



Traces of Mercy

Michael Landon Jr. , Cindy Kelley

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At the war's end, a young woman suffers an accident that leaves her unconscious and alone. Waking with amnesia, she takes the name Mercy and wants more than anything to find out the truth of her past. But then a handsome stranger arrives, who may hold the key to everything she has forgotten. What he knows could devastate her future, and even end her life. Written by two proven storytellers, *Traces of Mercy* is perfect for anyone who loves historical fiction, prairie-based tales, or just a good romance.

Traces of Mercy Details

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Author : Michael Landon Jr. , Cindy Kelley

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From Reader Review Traces of Mercy for online ebook

Cheri Swalwell says

I had the privilege of reading Traces of Mercy by Michael Landon, Jr. and Cindy Kelley. I was super excited to read this book as I absolutely love the Love Comes Softly movie series (just watched it again yesterday in marathon form) and grew up on Little House on the Prairie wanting Charles Ingalls as my dad. I know that Mr. Landon's son is his own person, but it's comforting to know that his life's mission is to make films that are family friendly and hold true to the values I live my life by. It was exciting to me to see what book he had written and have the privilege to read it.

I absolutely loved the book. It had suspense and twists and turns but such a deep faith woven throughout, I found myself welling up, wishing I was getting a great big hug from Mother Helena myself. I want to strive to be Mother Helena, in the way that she extends grace, ministers consequences (with grace) and just is such a great role model of living a Christ follower's life.

I love how the book ended...leaving plenty of room and unanswered questions for what is to come while still leaving me satisfied. I loved the depth of the characters and I absolutely loved how they wove so much into the pages. I didn't want to stop reading and I absolutely fell in love with both Elijah and Rand. They were men from two different worlds but both had a strong faith and deep respect for women and their country. What's not to love?

Thank you for this opportunity and privilege to be introduced to Michael Landon, Jr. and Cindy Kelley as authors. I'm a loyal fan now and can't wait to read whatever else they want to write.

I received this book from bookfun.org in exchange for my honest opinion.

Y. C. says

I received this from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

We first see Mercy as a soldier in the Confederate army fighting for the South. The readers are not privy to this information. After an accident and sparing the life of an Union soldier, she loses her memory, and is taken into the the care of nuns, while simultaneously curving a life for herself.

Firstly, this book is categorized as religious, but I don't find it overly so. There are Christian undertones, but it's to be expected in post-civil war America.

I found this book to be an engaging and quick read. The plot was fast paced but not confusing or randomly so. We have the usual romance happening with gentleman callers and propriety and what is accepted and what is not.

I had a few issues with the ending. It was abrupt and I don't think it fit the stride of the story properly. Here we are moving along and then...wait what? I think I missed that part. I think I missed several parts.

Overall, Traces of Mercy is something to consider if you're looking for a quick and easy read.

Brittany says

This was such a great book! I loved it! The authors just drop you right into the action from the beginning. It kept my attention throughout and was a take on Civil War related matters that I had not read about before.

This story follows a woman as she tries to adjust to life as she suffers with amnesia. It was quite the journey to read her story and I must admit that I was taken by surprise a few times in this book. The main character takes the name "Mercy" from a medallion that she has on her person when she awakens with amnesia. Watching her develop relationships and fall in love throughout the book and then seeing her make some bad decisions is heartbreaking! There is danger, betrayal, romance and a cliff-hanger ending that had me saying, "There better be another book coming after this one or I am going to be one mad reader!" That is when I examined the binding and saw that it is, in fact, part of a trilogy. I am so happy to know this and will anxiously await the future books in this series. Well done!

I received a copy of Traces of Mercy through The Book Club Network in exchange for an honest review, which I have given.

<http://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.co...>

Cecelia says

<http://ceceliadowdy.com/blog/2013/10/...>

When a young, beautiful woman awakens in a doctor's office, she's stunned and confused. Suffering from amnesia, she can't remember her name, where she's from, or what she looks like. She spends time with the kind doctor until he finds a home for her with a group of nuns. The nuns grant her the name Mercy because of the Mercy medallion she wears around her neck.

Although Mercy stays with the nuns, she wonders about her background. When she meets Rand Prescott, her life changes. However, how can she move forward with her life when she knows nothing about her past?

Rand is smitten with beautiful Mercy. Since she suffers from amnesia, he wonders if she's married, perhaps a family is around, searching for her.

Mercy gains knowledge of a deep, dark secret about herself. It's hard to accept this knowledge about her life....what will Rand think when he finds out the truth about her past?

