



The Midwife

Jolina Petersheim

Download now

Read Online 

The Midwife

Jolina Petersheim

The Midwife Jolina Petersheim

Since the day Rhoda Mummau was baptized into the Old Order Mennonite Church and became the head midwife of Hopen Haus, she's been torn between the needs of the unwed mothers under her care and her desire to conceal the secrets of her past. Contact with the outside world could provide medical advantages, but remaining secluded in the community gives her the anonymity she craves.

Graduate student Beth Winslow is on a path she never would have chosen. Heartbroken after surrendering a baby to adoption, she devotes herself to her studies until she becomes pregnant again, this time as a surrogate. But when early tests indicate possible abnormalities, Beth is unprepared for the parents' decision to end the pregnancy--and for the fierce love she feels for this unborn child. Desperate, she flees the city and seeks refuge at Hopen House.

Past and present collide when a young woman named Amelia arrives to the sweeping countryside bearing secrets of her own. As Amelia's due date draws near, Rhoda must face her past and those she thought she had left behind in order for the healing power of love and forgiveness to set them all free.

The Midwife Details

Date : Published May 16th 2014 by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. (first published January 1st 2014)

ISBN :

Author : Jolina Petersheim

Format : Kindle Edition 401 pages

Genre : Christian Fiction, Amish, Fiction, Christian, Audiobook, Amish Fiction, Contemporary

 [Download The Midwife ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Midwife ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Midwife Jolina Petersheim

From Reader Review The Midwife for online ebook

ChrisGA says

This is not a sweet little Amish romance; in fact, romance has little to do with it. It is, however, an emotionally-engaging, intricately plotted story of the real nitty-gritty of life, birth, and motherhood. The novel follows three alternating storylines: a young grad student who opts to be a surrogate for a childless couple, a young girl who becomes pregnant while trying to find the acceptance and belonging she craves in boyfriends, and the head midwife at a home for unwed mothers who protects herself from hurt by preventing herself from feeling. The plot is full of loneliness, poor choices, loss and pain, emotional isolation, and crippling guilt. Each character has built a wall around her heart to keep out any meaningful relationships, including one with God.

In the magic of the literary world of fiction, these three characters intertwine and connect in surprising ways. When the climax of the story brings resolution to all the puzzling questions about their lives, the grace of God brings beauty from ashes and abundant love and fulfillment in place of cold emptiness. Rhoda, like a prodigal daughter, finds the real source for comfort and belonging and peace in trusting the God that had her life and the life of the other characters in His capable hands all along. Very poignant story.

Brenda says

What a book. The story has its ups and downs. It is a really good read. Well-written. The characters are strong. Liked it. Story of girl who has had many traumatic events in her life. The experiences that she feels are

strongly emotional. Love is what keeps her going. Loved this quote, From the book "The Midwife" "Why do you love me after I've been so cruel?" I asked. The old midwife looked up and smiled sadly, cupping my cheek. "Because, Liebe, that's what a mother does." It's story of motherhood and unconditional love and the lack thereof.

Beverly says

When you read this book, be prepared for an unusual chronology. The prologue is a glimpse into the future, mysterious and puzzling. It does not prepare you for what's to come, but rather sets the tone for the book.

In the opening chapters we are introduced to Beth Winslow, a graduate student assigned to Dr. Thomas Fitzpatrick. To assist in the completion of her Master's degree, she has agreed to become the gestational surrogate for the doctor and his wife, Meredith. It's 1995 and soon Beth will be faced with a life changing dilemma.

At first, I found the shifting chronology to be annoying and confusing. It appeared aimless to me until some of the puzzle pieces fell into place. What kept me motivated to read was the desire to make sense of the opening story. Looking back, I can better appreciate the chronology presented since it was the timing of revealed factors that added to the suspense and urgency. I'm still not a fan of this approach, but in this story it serves to increase expectations. I just couldn't put the book down.

What genre is this book written in? I can tell you better what it is not than what it is. For example, it is not a typical romance although there is a satisfying conclusion and the presence of some romance. It is not a boy meets girl kind of story. Many of the characters are not who they claim to be. Yet this is a story that does not easily fit into the mystery, suspense, or thriller genres. There is some mystery, some suspense, but those are not the driving force. It has more character development than action, so it is not a thriller or an action and adventure book. This is not even a "bonnets" story, even though the midwife, Rhoda, is Mennonite, wears a cape dress, apron, and a prayer kapp. Being Mennonite is pretty much incidental because the central issues revolve around identity, acceptance, pain, loss, hiding, finding love, and resolution. In essence, it is a contemporary tale that deals with some hard-hitting issues at the core. The thought provoking problems seem to have come out of the author's "what if" file, assuming she has one. I don't think you can pin a particular genre to this book. As I read, the thing uppermost in my mind was a big question mark.

