

A Time to Love by Susanna



Upstairs the clock gonged eight o'clock just as the young man reached the bottom of the stairs. The librarian looked up the stairs just as the young man also glanced up toward the clock. Turning back, he met her eyes. He shrugged and made his way out the door.

Rosa locked the library doors behind the young man. She knew his name was Micheal. She went upstairs to look at the clock. It was ticking away like any normal clock would. But this clock had been silent for most of a decade.... Rosa broke off her thoughts and got back to shutting down the library. But her thoughts came back. Who had wound the clock? It must have been someone in the last quarter of an hour. She wondered about Micheal. He'd been the last to leave.

Micheal slowly walked the length of the block. He stopped and turned back at the end. The library lights had been turned off already. He waited until the librarian came out. Rosa was her name. He watched as she strode to her car. He moved on slowly, not wanting to seem like he was watching her. She was just so....amazing. He picked up this pace and headed home. Maybe tomorrow he'd go again and talk to her

The next day Micheal walked into the library soon after it opened. There weren't many people there, but he still hesitated. He went into the non-fiction. All the questions he'd prepared were gone from his head. He looked at the shelves. James Herriot...that would work. He grabbed one and headed to the front desk with it.

Rosa watched as he approached the front desk, remembering him from yesterday. He pushed a book across the desk. She saw that it was *All Things Wise and Wonderful*.

"Could you please tell me if this is the first in the series?"

Rosa noted with slight surprise that his voice was lower than she expected.

"No, the first book is *All Creatures Great and Small*."

"Oh. I don't remember if it was over there. Could you check for me?"

She smiled. His heart thumped. She moved to the computer and typed something in and then said, "Yes, it should be over there."

"Could you show me?" He asked.

She walked around the corner of the desk, into the non-fiction. When they reached the spot where he had been before she pulled out the right book and handed it to him.

"Thanks."

"You're Micheal, right?" she asked.

"Yup. Micheal Brackman."

Rosa almost sighed. What a wonderful name. She mentally slapped herself. It was just a normal name. A few moments later he asked her, "Would you like to go on a date sometime?"

She smiled her biggest smile yet and nodded.

He beamed at her.

When they met for dinner she had one question to ask him.

"Did you wind the library clock?"