



For Time and All Eternities

Mette Ivie Harrison

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For Time and All Eternities Details

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Author : Mette Ivie Harrison

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From Reader Review For Time and All Eternities for online ebook

Teresa Osgood says

Linda Wallheim, an LDS bishop's wife who has apparently stumbled upon mysteries before, goes to visit her son's prospective in-laws. As if that weren't awkward enough, they are a polygamous family, determined to follow 19th-century Mormon customs. And then, someone murders the charismatic but manipulative patriarch. Can Linda figure out who did it in this weird little community?

Yes, and that's the good part of the book. But while she does, she agonizes over Church policies, past and present, and lets them interfere with her own marriage. Linda's concerns are real, and affect a lot of people in the real world. However, I could not agree with some of her views, which made it hard for me to relate to this protagonist. The author seemed determined to bring out everything awkward about the Church, without presenting much on the positive side. So, if you're looking for a cozy mystery with a side of faith affirmation, or an entertaining way to introduce your friends to the Church, this is not it.

Joe says

As an active LDS member, it was nice to pick up something that makes references to familiar church concepts. I don't know that I always felt swept away by the fiction writing itself. At times it seemed as though Harrison wanted badly to show off what she knew of anti-Mormon material. I think I could have appreciated that on its own merits, but the story itself was decent enough. I did not guess the murderer correctly, perhaps more a sign of my own simpleton manners, but I don't know that the writing necessarily paved the way in that direction. I feel as though a good mystery will lead you by the nose, completely surprise you by the end, and then make you feel just a little dumb for not having guessed what was in front of you all along. On the whole, I'm intrigued enough to go back and read the first two books in the series, but I wouldn't beg you to go making it your next read.

Ann Woodbury Moore says

This is the 3rd Linda Wallheim mystery, set in Utah with a Mormon woman as the (accidental) detective--except that by now she's gained a reputation for sleuthing and is requested to step in. When Wallheim's son becomes engaged to the daughter of a polygamist, she and her reluctant husband visit the Carter family at their rural compound. The day after the arrogant, 5-times-married Stephen Carter lectures the Wallheims on polygamy and its history, he's murdered and Linda stays to help. Like the previous books, this is a mixed bag. There are too many characters to keep track of, and several potentially fascinating ones are poorly developed and too quickly dismissed. Stephen turns from a charismatic, intriguing person into evil incarnate--so much so that it's incredible ANYONE would speak to or associate with him. The plot is overly complex, although I did like the sweet and believable reconciliation between Linda and her husband as she decides her love for him overrides some theological differences. Harrison is worth reading, especially for those with an interest in Mormonism, but in my opinion her novels still just aren't quite "there."

David Harris says

I think it's good to fight for things you believe in and to work to change things that are wrong. And I agree with this author that polygamy as practiced by certain authoritarian groups and anti-gay discrimination wherever it crops up are both valid targets for criticism. However, literature written in the service of a cause often falls flat when it becomes so consumed with making its case in support of its cause that it fails to tell a good story.

So many of the details of this story seem contrived. Here are just three examples of many:

1- Naomi knows her half sister is being abused, but she doesn't know who's behind it. Turns out it's the girl's own mother, yet no one ever saw it until she slapped her in public. 2- Linda Wallheim feels compelled to stick her nose in everyone's business on the compound, yet no one complains. 3- Linda and her son, Kenneth, casually go along with a polygamous wife's plan to cover up the murder of her husband and are not charged with a crime.

I think this author has narrative skill and lots of promise as an author. I'm confident she can do much better than she's done here.

Karen Loveridge says

Loved the series, and wanted to love this book!!!! But it seemed the main song Linda was signing was "me, me, me, me." Everything was about her ... she is to decide whether or not the police should be called. She gets to decide she knows more about investigating than the police, assuming they will immediately jump to the conclusion over who the murderer based on who found the body with no other investigation. She wants to know who is guilty, she wants to know what's going on in that household, she wants ... she wants ... she decides to Only her needs wants, and skills are of value. The conflict of a religious couple having a child come out as gay has so many possibilities. But while I understood her frustration with the church's stand, by her fourth railing against it I didn't care any more. I also hated that she was clearly angry at her husband not because he didn't respect her view (which she didn't share with him) or not accepting their son (he made his love clear), but because he didn't feel exactly the same way she did at the exact same time she did. gain, it was all about her feelings, what she wanted and what she needed. And if that meant breaking some laws and putting people in danger, and emotionally turning her back on her husband ... oh well. She did what she needed to do ... everybody else existed to meet those needs.

Anthony says

This is the third in a series set in the Salt Lake area and among the Mormon community. Linda Waldheim is the wife of a Mormon bishop and in this series, she finds herself involved in murder mysteries. This is not only just an excellent murder mystery series, but it also provides a keen insight into Mormon religious and social practices. And each book focuses on a specific issue. The first was about the role of women in the Mormon Church. The second was about the Mormon view of gay members. And in this series, Mette Ivie Harrison, who herself is a practicing Mormon, explores the role of polygamy in the Mormon religion, which had been banned but is still in practice by some.

