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Melody Carlson

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Anna Larson's daughter, Lauren, is confused, brokenhearted, and misguided. It's the turbulent 1960s and feeling alienated from her mother, Lauren chooses to stay with her paternal grandmother. However, repelled by the woman's manipulative and spiteful ways, Lauren returns to her mother, the river, and the Inn at Shining Waters. But as time passes, Lauren, now a mother to her own defiant teenager, faces a new crisis-one that puts the entire family at risk.

River's Call Details

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From Reader Review River's Call for online ebook

Patricia Kemp Blackmon says

Anna is not just rebuilding her life with her new husband, Clark, they are restoring her old family store, that was handed down to the women of the family. It would no longer be a store they were turning it into an Inn, The Inn at Shining Waters.

It is 1960 and there are many changes going on in this country and in Anna's life. For instance her daughter Lauren is staying with her parental grandmother, Eunice, after leaving college. As much as Anna dislikes this she tries not to be controlling of her daughter.

As time goes by Lauren becomes very rebellious. Anna remembers when she felt like she had nothing in common with her own mother, Though she got along great with her Native American Indian grandmother, Pearl. But luckily she has her husband to support her in any situation that arises, be it Lauren or Eunice. If only she could get Lauren to stay at the Inn and maybe learn some coping skills. Lauren is beginning to expect everything to be handed to her on a silver platter. Lauren takes no responsibilities for her own mess, expecting her Grandma Eunice's house maid to clean up after her. Anna can't tell who is the worst manipulator Lauren or Eunice. At times Lauren seems content when she is at the Inn but this does not last long. In no time at all she gets bored and takes off to Grandma's again.

Anna kept quoting an old saying, "You have to let them paddle their own canoe."

I can see that we can't paddle the boat for them forever.

This book touched me in a lot of ways since I raised several daughters myself. Each one totally different from their sisters. But to say the least it was challenging and they did know how to manipulate. They are grown women now and paddle their own canoes. Thank goodness!

There is so much more I would like to say about this book but I am afraid of saying too much and spoiling the book for you. You really should read this series.

I highly recommend this book.

I gladly rated this book a 5 out of 5.

Disclosure:

I received a free copy of this book from Glass Road PR/Melody Carlson/Abingdon Press for review. I was in no way compensated for this review it is my own opinion.

Rachel says

I'm enjoying these easy- going historical romances. The author gives a bit of a spiritual challenge, but doesn't beat the reader over the head with religion itself. The characters make bad choices, and the consequences lend to the drama of the story.

Nora St Laurent says

I bought the eBook copy of this book because I was in a hurry to find out what happened next to Anna's family. I was glad to know that book two *The River's Call* continues the story of the Larson maternal line all through the late 50's early 60's at *The Inn at Shinning Waters*. This novel begins where book number one, *The River's Song* left off. The main focus of this story is on Anna's daughter Lauren and the choices she makes that keep the relationship between her and her mother strained. Things are seemingly hopeless for Anna as she and Clark manage their Bed and Breakfast. Lauren is far away and calls are few and far between. This story is told in Anna's pov. I liked that.

Anna reflects on her daughter Lauren's upbringing and how maybe some of Anna's choices could have been different. Maybe Lauren wouldn't have been in this situation and/or be so self-absorbed if Anna had not lived with her mother-in-law for so long. She concluded she did the best she could for the situation.

Times were hard when Lauren's dad returned from Vietnam wounded. He was a shell of a man. Anna did all she could to nurse him along but he had lost his fight to live. In the meantime Eunice, her mother-in-law took that opportunity to bond with her granddaughter Lauren and take the affection that was due her mother, Anna. Readers got a peek at Eunice's dark side in the last book. In this one the author shows Eunice in all her glory. It's not pretty. I could see how Anna felt hopeless in her circumstances.

This author interweaves American historical events throughout that took place in the 60's. Many changes take place in our country and in Anna's life on the river as she and her husband Clark make improvements to *The Inn at Shinning Waters*. Its fun to read about Clark and Anna working together as their love blooms as they create a peaceful and fun environment for their guests to enjoy. I wanted to go there. Not kidding! Grin!

What makes this story even better is the colorful cast of supporting characters. Hazel is Anna's friend who is an Indian researcher. She is also Clark's mom. Clark is a building contractor who has studied law, Henry is the river boat delivery man. Babette, is an adorable French woman who is a friend of Anna's family. Eunice Anna's mother-in-law who you get to see up close and personal in this novel and someone who will get under your skin.