I really enjoyed this book! It's a great historical novel and the unusual storyline really drew me in. I really wanted to see what happened to Mercy since she didn't know about her past. She writes in a journal, hoping that by doing so, it may be a catalyst to help her to remember her past. This journal turns out to be a major catalyst in the novel.

I also enjoyed reading about Mercy's time with the nuns. I've never known a nun personally. Everything I know about nuns is what's portrayed in books and movies.

Many thanks to publisher David C. Cook and NetGalley for providing me with a free review copy.

Tina says

Traces Of Mercy by Michael Landon Jr. and Cindy Kelley*****

It is the end of the Civil War when a young “man” is found and taken to the local doctor. While the doctor treats “him” he finds that “he” is a she. Which brings many questions to the doctor. When she wakes up in a doctor's office she learns that she is suffering from a bad accident and a wound in the leg from a gun shot. While talking with the doctor she finds that she does not know what happened nor does she know where she lives or even her own name. The doctor is intrigued as this is the first actual case of amnesia Dr. Abe Johnson has seen or treated. After a couple weeks and her memory still has not returned Dr. Johnson takes her to a nearby convent, the Little Sisters of Hope. His hope is that Mother Helena will take her in until she gets her memory back. While there Mother Helena gives her the name Mercy because of a silver medallion she was wearing. It seems that Mercy must learn how to dress as a lady-instead of dressing as a man would-as well as how to speak, act and do all the things a lady does.

Rand Prescott, a rich young eligible bachelor meets Mercy and is captivated by her. As time goes by they fall in love and plan to marry even though Mercy still can't remember who she is or where she came from. However, a chance meeting at her engagement party could change everything. It seems that Captain Elijah Hale may know Mercy which means that he could tell her about her past. But what will he tell her? Once she learns what Captain Hale knows about her, she panics as it is not what she expected but is terrible news. He threatens to tell Rand if she does not tell him herself. What will Rand do when he learns of her supposed past? Will he still love her, want to marry her or hate her and send her away? If not, what should she do, where should she go? So many unanswered questions.