Linda's son Kenneth, announces his engagement to a young woman who happens to come from a polygamous household. Her father, Stephen Carter, the polygamist, invites Linda and her husband to his home to meet him and all of his wives. Of course, this doesn't sit well with Linda's husband Kurt, who is the Ward Bishop. And as expected things don't go well and Kurt leaves in a huff while Linda remains behind, specifically to explore reports of one of the children being abused. Of course, while Linda is there, a murder takes place and she decides to try to find out who the killer is.

I enjoyed this book, as there were several twists and turns I didn't see coming. My only complaint is that Harrison sometimes stretches the limits of what Linda Waldheim, as someone who is not in law enforcement, can do in her investigations. But Harrison is getting better and better as the author of this series.

Kris - My Novelesque Life says

RATING: 2 STARS

(I received an ARC from the EDELWEISS)

(Review Not on Blog)

Listened to on Audio

DNF 40% - I have to give up on the series right here. The characterizations, have not gotten any better and the stories are not keeping me that engaged. I was waiting of the book on polygamy as Linda has told us her views from book one and two. For more thoughts on this series please see reviews for book one and two.

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Jaylia3 says

If you have a particular interest in plots involving polygamy, For Time and All Eternities could work as a stand-alone, but it's actually the third book in this riveting Utah based mystery series featuring Linda Wallheim, the wife of a Mormon bishop. Linda is a great first person character, passionate about her family and committed to her faith, but not without serious questions about her church.

In this book Linda becomes involved with a polygamous family when her son gets engaged to one of the daughters. The story also necessarily involves "the policy" about gay families which came to light in November 2015, because in an earlier book another of her sons came out as gay. That son is now on a mission and can't be in close touch with his family, but he and his life are very much on his mother's mind which helps drive the action.

As in the previous books, this story has a strong murder mystery plot, but is also very much character driven. Though the Mormon religion is central to all of the books, you don't need to be a Mormon or even religious to enjoy this series. Readers will learn a lot about Mormonism, which author Mette Ivie Harrison knows well through personal experience--she is a practicing Mormon herself--and research. Since it's written with heart and passion, I wasn't surprised to see that in an afterward Harrison admits this is her most personal book yet.

I read a free advanced review copy of this book supplied to me by the publisher. Review opinions are mine.

Sharon says

Linda Wallheim is very excited; her son Kenneth has announced his engagement to a delightful lady named Naomi. Linda's husband, Kurt, is less excited; he's a Mormon bishop and Kenneth and Naomi have both left the religion. On top of that, Naomi comes from a polygamist family ... and she wants Linda and Kurt to meet them. Not only that, she suspects that one of her sisters is being abused. So, Linda promises that they will go for a visit ... and then there's a murder in the compound that Linda decides to investigate.

What I found refreshing about this book is that the author (who is herself Mormon) makes it clear through Linda's character that she disagrees with many of the patriarchal notions of the religion ... and particularly with the anti-LGBT exclusion policy. Linda and Kurt have a son, Samuel, who is gay ... and the parental arguments about what the policy means for their son demonstrate the conflicts that these prejudicial rules from on high do to families.

The mystery is well constructed, and there is a plot twist that I didn't see coming at all. Nicely done.

Margaret Dee says

This is the first book of my read harder challenge-an assigned book you hated(or never finished).

This book needed to be edited for preachiness. I have enjoyed her moments of conscience in the previous books but the history of polygamy and discussion back and forth here were over the top.

I also found her actions in this book to be unbelievable.

The ending however was all about love in its many forms and I was glad I stuck with it as I cried through the last chapter.

Dlmrose says

2+

Sam (Clues and Reviews) says

The Mormon church may have disavowed the polygamy it became so infamous for in the 19th century, but for some Fundamentalist Latter-Day Saints, "plural marriage" isn't just ancient history....

For Time and All Eternities, by Mette Ivie Harrison, is a murder mystery that takes place at a compound that houses a polygamous family. The synopsis for this book hooked me; a murder surrounding a polygamous family. Since I am fascinated by religions and their practices (conventional or otherwise), I knew I needed to read this one. Initially, I was unaware it was part of a series and came to find out that it was actually the third

installment that follows Linda Wallheim but I didn't find it difficult to read as a standalone.

The story opens with the main character, Linda Wallheim who is a Mormon woman, wife, and mother, finding out her son, Kenneth, is engaged to be married to Naomi Carter. His betrothed is a part of a polygamous family; her father had five wives. Linda and her husband, Kurt, make the drive to the Carter family compound to meet and greet with their new extended family. Upon arrival, they meet charismatic Stephen, the family patriarch, who speaks of his decision to live "the principle" and after a night spent at the family home, and mingling with his unconventional family, Stephen is found murdered. Since calling the police is out of the question, (the wives fear they will be taken to prison and the children into care), Linda takes it upon herself to investigate the murder and find out who, in the locked compound, is responsible for the murder.

