There are eighty-five long days
we must survive.
There are eighty-five long days
until we arrive.

Does the man who came
to Heath's party return?
Does the man who came
have a secret we must learn?

Will Lucy's husband reveal
more secrets from the past?
Will Sylvie's husband reveal
his intentions at last?

Can someone else find a
body in Polly's domain?
Can someone else find a
way to break Polly's chain?

What will Diane tell us next
About our Bellingwood friends?
What will Polly tell us next
of friendship that never ends?

Eighty-four - - - - -

There are eighty-four long days
we must survive.
There are eighty-four long days
until we arrive.

Will high school bring change
to Rebecca and Andrew?
Will high school bring change
to Kayla's love life, too?

At Sycamore Bed & Breakfast
in greenhouse dirt, what will Judy find?
At Sycamore Bed & Breakfast
hiding secrets? Keep Reuben's forge in mind.

Do we want to hear wedding bells
for Sylvie and Eliseo at last?
Do we want to hear wedding bells
as Tab and JJ move beyond his wild past?

What will Diane tell us next
to bring us back to Bellingwood?
What will Polly tell us next
about family growing as it should?

Eighty-three - - - - -

There are eighty-three long days
we must survive.
There are eighty-three long days
until we arrive.

Whose story isn't finished;
could it be Aaron's sister, Helen?
Whose story isn't finished;
is Rebecca's biological father callin'?

Are there any secrets left in
the unfinished rooms at Belling House?
Are there any secrets left in
Henry's grandma's old farm house?

Could Noah and Elijah find
a body at the old folk's center?
Could Jason and Andrew find
someone lost in the snow this winter?

What will Diane tell us next
that Polly's shared in their talks?
What will Polly tell us next
About Obiwan and their walks?

Eighty-two - - - - -

There are eighty-two long days
we must survive.
There are eighty-two long days
until we arrive.

Do we need an adventure
for Doug and Anita to share?
Do we need an adventure
for Rachel and Billy to beware?

Could there be something special
hidden in Simon's Antique Shoppe?
Could there be something special
in that basement with the library on top?

What if someone showed up
claiming the Percherons were their own?
What if someone showed up
with a new secret about Polly's home?

What will Diane tell us next
that we'd never thought to hear?
What will Polly tell us next
that'll make Henry quake in fear?

Eighty-one - - - - -

There are eighty-one long days
we must survive.
There are eighty-one long days
until we arrive.

Is there a new girl in town who
calls Rebecca Becky just to make her mad?
Is there a new girl in town who
hits on Andrew just to make Rebecca sad?

Could Mark's sister Lisa
be teaching more than dance?
Could Henry's sister Lonnie
visit and find romance?

What's so special about Obiwan
that he sniffs out drugs just fine?
What's so special about Jasmine
that she calms five kids at a time?

What will Diane tell us next
to quell the fears in our heart?
What will Polly tell us next
about punishments that smart?

Eighty - - - - -

There are eighty long days
we must survive.
There are eighty long days
until we arrive.

Is there a story to tell about
Beryl and her stiff and dullest brother?
Is there a story to tell about
Beryl and the husband who loved her?

Are there new lessons to be learned
about taking in each and every stray?
Are there new lessons to be learned
by letting some find their own way?

Having five children sure gave
Lydia and Aaron excitement in their life.
Having five children may give
them an unpleasant bit of strife.

What will Diane tell us
about her next visit to Bellingwood?
What would Polly tell us
about Diane's visits if she could?

Seventy-nine - - - - -

There are seventy-nine long days
we must survive.
There are seventy-nine long days
until we arrive.

We haven't heard all the facts
about Clyde and Ivy Giller.
We haven't heard all the reasons
to suspect Polly might be their killer.

Could Polly's family grow so big
they'd need the rooms above the kitchen?
Could Polly's family grow so big
Henry'd have no quiet place to hide in?

Have we really heard the last
of Ruth Ann Marshall's selfish greed.
Have we really heard the least
Polly'd do for her if she truly was in need.

What can Diane teach us all
about learning to forgive?
What can Polly teach us all
about the happiest way to live?

Seventy-eight - - - - -

There are seventy-eight long days
we must survive.
There are seventy-eight long days
until we arrive.

Why does Jeff dread the thought
of visits from his mother?
Does Jeff dread the stories
she'd tell, and his secrets uncover?

Is it time for another how-down
to introduce Elva and her new barn?
Is it time for another country dance
to bring a little romance to the farm?

Would we feel like Len if a
cemetery was our backyard view?
Or would we feel like Polly and
enjoy the peace only broken by a few?

What has Diane said to help us
make our lives a little better?
What has Polly done to show us
sharing and caring is the way to get her?

Seventy-seven - - - - -

There are seventy-seven long days
we must survive.
There are seventy-seven long days
until we arrive.

How does Heath take to college;
does he find new things to explore?
How does Heath take to college;
does construction interest him more?

Does Hayden's love of research
give him a lead to a healing find?
Does Hayden's love of research
find him a girl of like mind?

