



The Shepherd's Voice

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Gabe Talmadge languished in prison for ten years, convicted of a horrible crime. Now free, he's unable to find work in the midst of the Great Depression. In desperation, he returns home to Ransom, Idaho, hoping his uncaring father will give him food and shelter, if not love. But the prodigal isn't welcomed home. Hudson Talmadge, who virtually owns the town, despises his son as much as ever, and Gabe is as powerless as an adult as he was as a child to win his father's approval.

Hungry and hopeless, Gabe is rescued by the owner of a sheep ranch south of Ransom. Incredibly, Akira Macauley gives him a place to live and work to do. More than that, she gives him hope that he can receive forgiveness of his past - and perhaps even love. But when tragedy strikes Ransom once again and Gabe's life begins to unravel, he must either sink into an abyss of hopelessness or cling to a faith, hope, and love stronger than any he has ever known.

First published in 2000 by WaterBrook Press, THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE won the 2001 RITA Award for Best Inspirational Romance, the 2001 Excellence in Media Silver Angel Award, and the 2001 Booksellers' Best Award for Inspirational Romance.

The Shepherd's Voice Details

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Anne says

I really appreciated the spiritual truths embedded in this story- they came through loud and clear.

I did find the primary characters to be fairly one- dimensional, I think as the result of intending them to portray specific truths and aspects of the gospel. In particular, the heroine seemed too good to be true.

Overall, it was very good and I recommend it to anyone who enjoys a gospel- focused read.

Birgit says

Gabe Talmadge, coming home after 10 years in prison, is rescued by sheep farm owner Akira Macauley after he collapsed on the road. Much to his surprise, Akira gives him a chance to work on her farm after his own cruel father refuses to have anything to do with him, much to the concern of her friends. Akira, however, is convinced that Gabe was sent to her by God for a purpose, and she trusts that He knows what is best.

A Christian story set in the time of the Great Depression in America, this to me was like a fairytale, with if not unrealistic, at least very unlikely characters and events - and still, I absolutely loved it, it was sweet and heartwarming, like covering yourself in a warm blanket on a cold night and feeling comfortable.

Gabe's journey from guilt ridden convict to a God loving person warms a reader's heart, Akira was just really way too good to be true, but in her constant love and trust in God a protagonist you just had to fall in love with. The events unfolding and the plots of his cruel father test Gabriel and the budding romance between him and his employer to the utmost.

The story is very well told, with strong and well developed protagonists, and very likeable ones, and has captivated me from the first page; even if a reader is not as strong in faith as Akira and her friends, some of their reactions and thoughts will be familiar enough to follow and understand why they acted a certain way - and made me wish to be a better person.

Absolutely loved this book, and hope to find more of this author.

Bonnie says

Attuned to the Shepherd's Voice

Robin Lee Hatcher did a good job of developing the characters in The Shepherd's Voice. The story sweet times and yet tension throughout. Gabe has a hard time getting rid of his criminal past. Even after being a hard worker and showing kindness to others, he gets into a situation that I feared he would not be able to get out of. Akita, the sheep ranch owner, lived her life as a follower of Christ and showing loving kindness to others.

The story was full of scripture but did not seem "preachy" to me.

Embgram says

Grace and forgiveness lead to redemption

Gabe had a hard life until he is found collapsed lying on the roadside from hunger by Akiera. She gently shows God's grace to him as he regains his health and comes back to the Saviour he denied in his youth.

A man driven by his love of money and power, Gabe's father does everything he can to ruin his son and Akiera. This is a wonderful story of God's grace and mercy when His children trust and obey Him.

JunePerez says

The story was heart warming

Akira and Gabe had their share of trials, but because they were growing in their faith God blessed them and revealed Himself to them. The story was heart warming and depicted the different characteristics of man. As the story revealed the Lord is always waiting for those that are seeking. Robin Lee Hatcher has become my favorite Christian writer and I hope to read many more of her books until the Lord takes me home.

Rebekah says

A Stagnant Faith

Faith that God knows all, is capable of all, and is MY Everlasting Father had been in my heart for most, if not all, of my life. But for the last several years, my husband and I have been laughing off the idea of who has the most and/or the worst medical problems. It has been a cascade of a Series of Unfortunate Events in our lives. All the while, I have tried to keep my eye on God and continue to see the myriad blessings that he poured out upon us. But keeping my eye on God isn't the same as keeping my heart and spirit locked in Him. Then I "accidentally" stumbled upon Hatcher's The Shepherd's Voice. I didn't even remember downloading it, but I somehow opened it instead of the book that I planned to read. As obvious to those who see, there was no series of accidents that led me to this book. Twas God's plan.