I marveled at the patience Anna and Clark had when they dealt with Eunice. They kept healthy boundaries and showed her the love of Jesus at the same time. They would not let Eunice abuse them or their guests. They had a contagious love that spilled over to their family and the people God placed in their lives on the river. I love how this author shows this and how when they fail at loving they pick themselves up and seek his help to love again.

There is a struggle between Lauren, Eunice and Anna that is difficult. Anna learns to rely on her Christian faith, supportive husband and dear friends Hazel and Babette. Life lessons are interwoven throughout this novel and series. This is a heartwarming story that will have you look at relationships and family in a whole new light. I highly recommend this as a great read and a book club pick. There is so much in this novel.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I purchased this book on Amazon. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising"

Nora St. Laurent
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Book Fun Magazine www.bookfunmagazine.com
The Book Club Network blog www.psalms16.blogspot.com

Kathleen (Kat) Smith says

The Shining Waters Inn offers its guests a place to relax, and find peace and healing beside the Siuslaw River. Now that it's gaining more popularity, Anna Larson is staying busier than ever before. Now that she and Clark are working full-time at expanding the Inn's lodging by building more cabins, she isn't prepared for the news that arrives during one late phone call from her daughter Lauren. She is sick and physically exhausted and needs her mom. When Anna sends for her daughter and offers her time to be cared for at the Inn, Lauren gratefully accepts.

However what was thought to be a severe case of the flu, turns out to be worse than anyone expected. Lauren's pregnant and the father, Donald Thomas has no idea. Now all Lauren can think of is how her college life is going to be ruined by her baby and considers abortion. Anna cringes at the thought but realizes she can only support her daughter, she can't make her do anything even if that goes against anything she believes.

Worse yet, when Donald does find out, he is already seeing another girl and doesn't know what to do. When Lauren's grandmother, Eunice finds out however, she figures she can manipulate everything so Lauren gets her way, marriage and happily ever after. But life doesn't always offer a happily ever after ending as soon everyone will find out as the river calls all of them back.

Melody Carlson once again has created a beautiful story of what forgiveness means through her second novel in the Inn at the Shining Waters series, River's Call. Even though it can be read alone, you will want to understand the story about Anna and Eunice which is revealed in more detail in the first book, River's Song. I received this book compliments of Glass Roads Public Relations for my honest review and wish there was really a Shining Waters Inn because this story is amazing. The healing and peace that just being at the Inn offers is such a wonderful way to draw the reader into the story of Lauren and the difficult relationship between her and Anna. I love the Native American references that appear all throughout the book as Anna's heritage is explored more in this book. I would easily rate this one a 5 out of 5 stars and look forward to the next one, River's End due out soon!

Jennifer Jensen says

As a mother, there are never moments when I don't worry about my children. Are they making good choices? Are they prepared for the life they have to lead? I've never met a parent that wasn't concerned or at least unsettled about the decisions their children make and the paths their children walk along. At some point, though every child becomes responsible for their own lives. To put it as Grandma Pearl did, they have to paddle their own canoe. And sometimes, as a mom or dad, all you can do is watch and pray.

This story is the second in a series called "The Inn at Shining Waters" and Melody Carlson effortlessly puts words on a page that carry the reader through the crises of several generations. As she writes of mothers and daughters and the ways in which their lives weave together and then fray, only to ravel together more completely, you feel the weight of the worries, the joy of the reconciliations, and you recognize the tumults and triumphs that often characterize your own relationships.

This is a tale of forgiveness and healing, and it holds the story of women who have a tradition of being strong enough when it counts. I heartily recommend the series. Read the adventures of the women of the river, and hear the way the waves echo in your own heart.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free 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

Victor Gentile says

Melody Carlson in her new book, "River's Call" Book Two in The Inn at Shining Waters series published by Abingdon Press takes us to Oregon in 1959.

From the back cover: What happens when the ties between generations are severed?

Anna Larson's daughter, Lauren, is confused, broken-hearted, and misguided. It's the turbulent 1960s and, feeling alienated from her mother, Lauren chooses to stay with her paternal grandmother. However, repelled by the woman's manipulative and spiteful ways, Lauren returns to her mother, the river, and the Inn at Shining Waters.

But as time passes, Lauren, now a mother to her own defiant teenager, faces a new crisis, one that puts the entire family at risk.

Generations is the theme of this novel and it is marvelous in the hands of master storyteller Melody Carlson. Anna Larson is back and now she sees the return of her daughter, Lauren. There is something about the river, Shining Waters, that helps to bring about renewal of the soul. And, in this case, Lauren needs the power of the river.