Could Polly find her next body
at a sleepover at the Sheriff's house?
Could Polly find her next body
with the girls and the Sheriff's spouse?

Will Diane help us make it through
'til Christmas with vignettes?
Will Polly help us make it through,
telling us what everyone gets?

Seventy-six - - - - -

There are seventy-six long days
we must survive.
There are seventy-six long days
until we arrive.

Do you remember when
a friend died at Polly's door?
Do you remember who
her friend was looking for?

Did that story end
for Thomas's friend Ben Seafold?
Did that story end
with Ben and Genie's whole story told?

After forty-four years
could romance find Nelly after all?
After forty-four years
was there magic at a Masquerade Ball?

Will Diane help us
see how important friends can be?
Will Polly help us
find peace by a Sycamore tree?

Seventy-five - - - - -

There are seventy-five long days
we must survive.
There are seventy-five long days
until we arrive.

Who will Rebecca travel with
to sit on the Champs-Élysées?
Who will Rebecca travel with
to paint the Arc de Triomphe one day?

Will that trip to Paris have to
wait to be a graduation prize?
Will a trip to Athens take her
to the Acropolis at sunrise?

What will Polly and Henry do
when their little girl leaves the nest?
What will Polly and Henry do
when only boys make up the rest?

Will Diane give us strength
to cope with our bad days?
Will Polly give us insight
to raise kids in better ways?

Seventy-four - - - - -

There are seventy-four long days
we must survive.
There are seventy-four long days
until we arrive.

Do you think Polly's Percherons
would be fun to compete or show?
When you think of Polly's Percherons
is there anything they don't already know?

Has Eliseo trained them well
to compete and be winning?
Has Eliseo trained them well
in driving, plowing and pulling?

How would Demi, Daisy, Nan and Nat
react to being vacuumed for competition?
How would Demi, Daisy, Nan and Nat
like rolled manes and braided tails for this
mission?

Will Diane give us insight on
trying new things to grow?
Will Polly teach us that sharing
is a way to let our love show?

Seventy-three - - - - -

There are seventy-three long days
we must survive.
There are seventy-three long days
until we arrive.

We know in Polly's world
her bed and breakfast will fill a dream.
We know in Polly's world
Sycamore Inn will have a hockey team.

Will she have new projects
to fill poor Henry with dread?
Will she have new projects
making more places to find the dead?

Will Polly's ambitions include
a studio for art and music classes?
Will Polly's future include
a spa or gym before too much time passes?

Can we ever thank Diane enough
for all the inspiration she gives?
Can we ever meet someone like Polly
who'll make our world a better place to live?

Seventy-two - - - - -

There are seventy-two long days
we must survive.
There are seventy-two long days
until we arrive.

Do you remember two young women
who worked for Jon and Ray?
Do you remember two young women
who kept Polly safe by day?

When they left Polly told them
"If you ever need a place to hide ..."
When they left Polly promised them
Sycamore House'd have a room inside.

Will Tonya and Gerry be looking
to find safety in Bellingwood?
Will Tonya and Gerry be needing
a place to recover if they could?

Diane will always treat us
like a good friend always should.
Polly will always keep us
remembering times that were good.

Seventy-one - - - - -

There are seventy-one long days
we must survive.
There are seventy-one long days
until we arrive.

Polly, her friends and neighbors
have seventeen of these among them.
Polly, her friends and neighbors
have babies through young children.

If someone with evil intent
was looking for an opportunity.
If someone with evil intent
founded a day care in the community.

Who could rescue Rose and Alexander,
Noah, Elijah, Samuel, Ana, Gabriela and
Matty?
Who could rescue Jeremy and Julia,
Aiden, Lucas, Lillian, Cooper, Owen, Lucas
and Sophie?

Diane will always be a teacher
showing ways to keep families safe.
Polly will always be a hero
forging a path through every strife.

Seventy - - - - -

There are seventy long days
we must survive.
There are seventy long days
until we arrive.

Once when the girls were talking at Pizzazz
they thought helping people would be cool.
Once when the girls got together at Pizzazz
they decided to start a club called 'Girls Rule.'

Some of the gold coins found at Bell House
would give the club a starting spark.
Some of the gold coins found at Bell House
would let Polly make a little downtown park.

Was anyone ever rescued
by the ladies called 'Girls Rule'?
Was anyone ever remembered
on bricks surrounding a small pool?

Good ideas will always come
from Diane's loving heart.
Good deeds will always come
when Polly's got a part.

Sixty-nine - - - - -

There are sixty-nine long days
we must survive.
There are sixty-nine long days
until we arrive.

There are so many people in Bellingwood
whose stories we don't know.
There are so many people in Bellingwood
we've barely met on the go.

Every time Polly calls the police station
Mindy sends the exact right assistance.
Every time Polly calls at the school
Sharon paves the way without resistance.

For help at the Bellwood Bank
Lou Wymore's the one you want to go to.
For help in the Jewelry Store it's
Gordon Berkley for appraisals old and new.

Friends and family growing together,
connections that in Diane's world abound.
Friends and family sharing and caring
are what make Polly's world go 'round.

