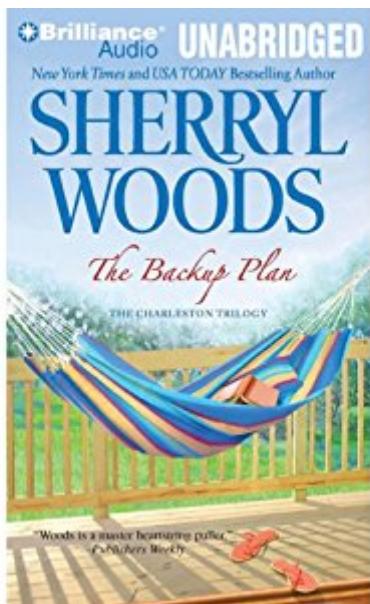


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# The Backup Plan



## **Synopsis**

It's finally time for Dinah Davis to go home. The world-weary correspondent wants to settle down with the sweet guy she left behind in South Carolina's Low Country. Instead, she's confronted by his black-sheep brother, and - despite her longing for serenity - sparks fly. How can she possibly trade her perfectly safe backup plan for a risk-taking guy like Cordell Beaufort after all the dangers she's already faced? But to Dinah's dismay - backup plan or not - her heart has its own ideas.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

War correspondent Dinah Davis is devastated after watching her cameraman/lover murdered in a car bombing ambush while on assignment in Afghanistan. Her editor knows that she is hanging on by a thread, and recommends returning home for some R&R. She decides to quit, return to South Carolina, and look up the guy that said he would wait for her forever. Marrying Bobby would be her backup plan and a way to escape her guilt over losing Peter. Depressed and spending the majority of her days watching soaps or sitting by the pool, Dinah is unsuccessful at hooking up with Bobby, who never seems to be in town (and is now engaged). She does not count on falling for his roguish bad-boy brother, Cordell. Cord has been in love with Dinah since they were kids; he even made up a little white lie to keep Dinah and Bobby apart, only to have it backfire on him. Dinah just thinks he is a trouble maker. While Cord claims to not be the marrying kind, he certainly does not want Dinah and Bobby to reconcile, so he schemes to keep Bobby on assignment in Atlanta. The more time Cord and Dinah spend together, the harder they fall for each other, until he finally realizes that the

only way to show his love for Dinah is to let her resolve the conflict that brought her home and has caused so much post traumatic stress. Dinah makes progress on her own with the help of a caring psychologist. The Backup Plan is an entertaining romantic comedy with a hint of despair - parts of the book might make you cry, particularly her flashbacks to Afghanistan. The only thing standing in the way of a 5 star rating is the lack of depth into the character of Bobby. He was never developed, and really only appears on a handful of pages. This was an emotional and engaging story - guaranteed to keep you glued for nearly 400 pages.

‘Backup Plan’ by Sherryl Woods is a fun southern romance novel. Dinah Davis returns home after working in Afghanistan. She decides to take a break and look up her old boyfriend Bobby - her official backup plan. Instead of Bobby, she finds Cord the older and annoying brother to Bobby. This novel deals with posttraumatic stress disorder, a marriage on the rocks and car bombing. I read the Trilogy out of order and they can stand alone. The second novel is ‘Flirting with Disaster’ December 2005 and the final novel ‘Waking up in Charleston’ May 2006.

I love books that are set in the Carolina Low Country (ie: Dorothea Benton Frank and Anne Rivers Siddons) because it seems like such a gloriously stylish place to live!!! This was an interesting story about a high-power career woman suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, who returns home to heal. When the safety net she intended to fall back on doesn’t come through for her, she finds a truer path towards healing, which includes a passionate relationship that’s as strong as the passion she once held for her work. I particularly admired the therapist in this story, and how the psychotherapy sessions were really very helpful and healing. I also found the vivid details of Cord and Bobby’s work, restoring antebellum homes and historical landmarks to their original splendour, added significant color and depth to the storyline.

For some reason I seem to have a different set of standards for one of these novels than others. The novel’s plot is so slow that I’ve fallen asleep while reading it (in broad daylight!) And this part of a trilogy? Lord! The author regularly has Dinah mention that an encounter with Cordell ought to be memorable and just so “hot” yet when we finally get there, it’s a huge letdown. I feel almost cheated. You would hope that the plot could save this book, but even the plot is amazingly dull - Dinah is suffering from PTSD and needs help getting over it. This isn’t what made it boring, it is the abrupt way in which this is handled. I can determine I will not be purchasing anything by this author in the future.

War correspondent Dinah Davis has covered many of the recent hot spots. Currently she is reporting on Afghanistan, but has lost her edge since she witnessed the death of a friend and was nearly killed too. Physically Dinah has healed, but her boss tells her she is not the same and should return to the States to marry and have babies. Initially refusing to listen, Dinah realizes that her career is over and wonders if her boyfriend Bobby Beaufort still waits for as he promised a decade ago when she chose journalism over marriage. Back home in South Carolina, Dinah's mom worries that her daughter has not recovered from her last overseas assignment. Meanwhile Bobby's older brother Cord, who thought his sibling was a fool to agree to Dinah's backup plan, quickly wants to revise the arrangement by inserting himself as the groom. As Dinah suffers the malaise of post traumatic syndrome, she turns to Cord not her family or Bobby for comfort while he worries whether he will prove enough in the long run. Though the actual backup plan of Bobby waiting for a decade seems strange, fans will appreciate this deep look into the traumas and tragedies civilians in combat areas can suffer. The story line is character driven once Dinah returns home moping and depressed. Adding to her depression is that she realizes her plan is a failure as she finds the sibling more attractive than the chosen one, but does not want to hurt the loyal Bobby. This is a strong tale that showcases the aftermath of horrific situations on survivors. Harriet Klausner

Sherryl Woods seemed to have phoned this one in; the plot was predictable, the setting lacking in interest, and the main character one I didn't care for. Dinah was this rebel, yet she seemed way too caught up in Southern rules and expectations. She goes out in cutoffs, a halter, and no makeup, yet later is said to be a Southern woman through and through, who would never go out looking unpresentable. There are all sorts of contradictions in her personality, which never seem to be explained, let alone understandable. And don't get me started on the plotline about Bobby and the backup plan! Insipid! Needless to say, I will not be continuing the trilogy; I already know what's going to happen.

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