The segment I found most heartwarming was the friendship Rhoda found in Fanny Graber, the head midwife of Hopen Haus when Rhoda first arrived there pregnant and frightened. A special friendship developed between the elderly Mennonite and the young girl. Rhoda met the Lord because of Fanny. It was the first time she felt completely accepted, wanted and loved. Eventually, Fanny taught her to be a midwife. It was a task Rhoda adopted as her own mission--to care for the girls who came for assistance--even after Fanny had passed on.

There are parts of the book that will grip you and emotionally wring you dry. Most of the accounts are told in the first person, so that the point of view becomes personal to the reader. Toward the end, the resolution includes some twists in the plot that, in spite of a few clues, will still surprise the reader. That said, I still found more satisfaction from the second reading of the book. Once I had more of the pieces in place in my mind, it was easier for me to follow.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received a complimentary review copy of this book from NetGalley on behalf of Tyndale House Publishers. 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."

Shari Larsen says

Beth Winslow is a graduate student who agrees to become a surrogate for her professor and his wife, but when early test indicate that the baby could be born with abnormalities, Beth is unprepared for the parents decision to terminate the pregnancy. Desperate to protect the unborn child, she flees and takes refuge at Hopen Haus, a home for unwed mothers in a Mennonite community.

Rhoda Mummau is the head midwife at Hopen Haus; she gives everything to the girls there but her heart, afraid of exposing the carefully concealed secret she has carried with her for years. When a young woman named Amelia shows up in need of help, Rhoda is forced to face her past, but will her heart finally heal?

I really enjoyed this very riveting story that also had hints of suspense. It had some very interesting plot twists, and one of the biggest surprises when I started reading this was how Beth and Rhoda's stories were tied together. I was only 2 chapters in when I thought, this is a book I can't wait to tell my friends about!

Amanda Geaney (Christian Shelf-Esteem) says

I've had this book sitting on my bookshelf for over a year and I wish I would have picked it up sooner. While I suppose it could be grouped into the "bonnet fiction" category, the plain way of life did not limit the characters and indeed enhanced the story.

I've volunteered at a crisis pregnancy center on and off for a number of years. The girls at Hope House reminded me of so many young mothers that I've encountered during that time. I like how Jolina emphasized how God is always present even in the midst of our trials. He knows our deepest longings and stands ready to fill the holes our poor choices carve from our hearts.

I found the fractured timeline easy to follow and compelling. While the story was fast-paced the development of each character's depth came over time, so it could be savored and pondered. With deft storytelling the author wove Beth and Amelia into my heart and their grief brought me to tears.

Due to the many ethical, social, and spiritual issues The Midwife would make an excellent book club selection.

Hannah says

The Midwife is a truly amazing book written by an extremely talented author. After reading the first book by Jolina I couldn't wait to get my hands on this book. I wasn't disappointed at all. I only have good things to say about this book. I don't think I could find anything negative to say about The Midwife even if I wanted to (which I don't!). If you're looking for a great read then look no further!

Beth says

As the dust from the dirt road settles, and you pull into the drive, you see it: Hopen Haus. A woman in plain clothing and a kapp steps out onto the porch. You walk up the steps and instead of judgment, you receive love; instead of ridicule, you find acceptance. The midwife's strong, quiet voice says, "Come, my girl," and your weary heart knows that you've come to a place of refuge, where hope is restored.

Beth Winslow has agreed to be a surrogate for her professor & his wife; she has given birth before, a son, who she gave up for adoption, and she needs funds to complete graduate school, so this seems to be the perfect option. What Beth doesn't expect is to fall head over heels in love with the child in her womb, a daughter the biological parents decide they don't want after early tests indicate abnormalities. She chooses to flee to Hopen Haus, and that choice colors the rest of her life with events she could never imagine.

The Midwife is a beautiful, heartbreaking story about motherhood, forgiveness and healing. Although at first I found the story to move more slowly, I came to appreciate the way in which it was told. Alternating between the past with Beth and present with Rhoda and Amelia, the scenes build the story, reaching a culmination that is tinged with both the bitter and the sweet that reconciliation can bring. I love entering a story after the choice has been made – the chips have fallen and maybe it's not the way the character wanted things to turn out; it's messy and discordant. Knowing the "what" of the story isn't as important or compelling as knowing the why and how. In The Midwife, although the reader has some foreknowledge that the characters don't have, how the characters choose to react to the path that their life has taken is beautiful and compelling.

