



Hidden Mercies: A Novel

Serena B. Miller

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At seventeen, Tobias Miller smashed his cousin's car into a tree, killing his brother only four hours before he was scheduled to marry Claire Shetler. Unable to live with his father's bottomless grief and anger, Tobias left the Amish church and ran away to join the Marines. Twenty-seven years later, Tobias, now called Tom, returns to Mt. Hope, Ohio, a wounded, decorated Marine helicopter pilot, and rents an apartment over Claire's workshop.

A widowed Amish midwife, Claire is struggling to support her family. When Tom rents her room she does not recognize the disfigured soldier as the boy she once knew. She only sees the money as a godsend, though she is nervous about having a strange man so close by. Claire never dreams that she will end up falling in love with a battle-scarred soldier.

As Claire and Tom fight their way through the traumas of the past, they discover the tender mercies God has hidden along the way—including a loving father who has been praying for his prodigal son to come home and a God who makes all things new.

Hidden Mercies: A Novel Details

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Author : Serena B. Miller
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From Reader Review Hidden Mercies: A Novel for online ebook

Gretchen says

A wonderful story of love and loss and how people from different cultures within society handle the situation.

Tobias was in an accident in his teens that involved his brother and cousin. His brother was going to marry a girl named Claire doesn't survive.

Tobias runs away and changes his name and joins the army.

He decides after surviving a suicide bomber to come home. Then the personal journeys of everyone that was affected begins.

You will be drawn in to their stories without even knowing it. You will enjoy this book!

Sandy Larivee says

This is the first book I've read by this author, but won't be the last. I thoroughly enjoyed it from start to finish and felt it was one of the best Amish books I've read. I loved the interaction between the characters, Amish and English. I didn't realize until reading other reviews that this was a series, so I'll have to read the other books.

Janice says

I have read this on the Kindle

I really enjoyed this book it was not the typical Amish storyline

Tom Miller a injury soldier who was once Amish he left after his brother's death then he was Tobias because of his injuries he not seen as Tobias

my only complaint is that i wish there was a bit more to the ending so it goes forward a bit to see about the family won't say more than that as it may spoil the end

After reading this i found out that there was a earlier book called Uncommon Grace so if possible i would say read that first as you would know what happens to the people in that story line

I originally got this book & read it back in 2013 I had this on my kindle & couldn't remember reading it started it while I remember bits & part of the ending it is such a good book it was not only worth reading again but also very enjoyable

Highly recommended

Tima says

Claire is left at the alter when her fiance is killed in a bizarre car crash. The incident changes the lives of

several people. Tobias, the fiance's brother, leaves the community in shame. Claire suddenly finds herself an unwed mother, something not really accepted in an Amish community.

Years later, the two meet under unusual circumstances. Can forgiveness bring healing to them both?

The author is very gifted, so the story was engaging and flowed smoothly. When I finished the book I felt more knowledgeable about the Amish and felt I'd spent a pleasant afternoon with a good book. I did, however, feel there were some negative things for me in the plot. I enjoyed the reality and Christian aspects that were infused throughout the story. But I didn't like the conclusion or the way the author resolved the issues with Tobias and how he handled his career. But since I'm not Amish, this might have played a part in my desire for a different conclusion. It just felt very unrealistic for me. But overall, it was an enjoyable story that I had fun reading.

I received this book free of charge from Pure Publicity in exchange for my honest review.

Becky Fleming says

Beautiful story of overcoming the shame of past sin, a story of forgiveness - from God, for others, and ultimately for ourselves, a story about love - unconditional, resilient love, and finally a story about a prodigal, like the prodigal in all of us, coming home.

Kami S says

I'm really surprised how good this was! Well, not really though... it was Serena Miller, and I've liked all the books I've read from her. I didn't realize this was the 2nd in a series of 3.. guess I look forward to reading the rest in this series.

Maureen Timerman says

An amazing book, that I didn't want to end. The first book in this series was An Uncommon Grace, this story is a continuation. That being said, you can read this as a stand alone, but Serena B. Miller is such an awesome author, you don't want to miss it.

We are now following Claire Shetler, whom we met previously, when her husband was brutally murdered, and Grace, now Levi's wife, saved her life. Grace also saved two year old Daniel.

Joining Claire's family also are her two nieces, Mandy and Amy. That makes for a busy life for any woman. Claire is also a dedicated Midwife, and is trying to support her family by doing that.

Returning after twenty seven years is Tom Miller, he has been badly injured in Afghanistan. He is a decorated Marine Helicopter pilot. He had a different name when he lived in this Ohio Amish Community, and he doesn't know how he will be received.

We find a great deal of compassion on all sides, and some very surprising happenings. There is a bit of Romance, and young ones getting into trouble, also Satan taking advantage of a faithful man's weakness...not unusual. Will this community be able to give forgiveness?

Your in for a really great read, and you won't be able to put this one down!

I received this book from Howard Publishing, and was not required to give a positive review.

Rita says

Chose to read this one since the cover said "RITA award winning, as well as its storyline of a mid wife in an Amish setting. Reminded me of a Nicholas Sparks book or Hallmark TV movie.

Paula-O says

this review is part of one done for Uncommon Grace two together...now reading the third one.

Renee says

Even though Hidden Mercies is not labeled as a series we are once again in Mt. Hope, Ohio, with some old familiar characters from An Uncommon Grace (a good book!) as well as some new faces. Each character, Amish and Englisch alike, struggle with their pasts. Claire, with the sudden death of her young fiance that changed her life forever and Tom, the one who believes he was responsible for causing the accident that took his older brother's life. After decades of grief, despite leading two very different lives, Claire as an Amish midwife and Tom as a helicopter pilot for the Marines they come full circle and are once again brought together.

