



## **The Midwife of St. Petersburg**

*Linda Lee Chaikin*

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# The Midwife of St. Petersburg

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**The Flames of Love and Revolution...**

It is Czarist Russia, 1914. Karena Peshkev dreams of escaping her family's country estate and attending medical school. But each year, as she watches her hopes of being accepted to the Imperial College of Medicine slip further away, she much content herself with working alongside her mother, the village's Jewish midwife.

On a visit to her cousin's sumptuous mansion, Karena gets a taste of Russian high society—and meets Colonel Aleksandr Kronstadt. Their attraction is immediate, but they can never act on it. Alex is meant for Karena's cousin, the general's daughter, a superior match politically and socially.

But when the accusations of Bolshevik conspiracy tear her family apart, Karena and her mother flee to St. Petersburg. The *Okhrana*—the Russian secret police—are convinced Karena is a Bolshevik traitor, in league with the rebel party's leader. Certain she is guilty of murder and assassination, they're determined to hunt her down. Alex risks his career and his life to protect her from afar, but will it be enough? Will he find her in time to save her from false accusations—and declare his love?

Vibrant with historical detail and richly woven themes of danger, romance, and God's faithfulness, *The Midwife of St. Petersburg* is an eloquent tale portraying the beauty and madness of a country that is about to change forever.

## The Midwife of St. Petersburg Details

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Author : Linda Lee Chaikin

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## **From Reader Review The Midwife of St. Petersburg for online ebook**

### **Lorraine says**

The story didn't really go anywhere in this book. It just kind of plodded on. The characters never really developed into much, even though they definitely could have. The story just kind of went from one thing to another without any meaning. The description of the book on the back cover did not really match what happened inside.

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### **Amy says**

I have to speak out about this poorly written book. It is not what the title says. Only one baby is born in this whole book and not by a midwife. I love the history of Russia that it is set in but I don't know how accurate she is. It is a Christian book, which is fine but you are left wondering what religion she actually believes in. The ending is horrible doesn't finish the story at all. Now if the author intends on continuing the story, then I could understand but I don't know if she is.

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### **Sue says**

I really enjoyed this book. Historical fiction around the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia. Rasputin and Czar Nicolas were characters. It was also a Christian love story. A Jewish family finds Christ as their Messiah. Learned a lot about anti-Semitism in Russia and Poland at the time. Also learned at a deeper level the term pogrom - it had to do with destroying the Jews in shorter campaigns in eastern Europe at the time.

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### **horsefeathers9393 says**

This is one of my favorite books. I love all of Linda Chaikin's books, but this is one of her better ones. The ending is not a "happily-ever-after" ending, but a more realistic one. I would enjoy reading a sequel to this - maybe with a "better" ending? - but I absolutely love this book just the way it is.

Oh, and I totally LOVE the name Aleksandr :D

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### **Rachel Renee says**

Loved this book. I was impressed that the author focused so much on the political turmoil during the time period, and how it would have affected the characters and plot. Slightly open ending wasn't quite as satisfying as a total wrap up, but I understand why the author made that choice, and totally respect it.

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### **Jamie says**

Linda Chaikin is one of my most favourite Christian fiction authors, so this book was especially disappointing. The whole story was very slow moving, the romance was tepid and not believable, the theme of characters finding their way to believing in Jesus as Messiah was downplayed and really didn't go anywhere, and the ending was very unfinished. It felt like the amount of action, background, subplots, etc needed to carry the plot should have filled three books, not one. I guess I'll have to go read her Silk series again, for probably the eighth time!

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### **Huda says**

A novel about a Jewish family struggling in Russia at the outbreak of World War I. I've never read about this before, the struggle of Jews, and how they used to be treated. Clearly, that is no motive for what has been done later on but that is quite a different matter.

In this novel, we find ourselves deeply moved by the commitment of Colonel Alex to his country and that of Karena to her family.

A man who is not afraid to admit that he has fallen in love, although he is supposedly to be engaged to a wealthy noble yet silly girl, that shows great confidence that is not afraid to show its struggle with itself to the world. He did try to break free from the love he felt for Karena, yet succeed he did not and therefore accepted it and acted upon it eventually. I liked that he admitted it to himself that he was enchanted by Karena when he first laid eyes on her, he knew it would lead to trouble because he couldn't hide it from anyone including himself, he was an honest man that's what I loved most about him.

