



Troubled Waters

Dean Hughes

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Hardcover book. Author, Dean Hughes. A Novel. Only marks on book are previous owner's name inside front cover. Interesting story, Hearts of the Children). Pages otherwise clean, spine tight and straight.

Troubled Waters Details

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From Reader Review Troubled Waters for online ebook

Andrea says

I actually read 3, 4, & 5 before I got my hands on 1 & 2 from this series. I was pretty disappointed with 1 & 2. You could skip them and still get the idea.

1 & 2 are about the teenage life & angst of the Thomas grandchildren. While there are some plot elements in them, I really didn't feel like I missed out on much. The drama was a little much at times. Regardless, I love this series & the Thomas family.

Stan Crowe says

I think one of the best things about Dean Hughes' authorial style is that it's clean and transparent. The story pulls you in, but you're not constantly being reminded that you're **in** a story--that, to me, is a mark of a skilled author.

I had to laugh, a little, when I realised that after reading (well, listening to) several of the "Hearts of the Children" series that I had become engrossed in what essentially amounts to an LDS literary soap opera. But Hughes has definitely done his homework, making the background and historicity of his novels very accurate and believable. His characters are also very compelling and 3-dimensional, and I guess there's just something in me that enjoys following the lives of a couple of families across several generations.

This is clean, easy reading that doesn't insult the readers' intelligence, and doesn't compromise any standards (at least not LDS standards). It's a good escape, reading-wise, and though it has the semi-meandering quality of any soap opera, the stories are ones that are good enough that you want to keep following them--even across consecutive series.

It's not great literature, necessarily (hence 4-star vs. 5-star), but Hughes makes for good reading that's engaging and entertaining. I'm going to recommend his books.

Hannah says

AAAAAAAAAAAAAH! I'm So glad I can finally get my feelings out about this. Prepare yourselves for a very ***SPOILER*** full review, and my opinions.

DIANE WAS SUCH AND IDIOT. (Pardon me, I am so mad at her) I can't believe her. She was hypocritical with the advice from her mom. Wanting it then not accepting it. I LOVE KENT! And the minute I heard about Greg I just knew he was gonna be an opponent and try to win her away from Kent. WRONG CHOICE DIANE. I was screaming at the end when he won her over. I just can't believe how obviously blind she was. I mean I get it, but seriously! Don't just dismiss rumors that you are told about your to-be-fiance! I mean you are going to be MARRIED TO HIM. NOOOOOOOO. Gosh. She bugged me the most in the book. Greg was Scott all over again but a Mormon version who was cleaner. Still....GAH!

Kathy lessened in my favor. I wish she hadn't messed things up with Marshall. Oh well. She'll find someone.

:D And just her attitude drove me nuts. I think she was my least favorite person to read about in this book. But I did have some good discussions about her viewpoints and just her opinions and politics with my dad.

GENE!! I am in love with him. He is so awesome! When he got back from his mission I was SO glad that he ended up with Emily. I will admit I began to like Marsha less and less and I was glad when it didn't work with Marsha. Then I was just waiting till his Princess showed up, and from the moment he meets Emily. BANG I knew it. :D Haha they are so cute! I love them. I really want to learn more about Emily as she is developed.

As for Hans...hmm. I was totally sad about Greta. poor guy. And the whole Elli thing. I'm still not sure I agree with the match, but I think it's probably right and good. Hans's story I feel will be in a way similar to his dad's which will be cool, but also original.

Oh man this book was AWESOME. I loved it!!!! Dean Hughes (if you can't tell) has done amazing and stirring up great emotions in me, and making me get into the story and the characters lives. I applaud you Dean. I'm already on the next one!

Marie says

This is the continuing stories of Kathy (the activist), Gene (The all American boy) and Diane (the prom queen.) I was reading this the weekend that my brother graduated from BYU. I just thought it was funny reading about life in Provo and looking out the window at the city. It's definitely a lot different than Vegas. I enjoyed reading about Gene's time in the mission field and the romances.

Amber says

I really want to love this series because I enjoyed the first set so much (Children of the Promise), but I'm having a hard time getting into them. The characters of Kathy and Diane in particular are getting really old really fast. I don't have a lot of tolerance for idiocy and they both are dripping with it. If they don't grow up soon I wonder if I'll be able to finish the series!

creativate says

I loved this book! I really like the series. It's been a while since I read it so this isn't going to be much of a review. But... I really was impressed with how well the author has covered the time period. This book is based during the Vietnam War. We know it was a very controversial time and I thought Hughes did well in covering the many different viewpoints.

Nolan says

Troubled Waters is the second book in a five-book series that focuses on four people growing up in the

1960s. Hans, an East German teenager, is imprisoned by his government for assisting a friend in an escape attempt from the country. Diane, basically a good girl who wants a conventional family so she can turn out babies and live in the nice house in the burbs, finds that her stunning good looks are of even greater value to her in college. Cathy, off to study at Smith College, has abandoned her conservative Utah roots in every way you can imagine--or has she? Trips home for her are an ordeal, since her perspective differs so much from that of her family.

Yet, these young people, in disparate circumstances, holding widely differing opinions of life in general, press on into the decade that turned the world upside down. This book is the fascinating account of how each of them came to terms with the tumultuous decade of the '60s and found answers.

The stark juxtaposition of their conservative background with their changing perspectives will keep you turning pages and reading on. These books are a bit uneven in spots, however. Sometimes, like life itself, some chapters will be boring while others will be so suspenseful you won't want the chapter to end. Each character gets his or her own chapter, and they alternate throughout the book.