Sixty-eight - - - - -

There are sixty-eight long days
we must survive.
There are sixty-eight long days
until we arrive.

When Sylvie was going to classes
to get certified as the chef she'd already
proved to be,
There were a few guys in those classes
whose macho spirit gave her trouble for
being a she.

Now Sylvie is a great success with
Sycamore House and its
Sycamore Catering business.

Now Sylvie is such a great success
she's added Sweet Beans Bakery with
only a little stress.

Could her success upset those chauvinistic
classmates
who had to settle for a second-rate situation?
Could her success spur on those chauvinistic
classmates
to try sabotage to damage her reputation?

Friends believe in friends no matter what,
when you've got Diane's true heart.
Friends believe in friends no matter what
someone tells Polly to try to make them part.

Sixty-seven - - - - -

There are sixty-seven long days
we must survive.
There are sixty-seven long days
until we arrive.

In small towns family ties run deep
and sometimes a new face brings more along.
In small towns families tend to gather
adding brothers or sisters whose ties are strong.

Our favorite veterinarian
added his sister and her dance studio to town.
Our favorite veterinarian
gave Bellingwood the best pizza around.

Is there a story behind his sister Lisa
leaving mother, father and other brothers to
live here?
Is there a story behind his brother-in-law Dylan
choosing Bellingwood to open Pizzazz and
live near?

Family is so very important to Diane,
more than most will ever know.
Family is so very important to Polly,
that's why she makes hers grow.

Sixty-six - - - - -

There are sixty-six long days
we must survive.
There are sixty-six long days
until we arrive.

We've had an adventure with the boys
who brought Secret Woods Winery to town.
We know a few things about the boys,
the Terrible Trio, who've come back around.

Creating the *Sword Lords* gaming world
brought them money and much success.
Selling the *Sword Lords* gaming world
let them to come home to a new business.

What stories are there about these boys
who as teens were smart to write gaming code?
What stories are there about these boys
naming them Terrible when they weren't
very old?

Everyone grows and learns and
Diane says change is good.
Everyone grows and learns and
Polly's helped when she could.

Sixty-five - - - - -

There are sixty-five long days
we must survive.
There are sixty-five long days
until we arrive.

When it's Halloween at Sycamore House
daring Lydia's Haunted Hall's the
spookiest thing.
When it's Halloween in Bellingwood
through the streets scary Percherons'
hooves ring.

Once, after the Haunted Hall came down,
a masque ball kept costumed dancers laughing.
Once, before the Haunted Hall came down,
it was the site of Billy and Rachel's wedding.

Could it be that on Halloween Polly will find
what she finds, filling the coffin in the
Haunted Hall?
Could it be that on Halloween Polly will find
what she finds, filling the coffin the
Percherons haul?

Let's all keep busy making pumpkin pie
if Diane's story is a scary one.
Let's all keep busy carving pumpkins
with Polly and her boys for fun.

Sixty-four - - - - -

There are sixty-four long days
we must survive.
There are sixty-four long days
until we arrive.

We've had some cryptic clues about Simon,
"when he was young, his life turned upside
down."
We've had some cryptic clues about Simon,
"I've seen a photograph of this hallway,"
he said with a frown.

Simon's mother worked at the Bell House
when it was a speakeasy hotel.
Simon's mother kept a journal about Bell House,
of secret meetings she would tell.

He's cataloging things in the Bell House attic,
but hasn't gotten to the trunks and boxes yet.
He might find things in the Bell House attic,
not bodies but some new mysteries, I bet.

Diane's sure if we'd work together
the world could be better for us all.
Polly and her friends all work together
helping whenever there's a call.

Sixty-three - - - - -

There are sixty-three long days
we must survive.
There are sixty-three long days
until we arrive.

When Bell House was Springer House
many tales of hauntings were told.
When Bell House was Springer House
it was visited only by the bold.

Now Bell House backs on the cemetery
where ghosts can easily be found.
Now Bell House backs on the cemetery
where Halloween pranksters abound.

Are the recent sightings meant to make
poor Len, Noah and Elijah shake in fright.
Are the recent sightings meant for fun
or is something more sinister happening
each night.

Can we count on Diane to make sure
we all keep growing and having fun?
Can we count on Polly to keep using
her businesses to help out everyone?

Sixty-two - - - - -

There are sixty-two long days
we must survive.
There are sixty-two long days
until we arrive.

There's a house full of old folks
that Polly's not welcome near.
There's a house full of old folks
where Noah and Elijah bring cheer.

Now when winter snow's blowing strong
Polly drives the boys to visit.
Now that winter snow's drifting high
Polly sees ... oh no, what is it?

Noah hopes it's not Mrs. Walker
because he loves to read to her aloud.
Elijah hopes it's not his friend Benny
whose chess lessons make him proud.

Diane's sending us a message
about tolerance and loving to give.
Polly's showing us the message
in how her family chooses to live.

Sixty-one - - - - -

There are sixty-one long days
we must survive.
There are sixty-one long days
until we arrive.

Would you believe someone tried to
steal a Percheron in the middle of the night?
Would you believe someone tried to
replace Nat with a nag that was a sight?

