

CN Morning Rundown: Controversial Love Triangle Resolution Will 'Breathe New Life' Into 'When Calls the Heart,' Exec Producer Says

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Controversial Love Triangle Resolution Will 'Breathe New Life' Into 'When Calls the Heart,' Exec Producer Says

Have you heard the recent uproar from the Hearties? The loyal but outspoken fans of the Hallmark Channel's top-rated series, *When Calls the Heart*, made social media waves recently in protest of the decision to resolve the ongoing love triangle between Elizabeth Thornton Thatcher (Erin Krakow), Mountie Nathan Grant (Kevin McGarry) and Lucas Bouchard (Chris McNally). Elizabeth's shocking choice of Lucas in the heart-gripping season eight finale left Team Nathan fans beyond upset. But Brian Bird, the family-friendly show's executive producer and co-creator, says this difficult creative choice will yield ultimate benefits for all those who love *When Calls the Heart*.

"Fan polls that are out there indicate that Mountie Nate was the more popular... you know, that was the genesis of *When Calls the Heart*," Bird tells host Dr. Steve Greene on a recent episode of the *Greenelines* podcast on the Charisma Podcast Network. "In Janette Oke's books, it was a teacher and a Mountie; that was always how it was."

And despite the outcry, Bird says, the creative reasons behind the choice will "give us more seasons ... because we have not gone down that road before. We feel this will breathe some new

life into the show, keep us telling fresh and robust and vibrant stories.

Modern-Day Jonah? Lobster Diver Scooped Up, Spat Out by Humpback Whale

Veteran lobster diver Michael Packard experienced an accident of biblical proportions Friday off the coast of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, when a humpback whale took him into its mouth, then spat him back out into the ocean.

“I just felt this truck hit me and everything just went dark,” the modern-day Jonah told reporters following his release the same day from Cape Cod Hospital in Hyannis, Massachusetts.

The accident happened just before 8 a.m. as Packard, 56, was diving for lobsters about 45 feet down. At first, he feared his assailant was a great white shark, but then he realized it didn’t have teeth.

Naftali Bennett Becomes Israel’s New Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu’s term as prime minister ended Sunday after Israel’s Parliament approved a new government formed by Yamina leader Naftali Bennett and Yesh Atid chairman Yair Lapid.

Israel’s Parliament, the Knesset, approved the new government in a 60 to 59 vote with one abstention, The Jerusalem Post reports.

Bennett’s supporters cheered after the announcement, and then he exchanged a brief handshake with Netanyahu before taking the oath of office as the new prime minister. {eoa}

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