My favorite thing about this story was the authentic feel that it had. Grace and her husband from the first book set in Mt. Hope play a part in this story as well and I absolutely loved that everything wasn't bright and sunny 100% of the time for them. Where some books tend to gloss over what struggles very different people face when they marry or have a serious relationship, this book doesn't do that. I think there was more headbutting in this book between those two than there are cowboys at a rodeo! I don't mean to overlook Claire and Toms's story. That in and of itself made this book hard to put down but I just loved to get to read what happened next to two of the very likeable Amish fiction characters from An Uncommon Grace.

Hidden Mercies is a great combination of real-life strife along with a sweet love story and a HEA that makes any romance just about perfect! Serena Miller writes good historical fiction stories but I think Amish fiction is her sweet spot. I look forward to hopefully reading more about Mt. Hope and its residents. Hopefully Becky, Grace's sister, will make an appearance soon!

~ My Rating: 4 out of 5 stars ~

I received a complimentary copy of this book for review from the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.

Pat says

Enjoyed reading about the different Amish cultures and beliefs.

Sharon says

I enjoyed this book with its heartwarming tone. I liked the two main characters, Tom and Claire. And I also enjoyed the Prodigal Son theme. I notice I've been drawn to this theme in the recent books I've been reading. However, there was one sub-plot about one of Claire's maternity patients which I felt was unnecessary and added too many pages to this novel. Also, there were some glaring proof-reading errors and/or editing errors, using Grace's name instead of Claire's really stood out. That comes across as sloppy. I would have to re-read sentences because I didn't understand them. Lastly, throughout the book, and in one paragraph in particular, the author over-uses the word "that."

Lisa Johnson says

Title: Hidden Mercies

Author: Serena B. Miller

Pages: 368

Year: 2013

Publisher: Howard

Every author has a chance to write a novel that incorporates both the past as well as the present. In some tales, this brings forth a conflict that comes in all sorts and sizes. Here, Serena B. Miller has integrated the Amish culture of the past with present times. Never before becoming a reviewer have I learned so much about the Amish people. America is a melting pot in more ways than just cultures from various countries; there exists cultures within cultures. For instance, not all Amish have the same rules, regulations or lifestyles. Some Protestants have differing practices than others, such as in dress or practice of the Lord's Supper. I think you get the idea, but if not, here is one more example: When I met my husband, I lived in Chicago. After marriage, we came to Indiana. He was born and raised a Hoosier, but for me coming from Chicago it was culture shock! I never regretted it.

Claire is the midwife for her area, who mixes the old ways taught to her by her grandmother while integrating some newer medical knowledge. Levi was her firstborn son though he never knew his father, who was killed before his birth. Is there more to his story? Shortly thereafter, his mother married and gave birth to his siblings. While married, she wasn't allowed to use her gift and knowledge to bring help to women in labor. After her husband's death, Claire was able to once again resume using her knowledge to help provide for her family as well as serve other families.

Tobias ran away at 17 due to his guilt over a tragedy as well as his father's unguarded words. Now, many years later, a man named Tom has come to the Amish area to heal more from the wounds he received while in the Marines. The story really begins to climax at this point and draws the reader into wondering how in the world the story would end. Elements included in the tale are a handicapped child, a child who disappears during the night, plus Claire's sister Rose having marital problems spurring Claire's family to provide basic needs for her family too. All this is just the tip of the iceberg!

The author uses mystery, love, action, tragedy and more to weave a novel of epic enjoyment. The more issues with pasts and present that arose, the quicker I wanted to read and see if and how the issues become resolved. Included within the storyline is the reality of the difference a relationship with Jesus can make. The characters are a mirror of what all of us deal with...the fight between our flesh and The Holy Spirit. Another theme is the difference between the forgiveness Jesus offers and self-forgiveness. I have heard many refer to forgiving themselves although the funny thing is that if we could do it ourselves; doesn't that mean Jesus died for nothing? We are utterly dependent for all things on Jesus for without Him I know I can do nothing. My rating is 5 stars.

Note: I received a complimentary copy for an honest review of this book. The opinions shared in this review are solely my responsibility. Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyurheart.blogspot...> . Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

Harvey says

Thought provoking and inspirational

I love how the characters in the book are brought to life while living their life. I read the book in one evening and I am eager for the next book.

Teresa Snyder says

There were times I had a love hate relationship with this book. However, when it's all said and done, it was an awesome story!

So, let's start with what I didn't like about the book: (1) someone did a horrible job of proofing or editing. There were so many mistakes with character names - Clair called Grace, Troyer changed to Yoder in one scene, etc - grammar, and characters in two places at the same time, it became amusing. Mistakes happen, but this was more than I've seen in any other book, and (2) the turmoil between Levi and Grace from book one in the series, *An Uncommon Grace*. When we left them in book one, it was a happily-ever-after ending. Not so much by the time we got to book two. Sure, they're married, but it's an uphill battle to overcome their differences. Maybe that's more along the lines of real life, but I prefer the happily-ever-after side of things in my books.

The things that I did like about the book: (1) Tom, the hero of this book, undying love for Clair - even after 27 years, (2) Clair's love for her family and friends. It was a very sweet story of the prodigal son returning home.

Favorite line: "Everything is going to be okay, Daed. Tobias just came home."

Looking forward to book three in the series, *Fearless Hope*. I'm hopeful that we'll see more from Levi and Grace - all problems resolved - and Tom and Clair - married, in love, and problem free!