The first-person narration is top-notch, and I hope that the author continues to use this style – I felt like I knew these characters as real people. I wanted to know them! Even the secondary characters a layered and come with descriptions that brought them to life. The scenes flow seamlessly one to the next, and although the subject matter is realistic and life-like, I read quickly because I couldn't do otherwise – I was that engrossed in the story.

This is a story about being grateful for the time you have and instead of mourning lost time, rejoicing in what you have now. It's about new life and re-birth and when you finally let go of bitterness, grasping the blessings that can still come from life's messes, no matter how much time has passed, no matter how far out of reach that healing might seem. The ending was perfect – no, everything didn't end perfectly, but it fit the story, bringing things to an end, yet also to a new beginning.

I can't recommend Jolina Petersheim's novels enough. The Midwife is another keeper on my shelf and one I will most likely read again, perhaps when I'm a mother myself and can even further appreciate it. If you want a story of the broken and flawed, yet healed and redeemed, you will find it in these pages. Highly recommended!

Stefanie Kamerman says

Heartbreaking and heart warming are the two words that would best describe this novel. Jolina's puts together the powerful story of Beth, who becomes Rhoda after being baptized into the Mennonite community. Throughout the book my heart clenched for Rhoda to find relief and closure to her painful past.

I enjoyed getting to know all the characters who made up this story. When Ameila arrives, she shakes things up a bit at the Hopen Haus- a girl who has many choices comes to the one place where many women think Hopen Haus is their last. As the story unfolds we see how Rhoda's past and Amelia are linked. Though very unrealistic, it did make the story interesting and unforgettable.

This was my first time ever reading a book in an Amish setting and I find myself wanting to read another! A powerful story of loss, love, and second chances. Wonderful characters and setting. This book reminds us that even if we have a past, there is always hope in the future.

Denise says

The Midwife by Jolina Petersheim is one of those books that I passed over reading for awhile because I'm not a huge Amish fiction fan. I like most of Beverly Lewis' books, but I've found the huge surge of Amish fiction following Lewis' popular work to be largely cheesy, unrealistic, and poorly written. So I never jump to read an Amish fiction that's not by Lewis. However, the description to this book sounded so intriguing that I gave in and gave it a shot. The description reads:

"The story about a mother who risks everything to save a child not genetically hers . . .

The Past -- Graduate student Beth Winslow was sure she was ready to navigate the challenges of becoming a surrogate. But when early tests indicate possible abnormalities with the baby, Beth is unprepared for the parents' decision to end the pregnancy -- and for the fierce love she feels for this unborn child. Desperate, she flees the city and seeks refuge at Hopen Haus, a home for unwed mothers deep in a Tennessee Mennonite

community.

The Present -- As head midwife of Hopen Haus, Rhoda Mummau delivers babies with a confident though stoic ease. Except in rare moments, not even those who work alongside her would guess that each newborn cry, each starry-eyed glance from mother to child, nearly renders a fault through Rhoda's heart, reminding her of a past she has carefully concealed.

Past and present collide when a young woman named Amelia arrives in the sweeping countryside bearing secrets of her own. As Amelia's due date draws near, Rhoda must face her regrets and those she left behind in order for the healing power of love and forgiveness to set them all free."

Now doesn't that sound amazing?! Well, it was. I wasn't sure what to expect when I read this book, but I was completely blown away. I figured out many of the "secrets" and "twists" early in the book (I think the reader was meant to), but then several that came at the end were completely unexpected and I didn't see coming at all. I received this book in the mail on Wednesday afternoon and had finished it by mid day Thursday. It was just that compelling. I literally had trouble putting it down. The characters were fully drawn and rich, the setting was beautifully described, and the plot was intricately laid out and intertwined the past and present perfectly.

Also, I have to add that the cover of this book is just gorgeous. I couldn't stop looking at it - so beautiful. I loved this book so much that as soon as I closed the last page, I immediately got online and ordered her first book, *The Outcast: a modern retelling of The Scarlet Letter* (okay, I had a coupon and a gift card, but still, I have never done that with an author before). I'm counting down the days till I get *The Outcast* in the mail, because if the reviews are to be believed, it's even better than *The Midwife*. I hear she's currently writing a third book and I will be getting it as soon as it comes out! Jolina Petersheim is being added to my "favorite authors" list, and you'd be smart to add her to yours, as well. I'd recommend this book to any lover of Christian fiction - even if you don't like "Amish fiction".

Maureen Timerman says

The Midwife is one riveting read, a real page-turner, and you really never see what is coming. This is one where I can usually figure out the ending in my mind, not this one.

