



Time for Honesty

Mette Barfelt

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Welcome to Solvik - a seemingly cozy little town on the Norwegian coast. It's an idyllic place with old, white wooden houses, almost a touch of paradise. However, under the surface lays intrigues, jealousy, and rivalry, threatening to destroy friendships.

Emmelin Johnsen inherits her childhood home and must decide whether to sell it or move back to Solvik. With a husband who can't stand the country life, and no jobs available, the decision seems like an easy one. Confronted with decisions made in her younger days, she now faces deep remorse and indecisiveness. Trying to justify her actions and make things right, Emmelin discovers she's far from the only one withholding the truth and hiding dark secrets.

In the midst of accusations, devious intentions, and new love, can Emmelin forgive and forget her father's betrayal and let go of the family drama from her past? Is she finally ready to embrace the future and trust her second chance at romance and love?

Time for Honesty Details

Date : Published April 30th 2017 by Solvik Forlag

ISBN :

Author : Mette Barfelt

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Suspense, Fiction, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Time for Honesty for online ebook

Ju Ephraime says

Although this is a romantic story; for me it was more about life experiences and how things happen when you least expect. The sudden death of Emmelin's mom was a surprise for her and her sister's reaction to the news was even more hurtful. This together with the discovery of her first child, whom she had given up for adoption, and the meeting with the child's father; as well as, her unstable marriage falling apart, while she tries to deal with these life-shattering events, were enough to try a saint. But Emmelin ploughs on, struggling to make the right decisions the second time around.

The author uses the backdrop of the town of Solvik to bring this story to life and it did just that. This was indeed a sweet romance that together with the wonderful recipes of cookies and cakes that are at the back of the book, make the word, sweet, quite appropriate!

Helen says

This is a lovely story set in a small, fictional town in Norway. Everything is described so well, from the scenery to all the wonderful food, especially the mouthwatering cakes and biscuits! I loved the characters, they make the reader feel at home right away and part of the story.

The story starts with Emmelin, who is having problems with her husband Leo. He's a particularly unpleasant man and I waited eagerly for Emmelin to slap him several times, but unfortunately that didn't happen!

When her mother dies, she tries to take stock of her life and understand what she wants for her future. But she has a secret that she has kept hidden for many years, and now she has to face the consequences and see what her future brings.

This is a well-written, heartwarming story that carries you along in a gentle way as it unravels, perfect for those times when life gets too much and you just want to escape and relax. I look forward to reading more by this author.

Elaine says

I was entranced with this book. I've never been to Norway but I felt like a good friend introduced me to the place and to the people who make it their home. The book spun like a web drawing me in and I stayed (mostly) captivated throughout.

It's pretty much escapist literature - I kept wanting to dissect the story and the characters but this is something where it's best to just go with the flow. I did and I loved it.

The author gave me a copy of the book in exchange for an honest review. This one was a winner.

Denise Weldon-siviy says

Sweet, gently paced romance

A Time for Honesty is a sweet, gently paced romance, set in Norway and written by Norwegian author Mette Barfelt. I suspect it's the first translated work that I've read this year.

The translation is excellent and the book is clean. By which I don't mean that it gratefully interprets "adult" as mature and thoughtful rather than explicit – although it does. What I really mean is that this editor with 25+ years experience didn't find a SINGLE typo or grammatical error. I honestly can't remember the last time that happened when reading ANY book – traditionally published or self-published.

The cultural details about Norway and Norwegian culture add ambiance without being intrusive. I love to travel, and although we haven't yet hit Norway in our travels, I found myself longing to try the reindeer filet and Norwegian cakes; to try my hand again at slalom, etc.

One thing you'll notice immediately is that the pace of the novel, like the town in which its characters reside, is measured and calm. Since I've been reading a lot of thrillers lately, that found it offputting at first. But eventually it came to me that this is a novel paced for a more deliberate time. I've been gorging on microwave popcorn – Barfelt is serving us hand-stirred risotto.

In many ways, this novel reminds me of the era of Henry James. The characters are thoughtful and deliberate. The language and construction also even, thoughtful; albeit a tad formal. I'm not sure if the formality is due to the translation or the style, but if anything it adds to the gentle charm of the book.

The characters are well-drawn although at times I must admit that I wanted to slap our dear protagonist upside the head for the excruciatingly painful snail speed at which she addressed the problems in her life. Her sister Julie, with whom she had a "Jerry Springer"-level complex relationship, I understood. (I didn't LIKE her sister; but I did understand her.) And the differences between the sisters in many ways drive the tension in the novel. Early on, Julie complains of our leading lady, Emmelin: "How anyone could live like this, engulfed by so many items, was a mystery to Julie. She liked things clean, tidy and simple."

The leading man, Dennis, is equally pensive, deliberate and patient. "He felt drawn between different emotions for her. It was faith and doubt, mixed with disappointment and betrayal..."

I strongly recommend this book for a relaxing rainy afternoon read.

- Read via Kindle Unlimited

Audrey Rich says

What a sweet book! I felt for Emmelin, with everything she had to endure to find where she needed to be. The story is filled with mystery, heartache, and lots of love.

I loved the small town feeling of Solvik so much it makes me want to visit. I can't wait to delve into the next books.

Pankaj Giri says

I met the author at the BookGoSocial Author Collaboration site, where she offered her book for review. The premise was interesting, so I agreed to review it and downloaded an e-book when it was free on Amazon.

