



## Hidden in the Stars

*Robin Caroll*

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## **Hidden in the Stars** Robin Caroll

Following an attack that killed her mother and stole her ability to speak, 21-year-old Sophia Montgomery has no choice but to accept her estranged grandmother's offer to return to their family home. Although detective Julian Frazier is working hard on the case, Sophia unknowingly frustrates him because her inability to speak thwarts her eyewitness evidence. The fact that Julian is undeniably attracted to Sophia doesn't help either, so Julian hides his feelings as concern for a trauma victim and focuses instead on finding the killer. Little do they know, the clues to solving the case may be right in front of them, displayed in Sophia's mother's "special" quilt design. Who will realize the secret Sophia's unwittingly been hiding in plain sight? When the truth comes to light, will Sophia find her voice again? Or will the murderer—still at large—silence her forever?

## **Hidden in the Stars Details**

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Author : Robin Caroll

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## From Reader Review Hidden in the Stars for online ebook

### Dianne Hahn says

This is a story that shows remarkable frustrations and ways to work through them. The police force work tirelessly with Sophia to find her mother's killer and it is not an easy process. This novel is intriguing and keeps your interests.

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### Rebecca "Rebaka" Lewis says

First book I've read by Robin Carroll. After a horrible accident Sophia Montgomery learns that God loves her and does keep her safe. Robin mixes romance with mystery in this wonderful story.

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### Jen says

I really enjoyed this book. I'm not much into romance, but I really REALLY enjoyed a prior "Quilts of Love series" book, as it wasn't 100% romance and more real life with romance woven through it. So I decided if that one was good, then I had to get them ALL. Kind of like Pokemon. ;)

This one did not disappoint. It started off with a bang. Well, with a "beep". The "beep" of a hospital heart monitor. Our MC went through some very traumatic things and both God and the handsome detective in charge of her case helped her to get through it. But neither the handsome detective, nor God overshadowed what the MC had gone through. She was physically, mentally and emotionally in pain. But she has support, not just God's and a man's, but a female friend and a new-found family member.

The characters are complex, like real people are. They have moments of weakness and moments of strength and love. They cry, they laugh and this reader admits, she got a bit teary eyed herself when reading the book.

I really liked the glimpse into the life of a ballerina, though the Russian trope of ballerina and mobster seemed a bit...shopworn. It seemed a bit stereotyped to me, but it didn't take me out of the story too much.

What did take me out was a continuity error at 31% of the way into the book. I have an eARC, so maybe it didn't make it into the final version. I hope not, it COMPLETELY took me out of the story and gave the book a less than final polished feel.

Other than that, no major complaints with this book. I would definitely recommend it to those who enjoy suspense with their romance and aren't turned off by God being a main character in their books. The ending was a bit over the top, but it made sense for the story. A solid four star book.

My thanks to NetGalley and Abingdon Press for an eARC copy of this book to read and review.

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## **Kathleen (Kat) Smith says**

Robin Caroll's name is synonymous with Christian suspense and if you have ever read any of her novels you know just what I mean. For those of you that haven't and love a great novel that literally will keep you on the edge of your seat waiting for the next proverbial shoe to drop, you might want to check her out. She is also the latest author contributing her writing talents to the Quilts of Love Series, in her addition, Hidden in the Stars. Even though these are all part of an ongoing series, they are truly stand alone novels and can be read in any order, but what a way of introducing readers into the talented writing styles of some great Christian authors.

Hidden in the Stars involves Sophia Montgomery, an upcoming new Olympic gymnast who has finally taken all her hard work and is on her way to the Olympics. At least she was until two men showed up at her home with what looked like a home invasion, and began to assault her and her mother Nina, speaking in Russian. Knowing enough Russian, she had the basic understanding that the men wanted something from her mother and would not leave until they got it. What she didn't plan on, was that they would stop at NOTHING to get it, even torturing her daughter Sophie, first with crushing her hands, and then choking her to the point of dying.

