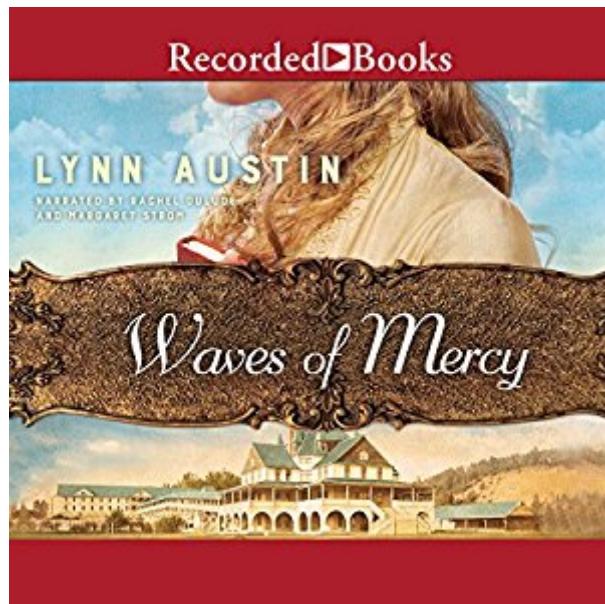


The book was found

Waves Of Mercy



Synopsis

In 1897, Geesje de Jonge is asked to write a memoir about her experience emigrating from the Netherlands to the Michigan wilderness in honor of her town's 50th anniversary. As Geesje recalls the events of the past, a young visitor, Anna Nicholson, mourns a broken engagement. Over the course of one summer, the lives of both women will change forever. Lynn Austin returns with a multi-generational historical novel. Geesje de Jonge crossed the ocean at age 17 with her parents and a small group of immigrants from the Netherlands to settle in the Michigan wilderness. Fifty years later, in 1897, she's asked to write a memoir of her early experiences as the town celebrates its anniversary. Reluctant at first, she soon uncovers memories and emotions hidden all these years, including the story of her one true love. At the nearby Hotel Ottawa Resort on the shore of Lake Michigan, 23-year-old Anna Nicholson is trying to ease the pain of a broken engagement to a wealthy Chicago banker. But her time of introspection is disturbed after a violent storm aboard a steamship stirs up memories of a childhood nightmare. As more memories and dreams surface, Anna begins to question who she is and whether she wants to return to her wealthy life in Chicago. When she befriends a young seminary student who is working at the hotel for the summer, she finds herself asking him all the questions that have been troubling her. Neither Geesje nor Anna, who are different in every possible way, can foresee the life-altering surprises awaiting them before the summer ends.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have read Lynn Austen's books in the past and loved them, so when I was told this book was similar to a story idea I had in mind to write, I ordered it to see the similarities. Yes, there are plot points similar to my own in places (there is nothing new under the sun), but I soon forgot about them and became engrossed in the story itself. Austin masterfully toggles between two storylines concerning two heroines, one in the present (1897) and the other 50 years earlier and moving forward. The point of view is first person present and third person, depending on the storyline you are in--again done masterfully. I loved how the history of Holland, MI was woven into the story, given it depth. And most of all, I loved how Austin wove in the Christian thread without it sounding preachy. Her characters are far from cookie-cutter and we see see their struggles with life and with their relationship with God, which many go through today. I was a bit surprised by the ending, but decline to say more because if I do I will spoil it. I highly recommend this book. As a disclaimer, although I am also an author, I do not know Lynn Austin personally. This review is from my heart and of my own opinion.

I loved this book. For a myriad of reasons, not the least of which is that it told a story I'd not heard before. My husband's family are Dutch Immigrants - and I was enthralled from the first page to learn of the hardships and horrors they survived in order to be free to worship God as they chose in America. What a strong and resilient people!! This story resonates with patriotism, faith and HOPE! I think the hope stands out to me the very most because I, like Geesje, our main character, have suffered an inordinate amount of losses in the past few years. Every turn of the page showed me another facet of her faith and I was captivated! It is not always as easy as some might try to portray....this walking with THE LORD and trusting Him in every storm....but this book shows the true nature of a life lived out in obedience to the call God has on us as believers. Sometimes our faith may falter, but HIS never does! He is Faithful and True. I was swept away by this story and I'm so grateful to have spent some time in this period of history. I loved this book so much I've ordered copies for all my family, a few close friends and my bible study group!!! I am grateful to have been provided a copy of this book by the author/publisher. All opinions in this review are my own.

I couldn't put this book down! I loved how the stories wove in and out, There's was a lot of suspense and anticipation, as well as courage and love, in the book. I really appreciated the Christian themes, especially how God worked in each of the characters' lives. I would recommend this book to anyone and have to a few friends. Lynn Austin is a great writer and I've enjoyed many of her previous books too.

As a person of Dutch descent and having visited Holland, MI many times over the years, I was especially interested in reading this book which is historical fiction, based on fact of the founding of that city. Having grown up in WI, it was of special interest since this group of settlers had originally planned to establish a colony there. The many difficulties that the settlers lived through makes me more appreciative of what our ancestors found when they came to this country. The land in WI and MI is very different from the Netherlands. When I reached the end of the book, I was disappointed that it was finished. I hope that Lynn decides to do a sequel. I always enjoy Lynn's books because it is obvious she has done much research before telling her stories. I have read most, if not all, of her books. I appreciate that she includes her Christian faith in her writings. I received a free copy of this book from the publisher, but was not pressured to give a good review.

Lynn Austin is a wizard at creating a wonderful drama/love story around a historical backdrop. This is underpinned with good sound biblical values, subtly entwined into the interesting story. I love reading her stories. She holds your attention from the get go, and when you finish you are desperately disappointed to lose characters who have won your heart. This story is based on the new Dutch settlers who moved away from Holland to a place they named Holland on Lake Michigan. Times were hard for the pioneering families; everything had to be built and developed from scratch. But out of this hardship and some tragedies, a solid community sprung up and relationships blossomed. There is a parallel story also taking place 50 years later. How does the story of Anna meet with the elderly Geesje.....? Will Geesje's faith overcome her heart ache and will Anna's new found faith draw her in the right direction?

A little slow but an enjoyable read. There must be a sequel because it totally ended very abruptly.

I am Dutch and always wondered how the Dutch settled the US and Canada. This, along with many twists and turns gives an historic account of how they traveled and the hardships they endured to pursue religious freedom. It also makes me very proud of my heritage and citizens of other countries who bravely set out to pursue their dreams.

Geesje is one of the "old-timers" asked to write about the pioneer beginning of Holland, Michigan as its 50 year anniversary approaches. As she writes and relives the last 50 years, she is reminded repeatedly of God's faithfulness, even when she has acted in unbelief, doubt and anger. Anna's

childhood nightmares return after a stormy steamboat crossing. She has come to the Lake Michigan resort hotel to think and recover after her fiancÃ© breaks off their engagement. Finding a friend in a hotel employee, she seeks answers to her questions before she must go home where her seeking is not allowed. She finds answers about more than God and the Bible from this seminarian and his "Tante Geesje." I really enjoyed this well-written story. Realistic characters, historical setting, moving and hard to put down. There is a lot of heart ache, but that's how life is, often enough.

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