As we travel down on journey of life, it is probably a very good thing that we cannot see what is around the next corner. We travel with Beth, really beginning with her consensual decision to be a surrogate, having already experienced the pain of giving up a child to adoption. How she thought that it would be easier the second time is beyond me, although genetically the child wasn't related to her.

Funny how God places people in our path that and that appears to be just what happens in Rhoda/Beth's case. Of course there is evil present, and it is hard to believe the form it takes, and yet even this has some good in it.

Although we are in a Mennonite Community, you basically will see no difference here than in an Amish Community, this one is really Old Order. No electricity, or cars, and we are mainly in a home for unwed mothers, from all backgrounds. For some this must be a really rude awakening!

As we travel in Beth's shoes, I wholly agreed with her decisions, and loved how she becomes the person she does, and how all things work out. A really great read.

I received this book from Tyndale House Publishers through Net Galley, and was not required to give a positive review.

Diana says

A Riveting Read!

Masterful storyteller, Jolina Petersheim, has penned a riveting, emotive tale that vacillates between three women from different walks of life, but all having two things in common --- deep buried secrets and a desperate need for love.

Beth Winslow, a graduate student agrees to become a surrogate for her professor and his wife. Upon realizing that the child she is carrying may be abnormal and the parents want her to abort it, Beth flees the city and seeks refuge at Hopen Haus, a Mennonite home for unwed mothers. Rhoda, the head midwife at Hopen Haus gives everything to the girls who are incumbent upon her care...except her heart. Past hurts and secrets cause her to carefully guard her broken heart at all costs, especially when Looper, a lost love comes unexpectedly to her aid at Hopen Haus. When a young woman named Amelia arrives bearing secrets of her own, will Rhoda finally come to terms with her past and find healing for a barren midwife's soul?

The Midwife isn't your typical, light Mennonite/Amish book, and was born through a time of intense loss, heartbreak, and subsequent healing for the author, Jolina Petersheim. It is a heartrending story, but one of hope, healing, and redemption. A mesmerizing, unpredictable novel, filled with twists and turns, and an element of suspense -- you'll find yourself madly flipping those pages to see if happiness continues to elude Rhoda, the midwife. Jolina Petersheim is a fresh, unique voice in Christian fiction, who knows how to weave a compelling story that evokes powerful emotions in her readers from page one until the satisfying conclusion.

Natalia Sylvester says

Everything Jolina Petersheim writes, she writes with so much heart it's impossible not to get pulled into the story and instantly care about the characters. I loved this about her first novel, *The Outcast*, and it's what made this second story ring true to me. In *The Midwife*, Petersheim explores the complexities of motherhood, what it means to be a mother, and the power of a mother's love. The story is at times heartbreaking, but Jolina has a beautiful gift for shedding light on hope in even unimaginable situations. Her main character, Beth, is one I'll think about often because of how delicately she balances strength and vulnerability, reminding me of my own mother and all the sacrifices she's made that I could never possibly repay.

Cynthia says

The Midwife is beautifully written, engrossing and heartwarming. Checkout the full review here:

<http://cynthiarobertson.wordpress.com...>

Katherine Jones says

The Midwife began as a story I had to simply throw myself into. The first several chapters are deliberately ambiguous, and I had to let go of my need to understand everything and simply trust that the author would make sense of all the little pieces in time. Which of course, she does.

In her Author's Notes, Jolina writes: "I never thought I would write about my Mennonite heritage because I was just too close to view it objectively. It wasn't until someone told me a true story about an affair that had rippling effects throughout an Old Order Mennonite community that I began to see a different spin on the quintessential 'bonnet fiction' genre."

It's this "different spin" that I find so intriguing about Jolina's stories. As I've said before, I'm not drawn to so-called Amish fiction or "bonnet fiction," despite its continuing massive popularity with many Christian readers. I am, however, drawn to masterful explorations of the fallibility of humankind, and the ways different cultures and sub-societies cope with relational tensions—especially when these are paired with redemptive, hopeful endings. This is what Jolina accomplishes so beautifully. The depth of her understanding of human nature astonishes me, and her gift of storytelling is unparalleled. She wraps her stories in layers of prose that borders on the poetic. And despite what the cover may imply, this story contains plenty of grit and enough real-life angst that the fact that some of the characters are "Plain" is completely irrelevant.

Though there was one thread that left me feeling slightly dissatisfied—I desired a weightier meting of justice upon one unsavory character—it was not an unrealistic ending, and the remaining conclusion was singularly sweet and filled with hope.

Thanks to Tyndale for providing me a free copy to review. All opinions are mine.

Sara says

This is an emotional roller coaster of a story which contains so many layers. It's just an amazing book!!!