All Sophie knows when she wakes up is she can't talk, her hands are badly damaged and bandaged and she is facing a detective who has a load of questions for her to answer. But how will she be able to convey what she saw if she can't speak or write? Detective Julian Fraiser knows that the person he is looking at in the hospital bed is more than lucky to be alive. He has seen car accident victims look less beat up and still die. He isn't sure just how much time he has, but he knows this, he will do whatever it takes to find out who did this to Sophie and why!

I received Hidden in the Stars by Robin Caroll compliments of Abingdon Press and Litfuse Publicity for my honest review. I did not receive any monetary compensation for a favorable review and the opinions contained here are strictly my own. This is such an intense novel because there is that unknown element of wondering just what the men wanted who brutally assaulted Sophie and her mother and what is the meaning behind the Russian language that was spoken. You are turning pages as fast as you can read in an effort to know what will happen. Like all great suspense stories, if you can twist the plotline enough to keep the reader engaged but not so lost they give up, but still leave them surprised at the end, I believe you have succeeded as a suspense author and Robin Caroll clearly has done that in this novel. This is the 21st novel in the Quilts of Love series and includes a Reader Discussion Guide at the conclusion. Well worth 4.5 out of 5 stars in my opinion. You also get a sneak peek at Quilted for Christmas, the next novel in the series coming soon.

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## **Kay Defreese says**

I love to read Robin Caroll so when I saw her name on the book Hidden in the Stars of the Quilts of Love series I knew I had to read it. I knew when I picked it up it would be suspenseful and keep me guessing and it did. The heroine of the story witnesses her Russian born mother murdered and she herself is injured severely. She is a gymnast hoping to be in the olympics but suffers a hand injury and injuries that temporary does injury to her vocal chords. With the help of someone who can read lips the mystery is unraveled as she gains more memories.

I loved the characters in this novel and would love to see stories centered around them. I'm thinking of Charlie the woman who could read lips.

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### **Ronna says**

I won this book from. Firstreads. This is my honest review.

Is The Lord God a dictator, or do we have free will? If something bad happens to us, does that mean The Lord has lost control or doesn't care about us? Can children go wrong even if they have loving parents? These questions are dealt with in entertaining and mysterious ways in this story from the Quilts Of Love series.

Young Olympic class gymnast, Sophia Montgomery, has lost her ability to speak because of injuries she has suffered in an attack that resulted in her mother's murder. To find who and why this has happened, lip reader, Charlie, has been brought in to help her detective friend, Julian Frazier, communicate with Sophia. Ballet stars, Russian immigrants, and isolated family members are involved in this mystery that draws people together in a unique and possibly dangerous way, around a special quilt.

I was pleasantly surprised by the exquisite way the mystery, romance, family, and quilt came together to create a unique story that emphasizes The Lord God's love and care for us. This book drew me in immediately and kept me reading it through one setting. Looking forward to reading more from this series.

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### **Maryann Skaritka says**

Ballerinas, an Olympic gymnast hopeful, a murder mystery and a quilt. This book has it all. Sophia Montgomery is on her way to the Olympic gymnastic team. At 21 she can see how all her hard work and her mother's dedication and sacrifice for her daughter's future is all coming together. Then tragedy strikes during a horrible attack that culminates with Sophia's mother Nina being murdered and Sophia left for dead.

Sophia has lost her voice and lip reader Charlie has come to assist her in telling details of the attack to police officer Julian Frazier. Sophia is reunited with her grandmother Alena. Sophia is clinging to a quilt that her mother made from old ballet costumes. Little does she know this quilt will hold many answers to the past.

Faith is intertwined in the story. Sophia has a strong faith as did her mom. Her grandmother does not as well as Officer Frazier, who is mad at God for taking the life of his partner. Sophia and Julian also start finding themselves drawn to each other. Can Sophia forgive her grandmother after secrets are revealed, can she trust God in the midst of tragedy? This book is the first in the Quilts of Love series that I have read. I really enjoyed it.

I received this book from Goodreads First Reads.

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## **Sally Balboa says**

I really wasn't sure what to expect when I started reading *Hidden In The Stars*, I could tell there would be romance, some murder mystery, and all the other little things that make books worth reading. I'm not even really sure what I found, some information on quilts, on ballerinas, and about how a relationship with God can make everything at least slightly better. But I think the main thing I found was a good book worth reading.