Melody Carlson knows how to tell a story and in "River's Call" she has given us a book where we can explore how to deal with our own pain while watching how Lauren deals with hers. "River's Call" is an amazingly beautiful story of how God can take our hurts and turn the bad into things that are good. I liked this book and this series and am looking forward to return to The Inn at Shining Waters.

If you would like to listen to interviews with other authors and business professionals please go to www.kingdomhighlights.org where it is available On Demand.

To listen to 24 hours non-stop Christian music please visit our internet radio station www.kingdomairwaves.org

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Glass Road Public Relations. 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 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Georgann says

meh. Overall, pretty depressing.

emmegail says

Review originally posted at emmegail's bookshelf.

Back on the Siuslaw River in Oregon country, Anna has just got her life back on track, newly remarried and about to open her new rustic inn. Much of her earlier struggles are chronicled in Book 1, so I found it an easy transition to this book. She has always had a strained relationship with her ex-mother-in-law as well as her daughter. Now that her daughter is finally in college and out from under her ex-MIL's wing, Anna feels that maybe she will finally get to have a relationship with Lauren, her daughter.

When Lauren suddenly calls Anna complaining of a bout of sickness, only in the mornings and vomiting, she soon whisks Lauren to the doctor and to her inn, out of sight of all her friends. I thought this aspect of the story very believable because it was often frowned upon for an unwed woman to be visibly pregnant. I felt sad for Anna most of the book with her struggled relationships, and often wondered if she could ever regain them. When Lauren's daughter, Sarah, comes into the picture, she is an absolute joy for Anna and I was happy that she found a kindred spirit in her granddaughter. Finally she had someone to love that loved her back. I hated Lauren's attitude throughout the book and often wanted Anna to slap her! It was really frustrating to live it alongside Anna. Once again, I loved all the people who lived with Anna on the river. Anna has a wonderful husband and new mother-in-law as well as many old family friends to help her out.

I was feeling sort of down and sad about the whole entire story when all of a sudden – the ending totally took me by surprise! And now I MUST know what happens to Sarah in book 3, River's End.

Thanks to Glass Road Public Relations and NetGalley for providing me with a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Cafelilybookreviews says

I have been waiting to get my hands on this book and was so excited to be able to review it. After reading the first book in this series, River's Song, I was hooked!

You can read my review of the first book here: <http://redlilycafe.blogspot.com/2011/...>

In these books, Melody transports readers to a time when some things were simpler. But the conflict and the characters are complex and draw the reader into a plot full of ups and downs. What I love about these books is that even though there are multiple characters and twists in the storyline, it's no work to keep up with!

I lose myself in these books and feel like I am right there on the river, watching as the story plays out. River's Call continues where the first book left off, and we meet up again with Anna Larson who is a newlywed. She and her husband Clark, are finishing up the cabins along the river and preparing to open for business. Anna's daughter, Lauren is the one with most of the conflict in this story and just when Anna feels that her life is settling down and she's finally "home" where she belongs, she faces an overwhelming crisis that she never imagined she'd be dealing with.

Having dealt with her own conflicts with her mother, Anna now experiences tension in her relationship with her daughter and sees history repeating itself in many ways. This is a wonderful story and I could have easily

finished it all in one sitting!

Unlike the first book though, this one leaves readers hanging – there's no bonus chapter to clue us in on what happens next. Aggggh! The waiting and anticipation starts all over again, for book three!

Maryann Taylor says

This is a trilogy series (The Inn at Shining Waters) #2. I enjoyed this book, but this series drags a bit. I found myself skimming at times, but did enjoy the books and will continue to read Melody Carlson. She beautifully portrays family relationships and the need for continued love and patience, even in the most difficult situations. I love the setting of the river and the inn.

Louise says

Story Description:

What happens when the ties between generations are severed?

Anna Larson's daughter, Lauren, is confused, broken-hearted, and misguided. It's the turbulent 1960s and, feeling alienated from her mother, Lauren chooses to stay with her paternal grandmother. However, repelled by the woman's manipulative and spiteful ways, Lauren returns to her mother, the river, and the Inn at Shining Waters.

But as time passes, Lauren, now a mother to her own defiant teenager, faces a new crisis, one that puts the entire family at risk.

My Review:

Although Lauren was misguided, confused, and alienated from her mother, Anna, I wanted to strangle that girl all throughout the novel. Lauren had a profound impact on me and I saw her as seriously spoiled! She was an ungrateful, spoiled, temper-tantrum, whining child, teenager and young adult. At every turn I was frustrated with her and couldn't imagine myself parenting her. On the other hand, I found her mother, Anna, to be a superbly pleasant, loving, tolerant and kind woman.