I enjoy reading good clean fiction about the Civil War and Traces of Mercy is all that and a captivating story. Filled with faith, hope, love and forgiveness woven throughout, add romance, some history, mystery and characters that capture your heart for a fantastic story. From the beginning of the book there are unexpected twists and turns in the story which kept me up late reading to find out what is coming next. There are surprising discoveries along the way, some good and not so good. I was not expecting the ending, which left many unanswered questions. I certainly hope there will be another book to tie up the questions. An excellent read.

~~~I received this book from bookfun.org and David C. Cook in return for my honest opinion~~~

~~Posted review on Bookfun.org, DeeperShopping.com, Goodreads.com, BarnsandNoble.com, Christianbook.com, Family Christian.com and Amazon.com~~

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## Stacia (the 2010 club) says

*He had fallen in love with the enemy.*

**3.5 stars.** There were two reasons I wanted to read *Traces of Mercy* :

1. It was co-written by Michael Landon Jr. who had a hand in bringing the *Love Comes Softly* books to

television.

2. I am fascinated with tales of memory loss.

*She found her own eyes in the glass again. "Who am I?"*

But this wasn't like any other amnesia spin I'd seen before. The woman in question started out (known to the reader) as a soldier in the Confederate army at the tail end of the Civil War. She was posing as a man in order to fight for the South.

She lost her memory shortly after showing mercy to a Union soldier. This is where the prologue ends and the real story begins.

Taken in by nuns and left to fend for herself, Mercy has to start over - to carve a new path in the world - without any memories of the life she had before, or if she even belonged to anyone.

Of course life is going to hurl at least a few obstacles in the way of a young woman trying to start life anew.

**I liked this book, but...**

We'll get back to the 'but' later. First things first. I loved the way I was thrown right into the midst of the war. That prologue was intense.

*The bullet hit the man dead center in his forehead. He didn't even have time to blink before he died. One hundred fourteen.*

It would have been great to have gotten to see bigger glimpses of the "before" Mercy. We got some of her memories and revelations later in the book, but I was interested in knowing more about what drove her to war.

The time period is one I haven't read much of recently. Most of my Civil War reads were school-related, and I haven't sought out much fiction from this time period. I'm thinking that I should, since this was such a huge turning point for the country that I live in. Shows like *Hell on Wheels* have made me take more notice of just how tough it must have been for everyone, free men and newly freed slaves alike, trying to carve out a new life in this rapidly changing world.

I had a few moments of feeling uncomfortable at the obvious speech differences between black and white characters, but since I don't know enough about the time period to know how everyone spoke in the different regions of the country, I am assuming that the authors were going for some sort of historical accuracy when it came to this.

So we had two guys who crossed paths with Mercy. I (big surprise here) never warmed to the one we are supposed to like, but I was swooning over the *other* guy.

There were a few unexpected events and even a couple of moments which got me emotional. I love those random emotion checks because they always add something extra to the story.

Some of the time spent with the sisters and Rand's family probably could have been cut back or reworked, but overall this was still a sweet little book/novel/whatever - and this is probably the right place to transition over to the 'but' I mentioned earlier.

**And now for the but...** I'm so confused now about the ending. I almost want to go back and re-read to see if I am positive about what's going on here. Is there a book 2, or are we readers left to our own devices to imagine what comes next? I'M CONFUSED, PEOPLE.

I'm starting to loathe when I see books with the words "A Novel" on them because :

1. Duh. We get that it's a novel. If those words weren't there, would we think we were reading a phone book or something that wasn't a novel?
2. You'd think these words would mean that the book reads as a stand alone, but I've been seeing it on first-in-a-series books lately.

If this was the end of the line for the story, that was one heck of an open ending and I'm not sure how I feel about it. Unfortunately, there's no way to know if there's going to be a book 2 for a while because galley copies aren't always labeled as 1 of a series, even if they are. So now I get to sit and wait and see if we're getting more or not.

I almost assumed we'd get a *Love Comes Softly* type of series in which all of the characters were connected and we'll see cameos from the book 1 characters in future books, even though the story has moved on to other people. But I don't know. And won't know for a while.

Waiting to find things out kind of sucks.

**How spiritual is the book?** It's fairly low-key. Readers of non-religious fiction should be fine with this book. There are a few mentions of prayer and God but it doesn't overwhelm the story.

*This book provided from the publisher through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. All quotes have been taken from the pre-published copy and may be altered or omitted from the final copy.*

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## Pat says

I was caught on page one and didn't want to put it down. I have found a great writing team with Michael Landon Jr & Cindy Kelley. Yes this is the Michael Landon's son. He is as talented as his dad. This book starts on the day that General Lee surrenders to General Sherman. Mercy wakes up in a doctor's office, injured and no memories of her life. The doctor takes her to the abbey for the Nuns to help her. They name her Mercy from the medallion that she is wearing. Mercy makes new friends, becomes engaged, doesn't know what to do when a stranger says he knows some things about her. She's not sure whether she wants to know what he does or not. This secret could destroy everything she has done in her new life.

I'm so glad that there is going to be more to this series. I read this one afternoon and finished the next morning. I didn't want it end. There is love, faith, friendships, struggles, trying to find oneself. I hope you will read this and be entranced as I was. I have definitely added these two authors to my favorite's list.

I received this book through Book Club Network to read and give my unbiased opinion. Definite 5 stars. Would give it more but there wasn't a place.

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## Jenny says

I really enjoyed this book. It was an interesting and refreshing change of pace. The idea of a female sniper during the civil war is very unique. One thing that I really love in a good book is when I feel emotionally connected to the outcome for the main characters. It is clear that this is just the beginning of this story as it does leave you on the edge. I look forward to the next installment of the story.

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### **Nora Petralli Charles says**