In the morning when Eliseo got there
he found a black-dyed nag munching on hay.
In the morning when Eliseo got there
Huck was sitting on a guy in the alley way.

By the time Polly made it to the barn
the thief told Ken and Eliseo how he
planned it.
By the time Polly made it to the barn
they were trying hard not to have a
laughing fit.

I guess Diane's lesson here is
that those who steal aren't all that bright.
It tests Polly's forgiving nature
when someone gives her animals a fright.

Sixty - - - - -

There are sixty long days
we must survive.
There are sixty long days
until we arrive.

We know that Sal came to Bellingwood
to be with the man she couldn't live without.
We know that Sal gave to Bellingwood
the coffee shop it needed without a doubt.

But have we ever learned
what Sal keeps writing about?
Will we soon come to learn
what kind of secrets she lets out?

Is it a novel about Bellingwood
revealing things we didn't know?
Is it a novel about Bellingwood
as Sal watches and helps it grow?

Maybe Diane has a rival
writing stories in her world of Bellingwood.
Maybe Polly has a friend
writing the things she wishes that she could.

Fifty-nine - - - - -

There are fifty-nine long days
we must survive.
There are fifty-nine long days
until we arrive.

We've followed a girl for five years now;
a big city librarian who had to leave town.
We've followed this girl for five years now;
as she came back to Iowa to settle down.

Polly arrived in Bellingwood with
nothing but a half-formed dream.
Polly came to Bellingwood and
bought a schoolhouse for her scheme.

Since she's arrived she's come so far;
growing family, businesses, and the town.
Looking to the future, she's got more plans;
So let's let her soar, not bring her down.

Can Diane keep on writing about Polly,
telling stories that make us feel good?
Can Polly keep on rescuing others,
helping them as only she could?

Fifty-eight - - - - -

There are fifty-eight long days
we must survive.
There are fifty-eight long days
until we arrive.

Now Henry and Nate are just two guys
who think rusty old hulks can be restored.
Now Henry and Nate have two wives
who let them work on the cars as a reward.

While Henry was building Nate's new home
Nate turned an old barn into a big auto shop.
While Henry built bedrooms for a family to grow
Nate made room so buying cars wouldn't stop.

Does Joss have a family plan to keep Nate
changing diapers with five kids already?
Does Polly find things like a bed & breakfast
or a garage to keep Henry working steady?

Will Diane keep those poor guys so busy
restoring those woodies will take years?
Will Polly keep saying "It's not my fault!"
while Henry works to control his fears?

Fifty-seven - - - - -

There are fifty-seven long days
we must survive.
There are fifty-seven long days
until we arrive.

Poor Andrew fell out of a tree,
and Polly met Roy Nelson and his dad.
Poor Andrew broke his arm,
but Jessie got out of a situation that was bad.

Polly's very grateful to that young man
with Graphic Design and Computer Science
degrees.
Polly, always ready to grow Bellingwood,
finds an opportunity for Roy nobody else sees.

If Roy doesn't want to leave rural Iowa
how will he use his well-earned skills here?
Will Roy leave Oelwein for Bellingwood
and embrace Polly's plan without fear?

Diane's always got something up her sleeve
to keep Polly's adventures exciting.
Polly's always ready to help; she rescues
everyone and won't ever stop fighting.

Fifty-six - - - - -

There are fifty-six long days
we must survive.
There are fifty-six long days
until we arrive.

It's hard to understand how anyone
could dislike Polly, her family and friends.
It's hard to understand how anyone
could try to hurt them so their story ends.

Now Heath was in a mess until he
told the truth so Ladd, then Seth, saw jail.
Now Heath is in a new mess until we
find who's hurting him so their plot will fail.

Jason started high school making bad friends;
Rudy, Logan and Seth were using fast cars
to intimidate.

Jason recognized them when they tried to
kill Polly;
they were caught and now someone is trying
to retaliate.

There are so many life-lessons Diane's
using Polly to help make clear.
There are so many ways Polly shows us
standing together can overcome fear.

Fifty-five - - - - -

There are fifty-five long days
we must survive.
There are fifty-five long days
until we arrive.

If you live in Bellingwood
your dreams could all come true.
If you live in Bellingwood
there's nothing you can't do.

Sal wanted a coffee shop,
and now she has Sweet Beans.
Joss and Nate wanted babies,
will just five fill their dreams?

Polly wanted to help people;
now Sycamore House is open to all.
Henry just wanted Polly;
he also got children, horses, donkeys, dogs,
cats . . .

Be careful what you wish for
when Diane's making dreams come true.
Be careful what you say near Polly;
she's always ready to try something new.

Fifty-four - - - - -

There are fifty-four long days
we must survive.
There are fifty-four long days
until we arrive.

There are some ladies in Bellingwood
we could rightly name 'The Fab Five.'
When they have ladies' night in Bellingwood
from wine or martinis they must survive.

I wonder if it's just coincidence
a winery was attracted to this town.
I wonder if it was just coincidence
during Prohibition here stills did abound.

