

Lady in the Mist

Laurie Alice Eakes

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By virtue of her profession as a midwife, Tabitha Eckles is the keeper of many secrets: the names of fathers of illegitimate children, the level of love and harmony within many a marriage, and now the identity of a man who may have caused his wife's death. Dominick Cherrett is a man with his own secret to keep: namely, what he, a British nobleman, is doing on American soil working as a bondsman in the home of Mayor Kendall, a Southern gentleman with his eye on a higher office.

By chance one morning before the dawn has broken, Tabitha and Dominick cross paths on a misty beachhead, leading them on a twisted path through kidnappings, death threats, public disgrace, and . . . love? Can Tabitha trust Dominick? What might he be hiding? And can either of them find true love in a world that seems set against them?

With stirring writing that puts readers directly into the story, *Lady in the Mist* expertly explores themes of identity, misperception, and love's discovery.

Lady in the Mist Details


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From Reader Review Lady in the Mist for online ebook

Aerykah says

I thought this book was pretty great. :)

My first book to read by Laurie Alice Eakes. I'll be looking for some more by her...

Michelle says

There was a lot to enjoy about this book, but a few things that slowed the pace down. I liked the historical aspects of the novel. The author clearly knows American history and it really shines in this book. I enjoyed getting to know the characters and also enjoyed the mystery portion of the story. I think less would have more in this book and made it a tighter story, but the writing itself was very good.

The romantic tension was nice, though the back and forth between the two men seemed to go on a bit too long in my opinion. It seemed like the story was more about the potential for war between England and America than about midwifery itself. But the setting was well done so I felt fully planted in that time period. I did marvel at how often Dominick was just roaming around considering he was a servant.

The tension regarding the hero being British and the townspeople's angst about England was pretty engaging, too. A few times I wasn't sure what was going to happen. The spiritual thread was strong in this story. Some good points were made in regards to faith. Overall Lady in the Mist was an enjoyable read.

Carol Preston says

I enjoyed this story set in the early 1800s when England and American tensions were high and war was threatened. Some interesting historical perspectives on the relationship between the two countries. Also great insights into the life of a young unmarried midwife, Tabitha, whose story this really is. It has something of 'Call the Midwife' about it, and this aspect is well written, with Tabitha being a great character. The romance is a love triangle, which is quite satisfying but which dragged and circled a bit. I thought the novel would have been better a little shorter as the conclusion was a bit long in coming. Overall, an enjoyable read.

Tamara Tilley says

I was a bit perplexed by LADY IN THE MIST. As much as I wanted to like the story and its characters, it had a hard time holding my attention. I was intrigued by the unique plot, but even so, I found the book traveled at such a slow pace I found it easy to put aside.

I don't understand what it was about the book that fell short. It had all the facets I look for in fiction—romance, intrigue, love lost, love found, a dashing hero, and a strong heroine, but I never felt a connection. There were long descriptive periods that seem more like an interruption than fact filled. I will admit that I am not a fan of the Regency Era, but the synopsis sounded interesting regardless of the time

period. The last quarter of the book picked-up, but if it wasn't for the fact that I needed to post a review, I probably wouldn't have invested the time. But if you're a fan of the Regency Era, I am sure you will appreciate what it is that I wasn't able to connect to.

Book provided for review purposes.

Available February 2011 at your favorite bookseller from Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group.

Rachel Brand says

Having seen one too many young men disappear into the mist on British ships, Tabitha Eckles has resigned herself to a solitary life. As a respected midwife, she's the one woman in her town who can walk unaccompanied in the middle of the night without having rumours whispered about her. Unfortunately, her comfortable and quiet life is interrupted during one of these long, midnight walks. Returning from a birthing that went terribly wrong, Tabitha finds herself alone on the beach in the company of a mysterious English man, whom Tabitha suspects may be involved in the press-gangings that have been becoming ever more present in their peaceful coastal town. But it's not long before Tabitha discovers the identity of this mysterious yet charming young man – he's Dominick Cherrett, an English gentleman who has fallen from grace and is now indentured servant and butler to Tabitha's mayor. Knowing that an indentured servant would never be allowed to wander the beach at night, Tabitha remains suspicious as she pursues a friendship with Dominick, who has reasons of his own for wanting to become involved with the town midwife. Soon these two unlikely friends become embroiled in more mysteries than they expected – and an unexpected romance begins to bud between the spinster midwife and indentured English nobleman. Matters are complicated further when Tabitha's long-lost fiancé returns from the sea and Dominick finds himself struggling over whether he could go home to his family with Tabitha or if he should leave her to her simple life in America – or whether he actually wishes to return to England at all. Can Tabitha and Dominick put aside their preconceived ideas about love and rank and – more importantly – learn to trust each other?