Traces of Mercy by Michael Landon Jr. and Cindy Kelley is a historical novel set during the Reconstruction Era of the United States. The story quickly opens with a battle in which a Confederate sharp-shooter dispatches his targets with great accuracy. He follows a Union officer, who carries away a mortally wounded soldier. We discover the officer is the infantryman's older brother. As the young man dies, the assassin, as he is wont to call himself, tries but fails to kill the officer. His first failure. Before leaving, the officer takes a religious mercy medallion off his neck and places it on the rifle bayonet of the shooter, then rides away.

We next find the Confederate soldier knocked unconscious, only to awaken to find himself on a wagon headed for Gratiot Prison in St. Louis. Upon arrival, it is announced that the war is over. During the melee, the soldier is injured and taken to a local doctor. It is here where the story takes over. We discover our soldier is, in fact, a young woman. Not only that, she has a classic case of amnesia. She cannot remember anything from her past the moment she opened her eyes in the doctor's office.

The good doctor, with all propriety in mind, cannot have a young lady living with him, decides to take her to the next place in town best suited for her situation. Yes, you guessed right, a convent. There the Mother Superior names her Mercy for the medallion she wears. And there is where our story starts to lose mercy.

Opening with great pace, I had high hopes for the book. I sped through the first 100 pages. With the arrival of the main character at the convent, I started losing empathy with her. Feisty. Great! Selfish. Not so great. The story line. Your typical lost girl meets richest single man in town, man falls in love.... You can go from there. The story tends to drag during long patches. The end. Well, there's a twist of sorts. There is no end. What started as a novel, ended as a prequel. A prequel to what, I'm not sure. As for me, I don't think I'll continue with the saga. The characters didn't engage me enough to want to know what happens. I think I developed amnesia reading this book.

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### **Logan says**

I am so excited that I have found another great series! Loved the strong female protagonist and the men who tried to save her. I flew through this book last night, it's so fast-paced. Can't wait to read the next one.

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### **Tom says**

Michael Landon Jr and Cindy Kelley have written a story that is full of faith, hope, and love. It was a pleasure to stay up late and read "just one more chapter." Now, here was a page-turner, a novel that just gives

the reader good writing filled with distinctive characters.

The beginning of the novel, the end of the Civil War, was an unexpected surprise. I usually pride myself on figuring out what might happen next in a story. But I must say, Chapter One caught me off guard.

The character of Mercy, a woman with amnesia, wakes up to a world where she knows no one. She struggles to remember her past and lives her new life day to day. Will she discover a past full of sorrow and grief? or a husband and children?

Will there be love and hope in her future?

The authors have collaborated on a story that will definitely become a classic. I highly recommend it.

I received this free book for my honest review. You can find it also on Amazon and DeeperShopping.

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### **Nancee says**

The setting for this story is the tumultuous weeks just as the Civil War has ended. Still fueled by hatred, the north and south refuse acceptance of the ideals of one other. Found unconscious with a severe head injury and a bullet wound to the calf, a young man was examined by a doctor and discovered to be a young woman dressed as a man with her hair worn short. After days of unconsciousness she awakens to find she has no memory of who she is or if she has family and where they might be. With no other name to go by, and found wearing a medal with the word "Mercy" hanging around her neck, the doctor calls her Mercy. To complete her recovery the doctor arranges for her to stay at a local convent. Memories fail to return, and as Mercy is courted by the area's most eligible bachelor she is eventually moved to Rand's family cottage. Rather than linger over memories that refuse to surface Mercy looks to her future and happiness with Rand at her side.

Traces of Mercy is written with remarkable originality and an ever-changing plot. Michael Landon Jr and Cindy Kelley have created a strong cast of characters who are well portrayed and representative of their place in history. Realistic events, both descriptive and believable, reveal accurate and sometimes troubling actions as a result of Civil War issues. I highly recommend Traces of Mercy. This book was very difficult to put down, and I found myself reading until the wee hours of the morning to find out which direction the plot was headed. Don't miss this well-written book about the ravages of war, relationships, romance and intrigue!

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book from Wynn-Wynn Media in exchange for my honest review. All opinions expressed are my own, and no monetary compensation was received for this review.

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### **Karen Stoller says**

I loved this story and loved getting to know Mercy . . . look forward to reading more about her as more stories are added to the series.

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### **Marianne Perry says**

Traces of Mercy opens April 1865 in Tennessee near the end of the American Civil War. We meet a Confederate sniper with a stellar record who refuses to shoot his Union foe tending to his brother during the final moments of his life. He gives the sniper a Mercy Medallion in gratitude. The sniper is subsequently injured, he loses his memory, the war ends and we learn the sniper is female they name Mercy because of the medallion.

As events unfold we meet a convent of Catholic Irish nuns who take care for Mercy. Mercy falls in love with a Union officer in St. Louis, Missouri whose family are railroad developers. They discover she is a Confederate sniper though her amnesia remains and their impending marriage is cancelled. Determined to re-establish her relationship, however, she attempts a criminal act and is captured. She escapes a conviction of treason and subsequent hanging and the book concludes with her on her own determined to solve the mystery of her identity.

The story is told in a series of first-person journal entries Mercy pens that shed insight into her character and the dilemma her amnesia causes; third-person POV unfold the plot.

A suspenseful tale with layered characters, the last line will compel readers to pick up the next book in order to discover what happens to Mercy.

In particular, I favored many of the quotes for the reflection prompted and the timelessness of the tale thus forth created. For example, "Quiet can be very loud."

Marianne Perry

Writing inspired by genealogical research to solve family mysteries.

[www.marianneperry.ca](http://www.marianneperry.ca)

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## **Marnie says**

I have to wait a whole year for book 2 in this new series!

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