Polly, Lydia, Beryl, Andy and Sylvie
support each other in good times and bad.
Polly, Lydia, Beryl, Andy and Sylvie
unwind together whether stressed, happy
or sad.

A few glasses of wine with Diane
on Trivia Night is so much fun.
A few glasses of wine with Polly
and Henry's glad he's her only one.

Fifty-three - - - - -

There are fifty-three long days
we must survive.
There are fifty-three long days
until we arrive.

Tornadoes and heavy storms
set off warning sirens' wailing sound.
Tornadoes and heavy storms
have done damage to homes all around.

When fierce winds howl around them
you'll find Eliseo in the barn with Nan.
When fierce winds took the barn roof
he calmed the horses, or did they help the man?

Eliseo's scarred by fire, haunted by PTSD,
yet he's made a life where his strengths
can be used.
Eliseo's caught Polly's rescuing ways, with
the Percherons he helps youth, old farts
and the abused.

Diane has a way of showing us
that helping others helps us too.
Polly's made a safe place for Eliseo
where he can show others what to do.

Fifty-two - - - - -

There are fifty-two long days
we must survive.
There are fifty-two long days
until we arrive.

We know that Polly likes
a glass of wine or a bacon martini.
We know that Polly loves
what comes in a mug not so teeny.

Now Polly has her truck trained to stop
at Sweet Beans whenever she's in town.
Polly's even been known to have Demi stop
where her favorite drink can be found.

You know when there's no coffee
a substitute must be found.
When there's no coffee, Polly looks
to see if there's a Diet Dew around.

Do you think that Diane's house
has lots of coffee and some Dew?
Do you think that Polly's addiction
could rub off on me and you?

Fifty-one - - - - -

There are fifty-one long days
we must survive.
There are fifty-one long days
until we arrive.

There's someone special in Bellingwood
with a heart as big as Lydia or Polly.
There's someone special in Bellingwood
called grandma by Noah, Elijah and Molly.

Marie is Henry's mom by birth
and Polly's by marriage and love.
Marie has so much more to give
that Jessie and Hayden take part of.

She's been known to make us think
patience and third chances should be found.
She's been known to make ice cream
and always help have love and fun abound.

Do you think Diane will give
Marie a cute little puppy or kitty?
Do you think Polly will give
her a little granddaughter so pretty?

Fifty - - - - -

There are fifty long days
we must survive.
There are fifty long days
until we arrive.

Sometimes when you're the sheriff
you find someone or a family in need.
Sometimes when you're the police chief
it's up to you to plant a helpful seed.

Aaron and Ken always find someone to help;
local churches often providing much aid.
Aaron and Ken also have a 'go to' list with
Lydia, Henry and Polly leading the brigade.

Sycamore House has been the site of
fund-raisers to help back good causes.
Sycamore Inn has taken in many who
needed help when they'd suffered losses.

Diane writes to show us
the value of a helping hand.
Polly shows by example
what it means to take a stand.

Forty-nine - - - - -

There are forty-nine long days
we must survive.
There are forty-nine long days
until we arrive.

Polly's made so many friends
since bringing Sycamore House to town.
Polly's made so many rescues
even strangers trust when she's around.

It's a special kind of burden
to be held in such high esteem.
It's a special kind of honor
to help others reach their dream.

Who will Polly be helping next
just because she thinks it's right?
Who will Polly be giving a chance
to feel blessed this Christmas night?

'Tis the Season Diane always writes
an extra story to make the Holidays bright.
'Tis the Season Polly seems to get
gifts for a lifetime, not just Christmas night.

Forty-eight - - - - -

There are forty-eight long days
we must survive.
There are forty-eight long days
until we arrive.

In a place as small as Bellingwood
one's connection to everyone else can be found.
Sam and Jean played cards with Henry's Uncle;
brother Simon has the best antique store around.

In small town Bellingwood Lisa delivers mail,
and husband Paul owns the hardware store.
Daughter Melissa ran Monday's after-school
program;
cousin Bert is one of Ken's best officers for sure.

Now Bellingwood's small town police force
has proud Chief Ken visiting the schools.
Where wife Maude teaches third grade with
Noah, then Elijah, learning all the rules.

Diane's stories always tell us
we can't have too many family and friends.
Polly's stories always show us
our growing connections to others never ends.

Forty-seven - - - - -

There are forty-seven long days
we must survive.
There are forty-seven long days
until we arrive.

Sturtz Construction was building
lots of apartments all around Bellingwood.
Sturtz Construction was building
houses in town everywhere they could.

A town of only nineteen hundred,
will it face problems if it grows too fast?
Is thinking about a second stop sign
a bold move forward, giving up the past?

There are no rules to make sure
everyone moving into town will be nice.
There are no special tests to pass,
maybe letting in a bad apple once or twice.

Diane keeps life in Bellingwood real
so we have to accept the bad with the good.
Polly's trying to make life in Bellingwood
as close to ideal for everyone as she could.

Forty-six - - - - -

There are forty-six long days
we must survive.
There are forty-six long days
until we arrive.