It's always wonderful when you start reading a novel with the hope of being entertained and distracted from your busy life, only to be blown away by the discovery of a new favourite author. Laurie Alice Eakes's novel had that exact affect on me, and I can't verbalise how pleasing it is to uncover a gem of a story like this one. I came to this book with no idea what to expect, knowing very little about midwives or the post-revolutionary war years in the United States. It was fascinating to learn about this period in American history, and although I never felt overwhelmed by the neatly intertwined historical detail, I do feel as if I've been enlightened somehow and will definitely be looking out for more books set in this time period.

It was particularly amusing to read a novel in which the Brits are the "bad guys", being British myself. Yet despite the reservations that Tabitha and her friends had about the British, she had excellent chemistry with Dominick Cherrett, the typically ridiculously handsome and wittily charming British hero, whom even I fell in love with despite my reservations on minor royals thanks to studying at the University of St. Andrews. Their relationship is initially based on mutual distrust and suspicion, as the two of them try to deny their feelings for each other due to their very different backgrounds. The indentured noble who falls for the spinster midwife was a refreshing and original twist on the traditional plot of the prince falling for the servant girl.

The spiritual lives of the characters play a fairly large part in the book, as Dominick comes to terms with the corruption he found in the traditional English Church, and Tabitha learns to trust God despite the many

grievances she and her family have suffered over the years. While I was particularly interested in Dominick's struggles – which instead of being with God, were with the Church – I will admit that I felt that the focus on their spiritual struggles sometimes took away from the main plot. I occasionally found myself skim-reading the sections where Tabitha and Dominick talked about their thoughts on God, particularly towards the end of the story when it could have come close to detracting from the climax of the action. This may be a matter of personal preference, but I felt that the spiritual aspect needed to be more integrated so that it didn't feel as if it was interrupting the plot. However, this is a minor issue that didn't impinge on my enjoyment of the novel.

Laurie Alice Eakes is definitely an author to keep your eye on in the genre of historical fiction, and I'm looking forward to reading more from the Midwives series. She truly knows how to set the atmosphere of the period and create an excellent chemistry between her characters. Dominick and Tabitha are by far one of the most unique couples I've encountered in my reading of historical romances, and they were surrounded by a wonderful cast of minor characters, particularly the servants with whom Dominick worked. I hope that Laurie chooses to revisit these characters at some point, but if not, I'm sure that her next group of characters will be just as engaging. 9/10

Review title sent courtesy of Revell.

Annika says

The synopsis of this book sounds good, but the fact that it's labeled as Christian fiction and took two chapters for me to even get a grip of what was going on...I gave up. Life's too short to read slow, boring books.

The reviews are really good, so maybe it's me. I just wasn't in the right frame of mind for this.

Jerry says

An exciting historical romance.

MaryLu Tyndall says

Check your schedule and pen in a long afternoon, perhaps snuggled in your favorite chair, for this wonderful book! Because once you start it, you won't want to let go. Not of the enchanting characters, or the eerie ambiance of a misty seacoast town, or of the romance, adventure and mystery that permeates each page. I delighted in Ms. Eakes' fresh writing style and unique story-telling ability. I loved the adventure! The heroine is flawed, wounded and yet kind-hearted. Someone we can all relate to. The hero, well, what can I say. Perhaps you should be sipping iced-tea when he comes on the page, rather than hot cocoa! This book is a rare find in the sea of predictable Christian fiction, and I'm desperately awaiting the next one in the series!

Becky says

Proselytizing garbage for the most part. The character development was non-existent, the plot was shoddy

and the details lazy. That's very easily explained - this isn't a novel, this is a religious tract meant to convert the unwary. Nowhere in the abstract does it mention that this book is about God first and foremost, and Christian principles secondmost. I counted up 16 various mentions of God in two paragraphs. At certain points I was purely disgusted - take responsibility for your own actions people! I forced my way through it because I just can't give up on a book, but I really should have. I have no problem reading books on religion, I have a problem being misled into reading them. I wish I could demand my money back from the Kindle service.

And for being a story on midwives, especially in light of all of the acknowledgements the author makes regarding her midwife research - there was little-to-no midwifery.

Beth says

The beginning of this book really grabbed my attention. Mid-wife Tabitha is walking home along the beach after a birthing gone wrong, and runs into an Englishman. Is he behind the loss of American men to the British Navy? The mystery and the blooming relationship between Tabitha and said Englishman kept me enmeshed in the story.