Anna worked hard to keep her Inn in tip-top shape for guests and Lauren was no help at all. When Lauren herself became pregnant and had her daughter, Sarah, history repeated itself but Sarah had her grandma Anna by her side which made her upbringing much better than Lauren's had been.

Living on the river as Anna's relatives had for generations, brought healing and calm to this very dysfunctional family but it took an almost tragic event for Lauren to finally see the light.

I thoroughly enjoyed this novel and would highly recommend it for everyone!

I Love Books says

Ready for another amazing book by Melody Carlson? One might think that a daughter coming home would be a glad event; however, when it becomes clear that Lauren is pregnant, everything must be reevaluated. Lauren does not even want the child, horrifying her mother further, but abortions were not legal around this time period regardless. When Lauren is soon forced into a marriage, everything goes downhill for her character from there. The marriage is clearly not likely to work from the beginning, but that does not stop several interfering family members. Lauren's sham of a marriage lasts through her baby's childhood...it is only then that Lauren's mother sees that perhaps they did not do the right thing.

Lauren's character is easy to like. Sometimes the reader will want to shake her, other times the reader will want to hug her. She is certainly a character deserving of the readers' sympathy. She is, of course, not blameless in this mess, but what she gets is far worse than the "crime." The other characters will affect the reader in a variety of ways, some good...some bad. The author does a great job of connecting the reader to Lauren.

The plot is not necessarily new, but the author makes it feel like a new situation with character he/she should care about involved. This book is recommended to adult readers.

Paula Phillips says

As a big fan of Melody Carlson, I have loved all her books and the majority of them are all set in today's time so it was interesting to read a book she had written that was set in the late 50's/ early 60's. As usual though, as most of us know Melody Carlson is infamous for writing Edgy Christian fiction and in River's Call she has written about a young college girl who gets pregnant. What should have been the happiest time for Anna and her new husband Clark, after getting back from their honeymoon and starting their new business running the River Inn turned out to be one of the hardest times that they will have to deal with as a new family. Anna receives a phone call from her daughter Lauren asking her to pick her up as she has been sick, vomiting etc. Anna thinking that it's just a nasty bug agrees and Lauren returns home but as the days pass and Lauren still isn't well. Anna starts to notice Lauren's behaviours and realises that her teenage daughter is pregnant. Anna must deal now with the fact that she has a teenage daughter that is pregnant whilst trying to keep up with her christian values, what will her friends think, what will the church think? Lauren wants to get an abortion but Anna believes abortions are illegal and wrong, she believes that Lauren should marry Donald - the father of the baby? What should Lauren do? Read as we journey through the next nine months with Lauren and Anna through their ups and downs.

River's Call was an interesting read as it shines a light into what that day and age was like for those young unmarried mothers or teens that were pregnant.

Laura says

Title: RIVER'S CALL

Author: Melody Carlson

Publisher: Abingdon Press

February 2012

ISBN: 978-1426712678

Genre: Inspirational/women's fiction

Its 1959 and Anna and her new-husband Clark have just returned from their honeymoon. Anna is not expecting to get a call from her college-age daughter, Lauren. Lauren claims to have the flu, but she wants her mommy—so Anna goes up to the college to pick her up. Lauren's condition is odd; she is sick in the morning and feels great the rest of the day. Anna suspects pregnancy, so she takes Lauren to the doctor where her suspicions are confirmed.

Lauren is insisting on getting an abortion since having a baby without being married is not accepted back then. And despite Anna's attempts to help and encourage her daughter, Lauren is hateful.

Is there any hope of this troubled teenager and the newlywed couple having a happy-ever-after?

RIVER'S CALL is book two in The Inn at Shining Waters series. Readers will want to read book one first as this book is a continuation. Readers might not get lost without reading the first book, but they'll definitely be out of the loop a bit.

I didn't enjoy this book as much as I did the first book. I found this book by Melody Carlson's more telling than usual and I wasn't drawn into the story. I'm not really sure I buy the attitude of Lauren—if she felt great all day, except in the morning, why didn't she stay in school? Why did she whine for mommy and then treat her mom so badly when mom jumps to rescue her. And Lauren's grandmother is just plain hateful. Anna is realistic, ashamed of the stigma of having a pregnant daughter outside of marriage, but yet she realizes she can't hide it so she talks about it with her husband and close friends.

I wish I could say that I loved this book, but I didn't. Still—if you are looking for a women's fiction—or just plain love Melody Carlson and devour everything she writes, then you will want to buy RIVER'S CALL. \$14.99. 315 pages.

G. Salter says

A lot harder to read than the first book, but a good story about tough love, trying to make parenting work in tough situations, and praying for the best.
