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A Measure Of Mercy (Home To Blessing Book #1)



Synopsis

Eighteen-year-old Astrid Bjorklund has always dreamed of becoming a doctor. She had intended to study medicine in Chicago or Grand Forks, but when a disaster wiped out a major portion of her family's income, Astrid stayed home instead, receiving hands-on training from Dr. Elizabeth. Joshua Landsverk left Blessing two years ago, but he's never forgotten Astrid. Returning to town, he seeks to court her. Astrid is attracted to him, and when the opportunity unexpectedly opens for her to go to Chicago for medical training, she finds it difficult to leave. Love blossoms through their letters, but upon arriving back home, she makes a heartbreaking discovery. Will she have to give up love to pursue her dream?

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Customer Reviews

Lauraine Snelling couldn't write a bad book if she tried. Every time I think the last book was my favorite, I read the next in her series and fall in love all over again. She's a prolific writer and full of charisma. I love her style and that she is a Christian writer. You don't have to worry about cuss

words or scenes you don't want to read about. I am reading her second book right now and it's really good. Just when I think I've figured out what's going to happen, she changes directions on me. That's good! I highly recommend her books starting with the first one. Beware, if you do, you'll end up getting them all and reading them. You just can't stop. They should make a series out of this series of books. They are that good.

Ms. Snelling has written 50 or more books, but this one surprised me in what, to me, came across as less than a stellar novel. I enjoyed the theme of the book-small North Dakota town in 1903 with an in-training doctor, Astrid Bjorklund, and her doctor sister-in-law who run a clinic. Astrid can't decide if she should go off for 6 months to Chicago to train at a medical school or stay home and continue her work at the clinic. Before she can decide she 1) meets a man who's running from his past in Iowa and 2) she hears a missionary talk at church about the medical needs in Africa. What should she do? She ends up going to Chicago; her man, Joshua, returns to Iowa; she decides to go to missionary training in Georgia. The book ends as she sits on the train waiting for it to leave. And . . .? And, you have to get the next book in the series to find out what happens next. I learned a lot about small town farm life and even more about medical school in the early 20th century. What tripped me up was all the names of the Norwegians in town. I couldn't pronounce them nor remember who they all were. When it came to barn dances or holidays I skimmed over the numerous character names: Ingeborg, whose granddaughter was Inga-why would you have two such similar names in a novel? Her husband Haaken, son Thorliff, someone named Trygff. I also tired of the lengthy prayers contained in the book. I got this free on my Kindle

Writing was well done. Characters developed enough to explain their position in the story. I just do not like the read a novel and find that I am left hanging. My thoughts on this novel, I wanted to cancel Kindle Unlimited if this was the type of books available. Each novel should complete the character's story, not make you buy additional chapters that are disguised as other novels in a series. Please author, tell a complete story, then move on!

As always Lauraine once again did her best to make us fall in love all over with the people of Blessing. Astrid has begun her journey for God's calling in her life. I can't wait to start the next book in this series to see just where she'll end up. Also two new children have joined the family and their stories are yet to be revealed.. I loved this book just as much as all of the other Red River Valley series. A must read...

Great book regarding a person who wanted to become a physician and succeeds. As hard as it was to be a woman doctor she perseveres and accomplished her goals. Great family story to which, after reading so many in this genre, I feel like I belong.

When I read the last page, I was left feeling someone should have had mercy on the reader. Other reviewers have discussed multiple story lines being thin and distracting, which I tend to agree with. The real disappointment for me came with the abrupt ending. It felt as though the author intended to write more but suddenly changed her mind and just gave up. Astrid's decision made no sense whatsoever based on the rest of the story. There appeared to be no defining point or clear reason for the decision. It was so abrupt in fact, when I got to the end, I actually expected to see a plug for a sequel. Did the author chop the book in two and save the rest for a sequel? After some investigating, it seems that there is a sequel, but I won't give my time to it, based on the nonsensical ending of this novel. Perhaps material was edited out. After investing so much time in the story, I was truly disappointed and unfulfilled in the way the story was resolved. If I were the author, I'd take all those loose ends, write an extension of this novel that would do justice to the characters, and make the ending fulfilling and worthwhile for the reader.

I have three major criticisms with this book: First of all, if you have not read the other series that this one seems to come from, there are far too many characters. I don't know why I should be invested in every single person in this town because there is so little character development with any of them. Secondly, as a missionary, I found the entire "calling" of Astrid to have been done very poorly. As God leads a person to serve Him overseas, He continues to confirm it. The idea that she is going kicking and screaming with little time for prayer and focused time in God's Word seemed ridiculous. Also, not saying goodbye to your family? I was incredibly disappointed in that storyline. Thirdly, (SPOILER ALERT) the book didn't have a clear resolution. It just said, the adventure continues. Well, that's nice if I want to pay for another book. I generally enjoy Christian fiction as a relaxing break from my day, but this book honestly frustrated me.

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