I really liked the "hero" of this story, Dominick. He wasn't the typical cheesy, muscled, buff, etc. hero. It was a nice change, and although in Britain he was in the aristocracy, in America he was a servant.

The middle of the book dragged a bit for me. It seemed a bit longer than necessary. The tension that I had felt earlier in the novel started to flag, but it eventually picked up again. I just wish that could have been held throughout the entire novel. I also felt that some of the action scenes were a bit unclear. There were a couple of times that I was confused about what exactly was happening.

I also felt that some of the ideas of faith were a little on the nose. It felt like all of the characters came to the exact same conclusion in the exact same way. I was told how they were feeling more than shown. I was glad to see the characters grow in that way, but for me it just didn't feel as genuine as it could have.

I thought Eakes did an excellent job with the setting--I really loved the misty seaside and was surprised at the amount of action in the story--it was a lot of fun.

Despite the areas of the plot that flagged for me, Eakes combined romance and adventure in a great historical setting. I'll definitely check out the next book in what I'm supposing will be a series (since this is book #1).

Laura Jean says

Historical Christian Romantic Suspense is usually NOT my genre, but I really enjoyed this. I learned about the laws that midwives in the US had to follow in the early 19th century. I also learned a bit about the impressment of American citizens prior to the War of 1812. It was fairly well researched and I honestly enjoyed the story.

My only complaint is that the villain was a little too obvious. And I caught one odd turn of phrase that was

not used as early as 1809, but I realize I'm being nitpicky. I'm not going to let those count against the my ranking.

Karen Witemeyer says

Laurie Alice Eakes weaves a dramatic tale of intrigue and secrets set along the coast of Virginia at the turn of the 19th century. Ms. Eakes enriches her story with lush historical detail and a plot that keeps the reader guessing with many twists and turns. Tabitha Eckles, midwife and healer, has been hurt too many times to trust a man with her heart, especially an Englishman who might have something to do with the men who are taken from her village and forced to serve in the British Navy. Dominick Cherrett charms the midwife in order to gain access to information that could help him redeem himself from his indentured status, but the more time he spends with Tabitha, the harder it is to keep his heart unaffected.

This was a lovely read, and one I am happy to recommend. There were a few actions scenes that were cut off rather abruptly that I would have enjoyed seeing played out "on stage" instead of recapped later in narrative or dialogue, but that is my only complaint. The spiritual thread of trusting God and seeking forgiveness not through self-imposed penance but through a humble heart played out well in the lives of the characters and felt natural to the plot. Readers who enjoy historical fiction with a touch of espionage and a generous helping of secrets, will find *Lady in the Mist* a delight.

Hannah says

This book was very...satisfying. I loved learning about the midwives' lives and customs, and the spy aspect added some really great spice to it. I gleefully ordered the other books in the series when I was about halfway through and look forward to reading them also!

Valerie Comer says

Tabitha Eckles is a midwife in colonial America. Her fiancé had been pressed into the British navy a couple years before the story starts, leaving Tabitha as an oddity: an unmarried midwife who has never given birth. Her parents had died not long before, so she's reeling from everyone she's loved having "deserted" her.

Early one misty morning Tabbie is walking along the beach after the death of an expectant mother. She meets a tall Englishman, Dominick Cherrett, who is the mayor's indentured servant. Considering the fact that young American men are disappearing from the coastline, kidnapped by the British to join the navy, she jumps to the obvious conclusion that Dominick is an accomplice. If only Dominick, the younger son of a British aristocrat, could explain the real reason he's here.

Lady in the Mist is a historical romance novel with themes of desertion and the discovery of God's presence, no matter what. I enjoyed the novel and found the story pulled me along. Ms. Eakes managed to leave many chapters with gripping endings that made me turn the page (on my Kindle) even when I should have been in bed.

Jocelyn Green says

I couldn't put this book down. I carried it with me everywhere so I could sneak in a few more pages whenever possible. What's so great about it? To name a few things:

■It's set in 1809. This is a time period I know very little about, but it's full of intrigue and drama. I loved learning about this slice of American history.

■The descriptions were excellent, really drawing you in and painting the scenes and characters with masterful strokes. You'll be able to picture the scenes and action as if you were watching it on a screen.

■The mystery kept me guessing much further into the book than I had predicted. Normally I can figure these things out pretty quickly, but not so with this one. I didn't even know if one of the main characters was a "good guy" or a "bad guy" until almost the end!

■The heroine is someone I'd like to be friends with. You'll love her too. Her faith is a little weak when we meet her, but that's because of the loss she's experienced.