The ending was quite open and rather fast, but it gives the reader the hope that is expected, for we've been anxious to know of the future that this family has waiting for them. But I would've liked the ending to be longer.

I loved the feel of the novel, Russia in the 20th century with circumstances so complicated, that get you turning the page and keeping your fingers crossed for that elegant officer to come in like a knight and claim Karena as his own, ah that is quite romantic for such a novel, but the author did nurture such hopes in me while reading the book.

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### **Joan says**

Really enjoyed this wonderful story. It had a beautiful voice and the storyline was so interesting and kept a good pace. I liked it enough to check out the author and seek other books. Very good read.

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### **Jeni Reynolds Hardin says**

Is there a sequel to this book? It ended so abruptly! Not even an epilogue? Hmm...

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### **Becky says**

This book was very enjoyable...until it ended. Duh!!! I felt like the author must have been sick of the book so one morning she got up and said, time to end this book in 15 words or less. Very frustrating!!

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### **Lucy Bilik says**

Not every story ends in a fairy tale. This one is of Imperial Russia revolution time, very touching, especially to know that it was mostly true how Jews and russian peasants endured thru the rule of the tzars. A glimpse of old world with the glimpse of hope. Would definitely like to see the sequel to this book!

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### **Rachelle Sperling says**

I love Chaikin, however, out of all her novels this one didn't rate at the top of the list. The storytelling was well done and her signature intrigue was present but it just didn't feel enough like Russia to me. Maybe it is because, after spending a significant amount of time in Russia, I have higher standards when it comes to writing about a place so dear to my heart. I did find it interesting that she chose a "middle class" family to write about. Normally, either the peasants or the aristocracy get the spotlight , so this was an interesting twist to see a family caught in-between with ties to both groups. Overall it was still an enjoyable read with some very interesting spiritual applications, Russian-Jewish history and a focus on the messanic prophecies.

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### **Carman says**

This book was just ok. One thing that bothered me was that the hero and the heroine barely spent any time together at all. I was very disappointed. The weird thing is that I could not put the book down. The ending ruined the whole thing for me though.

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### **Julie says**

This story is set in Russia and Karina wants to go to medical school but is having trouble being accepted due to her religion. We see the people she meets and her journey.

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### **Weaverannie says**

Heel veel Russische geschiedenis, heel veel Russische namen, heel laag tempo: het was niet eenvoudig om in het verhaal te komen en de eerste helft was even doorzetten. In de tweede helft ging het tempo wat omhoog, de namen kwamen bekend voor en er kwam zowaar enige spanning in.

Karina is een jong meisje, dat als kind al met haar moeder meeging, die als vroedvrouw werkt in het dorp waar ze wonen. Haar stiefvader beheert een landgoed in de buurt van Kiev, haar broer Sergej heeft zich aangesloten bij de bolsjewieken. De eerste wereldoorlog dreigt er aan te komen.

Het leven is onzeker: iedereen wordt bespioneerd. De tsarina is onder de invloed van Raspoetin en ook andere adellijke dames laten zich door deze dronken boer, zoals anderen hem zien, volkomen inpakken. Kolonel Aleksandr Kronstadt is zo goed als verloofd met het nichtje van Karina, Tatjana, de verwende dochter van generaal Roskov, die hem net bevorderd heeft tot kolonel. Het is een gearrangeerde verloving, want veel voelen ze niet voor elkaar.

Karina heeft maar één wens: ze wil haar moeder opvolgen als vroedvrouw en daarvoor moet ze toegelaten worden tot Keizerlijke Academie voor Geneeskunst. Telkens weer krijgt ze een afwijzend antwoord op haar aanvraag voor inschrijving, waarschijnlijk mede vanwege haar joodse afkomst. De jodenhaat groeit steeds meer en vormt een bedreiging voor de familie van Karina.

De activiteiten van broer Sergej brengen de hele familie in groot gevaar. Ze raken hun landgoed kwijt en vluchten naar Sint Petersburg. Maar of ze daarmee ver genoeg zijn?

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