My heart is still learning to listen, but instead of my usual fantasy, historical fiction, or LITRPG books, my heart is leading towards other Christian books. Right now, I think I'll focus on Robin Lee Hatcher's books, then I will see where God leads me. But I want to share one thing about the book. If you read with an open mind, or perhaps even a skeptical one, know that the Lord Jesus Christ used Hatcher's own to reach a stagnant prayer warrior, retired too early. Through it, God has given me a purpose again, (taken from me when I lost much of my mind and memory after an accident that ended up costing me my career in teaching my precious alternative students.). Right now, my purpose is simply to learn to lean on God, become His warrior once again, and fill my spirit with His love and peace. May this book be used to reach you as God has reached out to me . . . again.

Robin Hatcher says

This RITA Award winning novel holds a special place in my heart. Perhaps that's because it begins with one of my favorite opening lines, one that inspired the book that followed when I heard it in my head.

I'm delighted that the book is available to readers once again for their Kindles and Kindle apps and eventually will be available in other formats as well.

Cynthia L. Turner says

Heartfelt

What a heartwarming novel. Gabriel is a kind, devoted, and faithful man. When Gabriel meets Akira, he is lost and in need of the loving hand of GOD, the FATHER. Slowly but surely Gabriel begins to understand his purpose and life. Laura's love and faith helps Gabriel in his faith walk. This is an endearing novel of love, growth, and learning to forgive oneself. A very heartwarming and amazing novel.

Dottiebears says

ick ick ick. There was nothing in the description that this was christian fiction. I should have noticed that it won an award for inspirational fiction, but even that would not have deterred me. This was not just CF it was over the top CF. And all the bad guys were really really bad except for the one that was redeemed at the end. All the good guys were really really good and prayed all the time over everything and the only thing they wanted/needed in this life was a bible of their own. The plot was good, but the writing and the characters were all caricatures of themselves. Did not like. At all.

Joan Bagley says

The Shepherds Voice

This book was a real page turned. I loved how Gabe who returned home after ten years in prison hoping his father would receive him as the prodigal son. I loved how Akira quoted scripture to Gabe until he realized a purpose for his life and how he finally forgave himself as well as his father. It was also a relief that his father got jail time after hurting so many individuals, many who had helped him.

Shari Broyer says

An awesome prodigal son story

I couldn't put this book down. As an inspirational author myself, I am drawn to other stories that portray us in our human struggles to find and know God. This book did that handsomely in a rich tale of how a human father's failure to receive his son led that son to find and be received by his heavenly Father. I have one criticism--it's what caused me to rate it four, rather than five, stars. The references to scripture were too heavy-handed. I understand that, being set in the era of the Great Depression allowed for more "Bible thumping" than had it been set later, but it was still too much. I was nearly turned off by it, and I completely

understand the LOVE behind it. However, I feel those of us who write for (and with) God, need to do so in a way that might draw others who don't know that LOVE in, not push them away. Other than that, I felt the story was beautifully crafted.

Karen Stewart says

Really enjoyed this book! It caught my attention right away and I loved Ms. Hatcher's story line. I personally loved all the scripture and prayer thought the book. It made me rethink how I treat total strangers. I highly recommend this book. In fact, our church is reading this for our book club and I stumbled onto this site looking for discussion questions. Any suggestions?

Annie says

While this was a very well written novel, it is not one I would reread.

Diane Klettke says

I start by saying that I really enjoyed this book. This, in spite of the fact that I am not a fan of the Christian romance genre. But the writing was excellent, and that goes a long way with me. It worked well because of the strength of the characters. I enjoyed "hearing" their thoughts because it felt like my own thoughts were being exposed. There was a lot of scripture, but that isn't a bad thing because it does give you an opportunity to see how the truth of scripture relates to "real life" - well, the real life of a fiction book. There was enough tension in the drama of the conflicts, without it being too much - so the book was played out well on several levels.

Having said that it didn't go deep enough for me to consider this a classic worth re-reading. But it was thoroughly enjoyable and just the type of book that we need once in a while. Best of all, it challenged me spiritually, to walk, as the characters did, by faith and intimacy with God.

Megan says

I had a snowy day and finished this entire book! I really liked the setting of the book; it really took you back to what living during the Great Depression was like. It was clean; no inappropriate love scenes, and not swear words which I can do without when I read a book. I did, however feel like she did focus a lot on scripture and the dialogue with God was a little overboard. I am a spiritual person, but felt like it was just too much at times. I did wish she would have done more with the romance between Akira and Gabe. It didn't really go in to that as much as she could have. But, having said that, I did enjoy it and appreciate that it was a clean and proper romance.