Polly and Henry set a good example
by waiting to say "I do" before they did.
Polly and Henry made it an unspoken rule
Rebecca saw from when she was just a kid.

But Rebecca is sure to have noticed
that Rachel stayed at Doug and Billy's a lot.
Even from Bell House I bet she's noticed
Doug and Anita's relationship's gotten
pretty hot.

Will Sylvie, Polly and Henry have to worry
what path Rebecca could lead Andrew down?
Will Rebecca's world travel plans with Beryl
make Andrew look for one who'll stick
around?

Diane has a realistic idea of what
trials good parenting can put one through.
Polly's plan for being a good parent is
"learn as you go," so expect a mistake or two.

Forty-five - - - - -

There are forty-five long days
we must survive.
There are forty-five long days
until we arrive.

News travels fast in Bellingwood;
so fast you'd think it was magic or ESP.
Gossip travels fast in Bellingwood;
that's okay if it's not about Polly or Henry.

Now Lucy at the diner has made some claims
of knowing every bit of news gossip around.
Now Lucy at the diner has even boldly claimed
more stories than either beauty shop has found.

We've only met Dee Ryder in her shop
when she helped in Beryl's dinner scavenger
hunt.

Can gossip that starts in Dee's beauty shop
end in the next 'It's not my fault!' dangerous
stunt?

Diane has an edge in relating Bellingwood tales
because some ladies are always whispering
in her ear.
Polly is always the star living in Bellingwood tales
since we don't know what happens if
she's not near.

Forty-four - - - - -

There are forty-four long days
we must survive.
There are forty-four long days
until we arrive.

Every year when summer comes to Iowa
Roy arrives bringing big-city boys around.
Every year when those Chicago boys hit town
they stay on farms with families he's found.

There are some families who always volunteer,
like the Morrison's, Dykstra's and Foster's.
The boys help on the farms for two weeks,
but when Polly hosts two she wants to
keep hers.

Wouldn't it be nice if Elva and kids could share
their horses, donkeys, chickens and
lots of fun?
Wouldn't it be good to see Betty and Dick's farm
and watch those big-city boys get out and run?

Giving kids new life experiences
is something Diane thinks is right.
Growing her family with diversity
is something good Polly won't fight.

Forty-three - - - - -

There are forty-three long days
we must survive.
There are forty-three long days
until we arrive.

Ghosts don't haunt us from the past;
even Rebecca (but not Len) would agree.
Yet ghosts, or coincidences, from the past
seem to have influence on what will be.

Quilt shop owner Sonya's husband is a
descendant of a man who painted
Bell House's ceiling.
Jen's the third quilt shop owner and she has a
common ancestor with Beryl, which
could be quite revealing.

Is Polly really done uncovering what's hidden
in Bell House about relationships from the past?
Will Polly uncover surprising links that have
reemerged to prove such relationships can last?

Diane might not believe in ghosts
but she knows things can be surprising.
Polly's pretty sure there's no ghosts
yet some things can get her hackles rising.

Forty-two - - - - -

There are forty-two long days
we must survive.
There are forty-two long days
until we arrive.

There are a lot of ladies in Bellwood
whose stories still haven't been told.
There are ten ladies in Bellwood
who all have this, be they young or old.

Marla, Mindy, Marnie, Maude and Melissa
can be counted on if you want to have fun.
Marybelle, Mel, Margie, Mona and Molly
all have tales to tell, yes, each and every one.

From the oldest to the youngest the 'M' girls
relate to Polly, each in their own special ways.
From Margie Deacon to Molly Locke
these girls have made an impression that stays.

There's a lot of 'M' going on in Diane's stories —
macho men, mercurial moods,
mayhem and madness.
Masterful manipulation by Polly or of Polly —
it's hard to tell when Diane gives her so
much stress.

Forty-one - - - - -

There are forty-one long days
we must survive.
There are forty-one long days
we must survive.
There are forty-one long days
until we arrive.

Could Girls Rule print a calendar with hotties
Mark, JJ, Heath, Hayden, Doug and his
buddy Billy?
Who would they exploit in the name of charity —
Aaron, Jeff, Grey, Jason, Eliseo and
hottiest Henry?

Would those twelve handsome guys
bare their chests for charity and pose with
smiles?
Or could Aaron and Ken's departments
have competing calendars earning bucks as
rivals?

The Girls Rule girls must have a huge need
if their own resources can't be stretched far
enough.
Polly rescues people and animals, Henry cars;
oh, our ladies must be rescuing something
very tough.

I wonder how Diane would do a rescue
if faced with someone needing special attention.
Maybe she'd take a page from Polly's book
since Polly has such expertise doing intervention.

Forty - - - - -

There are forty long days
we must survive.
There are forty long days
until we arrive.

Jessie is doing very well
working for Marie and taking classes online.
Jessie is being a great mom
to Molly who's loved and happy all the time.

Her brother Ethan is graduating now
despite the road blocks set up by their mom.
When he reached out to Jessie for help
to be free to go college, she said just come on.

So Ethan's here in Bellingwood
settling in with Jessie to work and go to college.
Jessie hopes he'll find a friend in
Heath to help him fit in and gain some
knowledge.