An interesting concept and a well-written plot, I really wanted to enjoy this novel. My main issue with this one is the way it was marketed. I expected the novel would have religious undertones and welcomed that completely; I knew the concept of polygamy was a historically Mormon concept (especially in regards to the synopsis of this book). However, I was unaware that every character in the novel would be Mormon; thus, I feel this should have been marketed as a LDS or Mormon mystery since it truly became the sole "pusher" for plot points. For example, when Stephen is found murdered, instead of reporting the murder to the police, Linda waits for the Holy Spirit to guide her and decides to avoid calling. This completely pushes the plot, as now Linda must be the sole investigator, but I found it to be irritating. When you find a dead body, you call the police. This is only one, of many moments, where I found the religious undertones to be too distracting and took away from the plot.

If you do not mind a novel with significant religious discussion, then I would recommend this book (as mentioned, the concept is fantastic and Harrison writes a mean plot). Otherwise, I would skip this one. I ended up rating it a 2.5/5 stars.

Regan says

Mette Ivie Harrison gives readers another fantastic story. This series just gets better and better. If I have one complaint it's that she needs to write faster. Linda Wallheim is such a wonderful, complex character. You do not have to be Mormon or a woman to understand the mental and emotional issues she is confronting in this and the earlier books. She could be you or someone you know or want to know.

Harrison delves into issues that permeate our lives -- not just issues of polygamy, but abuse and bullying between ages and within families. She tackles these issues with compassion.

Sometimes Linda's character gives me a connection of sorts to a friend, a very dear friend of mine, who was Mormon and passed away two years ago. In many ways she was like Linda -- intelligent, caring, loving and non-judgmental. My friend had such an impact on so many people that when she became ill with an inoperable brain tumor people she never met as well as those of us who were close to her donated hundreds of hours of their leave time to her. Even employees who had been on the other side of her in various cases donated time to her because she was such an amazing person. Through Linda's character I often feel that I'm still learning the many facets I knew my friend had in life.

While there are descriptions of the Mormon faith it is woven into the story so you learn something new

without having something pushed at you. This is definitely one series that anyone can enjoy.

Amy says

I'll begin with this review with a disclaimer that I'm not Mormon. The author of this book is, as is the first-person narrator and a majority of the characters. The narrator (and author) is very much an open-minded Mormon, yet there were some references to Mormon beliefs still held by the narrator that prevented me from really connecting with the characters, because things accepted as truth just seemed so foreign to me. I am a religious person (Methodist), so I wasn't close-minded to the religious aspects or even learning about Mormonism...but just be prepared that this is a book written by a Mormon, about Mormons, and presumably even for Mormons, since a lot of beliefs weren't explained very clearly and were just kind of taken for granted that I knew what they were.

On to the actual story: The book wasn't awful, but it just wasn't great. Overall, the best word I can describe the writing is "clunky." Conversations between many characters, especially the narrator and her husband, felt stiff and unnatural. I haven't read any other books in this series—I didn't realize it was a series until after I started reading it—and I don't necessarily think you have to in order to not be lost. But I do wonder how the relationship between Linda and her husband is portrayed in the other books. It just came off as totally unrealistic to me. They have grown children but still find it awkward to have a conversation with each other? A sideplot in this book is about their marital problems, but the whole thing is handled strangely. It feels as if they are much younger (read: immature) than they are supposed to be, and I simply had little connection to them (especially the husband, who was a real piece of work at times).

I think the author is trying to use her fiction as an outlet to preach to people, which can sometimes work, but it seemed too obvious and forced here. The forefront of her message this time around was how polygamy is not OK and is not something most Mormons believe is OK, but instead of being a juicy suspense thriller, the plot was pretty boring. A side message showing support for LGBT people was kind of shoehorned in; maybe this was addressed more fully in the other books in the series, but it seemed out of place here, or at least extremely underdeveloped considering how much it played a role in the Wallheims' marriage. This book managed to both drag on at times and also feel rushed, especially its resolution. I was surprised when I read in the author's note that she had gone through over a dozen drafts of this book, because honestly it feels like a first or second draft. For anyone expecting an exciting, tantalizing mystery taking place at a polygamist compound (which sounds entertaining, doesn't it?), sadly, don't look here.

Ellen H says

This series has officially jumped the shark for me. It was hardly great literature, but it was entertaining and a window into a the Mormon community, which I knew little about but had always been interested in in a creepy kind of way. But the premise of this book was ludicrous, and not only that -- the protagonist, a Mormon Bishop's wife who seems like a very nice woman, has now waded firmly into Jessica Fletcher territory. Anyone seeing her coming would feel they had to flee quickly in the opposite direction, since her very existence in a place seems to predestine a murder there. Once ordinary people who are not actual police detectives (or private eyes at least) start stumbling over dead bodies everywhere they go, the series just goes

over an edge. Done.