The author once wisely wrote that if you must choose between historical fiction and history, opt for history. That said, he has clearly researched his history here, and the 1960s are presented vividly and quite accurately, right down to the songs that played on the radio in a given year. You'll read with fascination about the death of Bobby Kennedy and the impact it had on the presidential election of 1968. You'll be fascinated to read about protests from students whose university played BYU in sporting events because of the church's position on a variety of things. What has to be most fervently stressed here is that you need know nothing about Utah, Mormonism or even the 1960s to find much to think about in this series. Young Hans, the East German teen imprisoned, finds in his imprisonment a kind of freedom he never expected to find. Finding freedom as a result of imprisonment? Ridiculous, you say? I would have, too, until I read this. Hughes is a talented enough author that he is able to help you see how imprisonment and freedom can co-exist, and he does it in an entirely believable way.

I found the history here far more interesting than I thought I would, and the book is far from preachy or syrupy sweet.

Sunny says

This is really badly written. It's worse than the books in the first series, "Children of Promise." The characters don't feel like real people but flat representations of stereotypes from the 60s. I think Hughes realizes this. But I like reading about my own (LDS) culture, so I plowed through. Will probably finish the series eventually just to re-connect with the story about people from a culture I don't get to read about often.

Tony says

I enjoyed this continued story of the Thomas family. In this book, several of the grandchildren begin to experience life in the late 60's. One finishes his mission, that didn't go quite as he had hoped, two girls enter college and have vastly different experiences. And their cousin in Germany continues to be punished by a post-war East Germany government that frowns on religion.

I enjoy reading these books which helps me understand the perspective the members of the LDS faith likely dealt with during this time period. Dean Hughes does a fantastic job, as usual, in developing his characters and helping us understand their thought processes as the world around the Thomas family is dramatically changing. I often find myself wondering what my response would have been to the historical events that shaped the generation before mine.

I highly recommend this book for anyone interested in history, and for LDS members in particular who would like to understand the 60's and 70's better.

Stan says

I think one of the best things about Dean Hughes' authorial style is that it's clean and transparent. The story pulls you in, but you're not constantly being reminded that you're *in* a story--that, to me, is a mark of a skilled author.

I had to laugh, a little, when I realised that after reading (well, listening to) "Far From home," and a few of the sequels, that I had become engrossed in what essentially amounts to an LDS literary soap opera. But Hughes has definitely done his homework, making the background and historicity of his novels very accurate and believable. His characters are also very compelling and 3-dimensional, and I guess there's just something in me that enjoys following the lives of a couple of families across several generations.

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Stephanie says

Wow, this was great! I was so sad when Marsha decided not to wait for Gene then Emily came along and I was so happy! She's so much better and happier than Marsha if you ask me.

I'm not sure how- they've hardly spent anytime with him- but I love Joey. He reminds me the most of Gene, from the Children of the Promise series. I wish they would spend more time with Joey. He's so lovable, and I find that he's the true Gene in the family. Fun but, mellow.

When Diane wouldn't listen to anyone about Greg I was like NO! She got angry at her mom for not telling her what she thought of Scott. Then when her mom tells her what she thinks of Greg she won't listen! Why?! Although, Diane is still my favorite character. I stayed up till eleven thirty finishing this book.

Kathy....when she got up on that stage when Robby was going to burn the flag I seriously thought she was going to help him do it! I'm glad she didn't though. Although, I must admit, I wouldn't have found it out of character for her.

I used to be a little iffy with Hans and his story but now I feel so bad for him. I hope he ends up with Elli though! She's great for him! And Hans's sister, Inga is the cutest thing. I have to say Hans and Inga are the spitting image of their parents. Hans is like Peter when he was that age and Inga is her mothers twin- I swear it. But even though they're like there parents the story is still enjoyable and it certainly isn't boring!

Kurt...I'm interested to see where his story goes. I love Anna though. She's amazing!

Stephanie P says

Once again the author does such a great job of creating characters that feel so real with real faults and doubts. And all the characters come together to show so many different perspectives on this time. I love how he gives such a great feel of what this time was like by showing many different opinions and perspectives and not trying to show one viewpoint as the only correct one. I was really interested in all four of the main characters narrations and was cringing when they were making bad decisions and feeling the pain when they were hurting. I look forward to reading the rest of the series!

Lorena says

I enjoy his writing style and the historical information. Sometimes it gets confusing keeping track of so many characters. I also enjoy seeing the characters and relationships evolve. I read and enjoyed the first series with the Thomas family - Children of the Promise - and sometimes I miss the perspective of the parents and grandparents in this round.

Linda says

Dave and I listened to the volumes in this series by Hughes during our 4,000 trip this month. A pleasant way to pass the time. For me, this series lacked the gripping intensity I love when I'm hooked on a good book and can't put it down. But, there are many pluses, including the facts that Hughes' writing is clean, geared to an LDS audience, and in our case, covers political and social events we lived through during our childhood, teen, and young adult years. I gained a much deeper insight about some of these events.

Analee says

I don't enjoy this time period very much. I don't know much about it either, but the rational of it all confuses me. No one was united, so much of self satisfaction, violence. I wouldn't normally pick this time in history to read about, but I like Dean Hughes and the Characters in these books, even if they are driving me crazy!! (Diane & Kathy)