Diane knows the world is full of
good moms and, too often, some quite bad.
Polly knows but can't understand
how some moms can make their kids so sad.

Thirty-nine - - - - -

There are thirty-nine long days
we must survive.
There are thirty-nine long days
until we arrive.

JJ Roberts thought he was a ladies man
even flirting with Polly and Lucy all the time.
JJ took over Secret Woods and thought again,
wanting to succeed at more than just
making wine.

Stephanie taught him about accounting software
and booking events -- receptions, meetings,
wine tasting.
Sylvie does the baking for weekend events and
the bread and wine gift packages for
corporate giving.

Rachel caters some of the winery's small parties
and she's trained one of Secret Woods' regular
cooks.

Lauren is the new hostess at Secret Woods Lodge;
Ashley was the first local talent to sing in
patio nooks.

Diane knows a bit about fine wine as
she hosts her Trivia Nights with a glass or two.
Polly knows a bit about drinking wine
in quantities I wouldn't recommend for
me or you.

Thirty-eight - - - - -

There are thirty-eight long days
we must survive.
There are thirty-eight long days
until we arrive.

Among the people in Bellingwood
are those who show how strong love can be.
Among those people are Lucy and Greg
who've overcome what might daunt you or me.

When Lucy's working at the diner
she has a big smile and good word for everyone.
For years Lucy went home each night
to Greg who couldn't speak a word; not one.

A new assistive communications computer lets
Greg reconnect with old friends to solve
a mystery.

Lucy and friends gave him the needed inspiration
to write a book of Bellwood's hidden history

Diane has made this small Iowa town
a place to show us how good life can be.
Polly brings us along as she meets
good people doing things we like to see.

Thirty-seven - - - - -

There are thirty-seven long days
we must survive.
There are thirty-seven long days
until we arrive.

Polly's lived in Bellingwood now
for five adventurous, murderous,
mysterious years.
Polly's brought change to Bellingwood
with compassion and diversity, working
through fears.

What's hard to understand is how finding
two dozen (or more) bodies is accepted
by the town.
Yet you can find very few places where
Polly doesn't find a warm welcome to
come around.

Will things change for Polly if the
body count keeps growing by twos and fours?
Will Polly's 'special power' seem sinister
and make residents, new and old, lock their
doors?

Diane has let Polly loudly declare
"It's not my fault!" but is that always true?
Polly has no qualms stepping in
where she knows trouble will soon ensue.

Thirty-six - - - - -

There are thirty-six long days
we must survive.
There are thirty-six long days
until we arrive.

This one is just for fun,
so can you tell me who calls Snuffles mum?
The gentleman is dressed to the nines,
and the lady sports a diamond at all times

That one wasn't hard to guess,
so next, who's a polite lady we call Miss?
She's been forced to live with two clouds of grey
whose names reflect the chaos they cause
each day.

Do you know two who'd be hard to sight
as they hung out by the cemetery each night?
How about a small shadow living by four giants,
whose lady friend can make one giant
compliant?

Diane has had to learn to write
with two kitties and a beast climbing on
her each night.
Polly found some super kitties who, to her delight,
make Rebecca clean her room to keep them
in sight.

Thirty-five - - - - -

There are thirty-five long days
we must survive.
There are thirty-five long days
until we arrive.

Yesterday's questions were so much fun,
here are a more hints to keep you on the run.
Remember Elbert who helps guard the farm?
His job is to be there to keep old folks
from harm.

Do you have fun naming men after fruit?
Remember a Lemon? And Peaches was a hoot!
Berkley's not just a city out on the West Coast,
and Sharon always calls when the kids are toast.

Whose Uncle Dick was burned in Viet Nam?
Who went on a Bender but Joss stayed calm?
Someone's Livengood out at the hotel,
and I'd be Liam if I said this guy didn't smell.

Diane, I think you have a lot of fun
naming your characters, sometimes with
a pun.
Polly seems to just take it all in stride,
happy until she has to name someone
who died.

Thirty-four - - - - -

There are thirty-four long days
we must survive.
There are thirty-four long days
until we arrive.

Even in Polly's life some things aren't meant
to be;
for her, hickory will always be just a tree.
First dinner at Hickory Park, Polly worried
about a guest;
their food was boxed and I guess you know
the rest.

Next Polly, Henry, Sal and Mark made it to dessert
before Jeff called with a "horses in chaos" alert.
Try three wasn't a charm when meeting Ruth Ann
they left dinner behind and had McDonalds,
oh man!

Polly and Andrew found Henry and Nate there
on try four —
Jeff called in a panic, a bride's screaming,
the oven quit and more;
Denis's mom's yelling at Aaron,
the wrong meat was delivered and
one donkey's sick ... Polly! Come back right
now to lend a hand!

I don't know what to say, Diane, at least it's
barbecue and not pork tenderloin she's missed.
Polly seems to adjust well when a new odd thing
keeps her wondering what the next day
will bring.

Thirty-three - - - - -

There are thirty-three long days
we must survive.
There are thirty-three long days
until we arrive.