As I went through the first few pages, I was hooked. I generally prefer books with lyrical language as it helps me learn a lot, but when it comes to sheer entertainment, books with simple language are better as you can finish the book quickly too. The same thing happened with this book. The language is lucid and has a nice flow to it, and I found myself captivated.

The plot is intriguing, and there are enough subtle twists and turns that keep you engaged until the end. The characters are weaved beautifully, each of them dipped in shades of gray and yet quite likable. The author writes in such a way that makes us understand almost everyone's point of view and feel for them. Both the characters have a troubled past, and I love how they dealt with each situation that came their way.

Moreover, I loved her writing style. There are no big boring blocks of telling but some information interspersed between dialogues or in the beginning of a scene just to give you a background, which is alright. The dialogues are also very apt and help take the story forward wonderfully.

The story seemed like a light read till the first half, but in the second half, the plot developed beautifully along with the complex relations between the characters, and it became an even interesting read. There is love, guilt, family relationships, betrayal, and a touch of mystery too. I loved every bit of it.

One thing that irked me sometimes was the excessive descriptions of Emmelin's (the protagonist's) work, the descriptions of how the travel industry worked, and how she decorated her house. I skimmed through and sometimes even skipped a few such paragraphs. However, I loved the parts where she describes the beauty of Solvik.

As I said, the language is simple yet lucid. I generally prefer more effort in the language, and I love poetic prose, but although this book lacked it, I got an easy, flowing read which I didn't mind at all. I did find a few misplaced punctuation and typos here and there, so probably the manuscript needed one round of proofreading. However, overall, the editing is quite good.

I liked the ending too, and all the loose ends are tied together very well. I even shed a happy tear at the end. All in all, a good, interesting read. I would recommend it to all book lovers.

4 stars from my side.

Kelly Bedford says

I thoroughly enjoyed A Time for Honesty. I had no trouble picturing the scenery because the descriptions were wonderful. The characters were all very believable. Baked goods were mentioned a lot, and each time it made my mouth water, so I was absolutely delighted to find the recipes at the end of the book! A lovely read.

Lill says

I really enjoyed this sweet romance. The characters were believable and well developed. The story has family drama and romance. There are twists and turns, and secrets from the past. The book is very well written and reminds me of Debbie Macomber and Nancy Naigle. Highly recommended!

Deborah King says

Mette Barfelt's *Time for honesty* is a unique story about life-altering secrets, lies, misunderstandings, and second chances.

Emmelin was raised in a family where her father's decisions, correct or not, ruled.

When Emmelin's mom passes away she's forced to come to terms with her unhappy marriage, a secret from her past and the sacrifices she has made in her life. Integrate her polar opposite sister, her first love, wonderful friends, and you have an emotionally well written enjoyable story.

Coco.V says

?FREE on Amazon today (9/23/18)!?

Blurb:

Welcome to Solvik - a seemingly cozy little town on the Norwegian coast. It's an idyllic place with old, white wooden houses, almost a touch of paradise. However, under the surface lays intrigues, jealousy, and rivalry, threatening to destroy friendships.

Emmelin Johnsen inherits her childhood home and must decide whether to sell it or move back to Solvik. With a husband who can't stand the country life, and no jobs available, the decision seems like an easy one. Confronted with decisions made in her younger days, she now faces deep remorse and indecisiveness. Trying to justify her actions and make things right, Emmelin discovers she's far from the only one withholding the truth and hiding dark secrets.

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Rose Verde says

Small Town romance

Time for honesty dealt with real life issues. It reminded me that everyone must deal with their past at one time or the other. I also like that the author was able to immerse me into the settings. Lovely read.

Sarah Northwood says

Emmelin's life takes a turn as she re-assesses things following her mother's death, even her marriage. I found her husband Leo particularly obnoxious and commend the writer for making me dislike a character so much! I found this a very enjoyable and quick read. I especially loved the suspense and twists author Barfelt wove into the heart-warming story

Ann L. says

I am definitely on the lookout for upbeat/armchair travel books and this is one of those. I really enjoyed reading Time for Honesty ... I felt I sunk right into a calming seaside community in Norway and could escape the world for a bit of time.

marlin1 says

****3.5 stars****

This book caught my eye while I was looking for something light and I was drawn to the fact that it was set in Norway in a small town.

It did tick all the boxes, a husband I loved to dislike, a jealous sister, inhabitants of a small town that looked after each other. Actually, I was really enjoying this book until it came to the typical romance 'miscommunication'. Sometimes I just want a romance book that doesn't have it and where this came into play, I wasn't really anticipating it. I felt the storyline had enough things going on in it, that it could have done without it. BUT I don't think this is really a reflection of the book but more of my mood at the time of reading.

That said, it was an enjoyable easy read and I felt it translated very well. I would certainly consider reading the following books in the series once they are translated.

Thank you to Netgalley and the Publisher for a copy to read and review.

Rosemary Noble says

This is a sweet, readable romance. I always enjoy reading about another culture, so similar in many ways and yet different in terms of colour and taste. I loved that the author almost made me taste all those cookies and cakes and then includes the recipes at the end of the book. It's a shame I can't bake cakes to save my life. Emmelin, the main character, is very likeable and I think the author paints her characters well. I feel I really got to know them, foibles and all. She also draws on her own knowledge of the tourist industry. This author writes what she knows. There was a good mixture of secrets and intrigue to spice up the story.