Henry stood in front of a mirror one morning
and shouted "Polly, it's all your fault!"
without any warning.
Polly came running in a panic to stand by his side;
he said "I'm too young for this! There's too
many to hide!"

Henry pulled out one grey hair after another
causing some harm;
sniper shot the man next to you; you and
Eliseo were beaten in the barn;
Chasing the guy who killed Cindy Rothenfuss?
That was a thriller!
How about when you faced down Thomas
Zeller's gun-wielding killer?

He pulled two more — when your ex, Joey,
kidnapped you ... twice.
You tackled a gun-wielding bitch who shot
her husband, not nice.
I couldn't believe it when you chased that
arsonist through the bean field.
Henry kept mumbling ... shot ... parking lot
... baseball bat ... yield.

I hope Diane doesn't stress or do things that tax
or cause graying of her husband Max.
It's a fact Polly can't deny, she's given a
grey hair or two
to Henry, Aaron, Ken and others, including
me and you.

Thirty-two - - - - -

There are thirty-two long days
we must survive.
There are thirty-two long days
until we arrive.

We know Polly loves Obiwan - they'll never part;
a gift from Doug and Billy, he's very, very
smart.
Henry needed a dog of his own and they found
Han Solo
along with Padme for Sylvie and Kirk,
and Kahn for Eliseo.

You might recognize other names of dogs we
know well,
Big Jack, Zekey, Dutchess and Jasmine are all
in the stories you tell.
Do you remember who calls their dog Junior,
Abe or Trixie?
Who loves Bo and Luke, or Gertrude who's as
little as a pixie?

Can you tell me the names of Sal's dachshunds,
or is your memory rusty?
Whose basset hound is Sebastian; whose
golden retriever Dusty?
Whose puppy is named Hawkeye, and whose
mongrel's named Stella?
Cocker spaniels Sampson and Delilah?
A Chihuahua Brutus? Whoa, fella!

Diane loves her kitties, TB, Earl and Grey,
right now there are no dogs, why I cannot say.
Polly loves all her animals, even the bed hogs,
but, secretly, I think here favorites are ...
corn dogs!

Thirty-one - - - - -

There are thirty-one long days
we must survive.
There are thirty-one long days
until we arrive.

It's Thanksgiving,
a time to reflect about thankful living.
Polly and her friends teach us time and time again
what it means to be grateful and help no
matter when.

Polly's surrounded by those who are loving and
giving;
people who can't imagine any other way of
living.
She shows that you receive according to what
you give;
saving kitties, puppies, donkeys and horses
with a place to live.

Who gains more when Polly shares her heart
and home?
Rebecca, Heath, Hayden, Noah and Elijah
are her own.
Loving Henry has given her so much more
to share
I'm sure we'll see them rescue more kids
here and there.

Diane makes me thankful on this Thanksgiving
day;
thankful I found her so in Bellingwood
I can stay.
I'm grateful to Polly for sharing like she does
showing the reason for loving is . . . just because.

Thirty - - - - -

There are thirty long days
we must survive.
There are thirty long days
until we arrive.

Today's the day we call Black Friday.
It's a nightmare for shoppers in every way.
People fighting in the isles of every store;
searching for bargains yet spending more
and more.

This isn't much of a problem in Bellingwood
where shops always kept prices as low as
they could.
To find a mall to go on a Black Friday spree
a trip to Ames or Des Moines would have to be.

Stephanie likes to take the girls to Goodwill
to shop and shop, oh so many bags to fill!
Polly's family always gives very smart,
making treasures with lots of love from
the heart.

Diane knows shopping can be fun or a pain,
so she'll make her gifts or shop online again.
Polly shows us in a Christmas story each year
that the best gifts come with love and a tear.

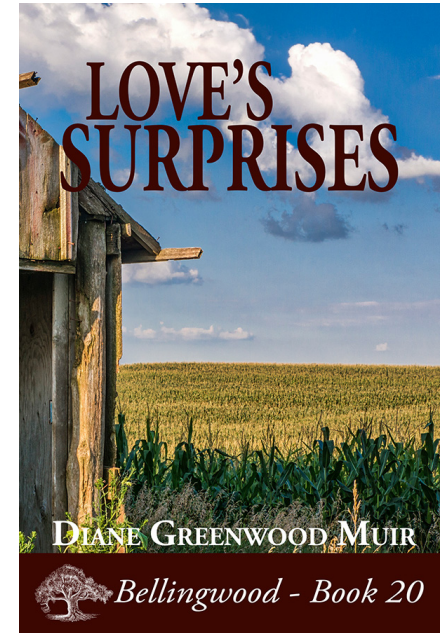


Bellingwood books are released
every quarter - March 25, June 25,
September 25, December 25.

Be sure to join us on Facebook
for news and fun between the
quarterly releases of Bellingwood books.

[Facebook.com/PollyGiller](https://www.facebook.com/PollyGiller)

Upcoming Releases - - - - -



Book 20 - Love's Surprises
Release Date: December 25th, 2017



Book 20.5 - The Most Wonderful Time
Release Date: January 1, 2018