*Hidden In The Stars* is about an Olympic team gymnast loses her ability with her hands and loses her voice, after watching her mother be killed by strange men looking for something her mother wouldn't give up. Now Sophia finds herself in the hospital her career is now nonexistent, her mother dead and her dead grandma is suddenly alive and well. Oh, but we can't forget the hunky cop who's helping Sophia find her mothers killers.

It's no secret that I am not a religious person at all. So your first thought is probably going to be well she probably didn't like it because God is a focal point of the story. However, I think the religious aspect gave the story its backbone.

I imagine that this book was not written in the moment like so many authors do. The way it reads is like unfolding perfectly neat paper bit-by-bit. Each moment bleeds into the next there's not a whole lot of fat to be read in this, it's all plot driven. Which is one of the reasons I liked this novel.

I feel that there was a lack of characterization in this novel on Sophia, all we really learned was that she was upset with her situation or rather devastated, and she was going to be on the Olympic Team right before the attack. We have no idea about what else she likes to do, if she reads, watched TV. I just would've liked more insight on her, because she's basically a victim with determination not to be a victim. So I can't even be sure if I like her as a character. Which is ironic because at one point in the novel she complained that her grandmother had no personal information on her mother other then she was a ballerina, and yet all we get from Sophia is that she's a gymnast.

There was also a lack of characterization on everyone else, except grandma.

I liked the way the past met the present in this novel. Old acquaintances come to light in a dastardly light. Former lovers come to take their vengeance. Just trust me when I say everyone mentioned will be tied together in a nice little knot.

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## **JoJo Sutis says**

I am a huge fan of the Quilts of Love series and *Hidden in the Stars* is one of my faves! If you love edge of your seat suspense, you won't want to miss this one.

I cannot imagine going through everything Sophia has been through, but it was easy to empathize with her from the beginning. So much has been taken away from her, it's heart-wrenching to read. The complicated family dynamics play well into the story.

Julian struggles with his faith after losing his partner. I loved seeing two characters like Julian and Sophia come together...both broken, both need healing.

And of course as with all books in this series, there is a the quilt...this one may hold all of the answers for Julian and Sophia.

This story portrays the sacrifices we make for the ones we love, but it is also a wonderful reminder that it's never too late to forgive. Something that really struck me throughout Sophia and Julian's journey is that God can work all things (the good, the bad and even the ugly) together for our good and for His glory!

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### **Ann says**

Another wonderful read from Robin. I was drawn into the story line and the lives of the characters from the first page. This is a wonderful combination of mystery, romance and family love all bound together by a quilt and the story it tells. The story is also a beautiful picture of God's care for His children. I wholeheartedly recommend this book.

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### **Karen R says**

A great romantic suspense read, kept me up late at night--had a hard time putting it down! First book I've read by Robin Caroll, found myself engaged from beginning to end, with the mystery surrounding the murders, Sophia's family history, and the heirloom quilt. Inspired by the faith of some of the characters, even through traumatic events, and the spiritual reawakening of the detective. Recommend for inspirational suspense fans. 4.5 stars

[Thank you to the author and publisher for the complimentary copy of this book; this is an unsolicited, honest review.]

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### **Christine says**

I won this book and got to read an advanced reader's copy. I wasn't sure at first what to think of the ballet pointe shoes on the front cover when it was about an Olympic gymnast who had been harmed. She, Sophia, had my heart and I was rooting for her every step of the way. I have a ballerina and loved the tie-in with the quilt. I enjoyed the crime scene parts and the relationships. In the end the not so pushy but under-girding everywhere faith of the believer's in the story, it really was a redemption story . . . which is mine too! I would recommend it to believer's and non-believer's alike . . . ballerina's will love all the ballets mentioned!

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### **Brittany says**

This was a very interesting book and I liked both of the main characters. I felt sorry for Sophia Montgomery, who was the victim of a brutal attack that left her mother dead. As the book progresses, she learns many disturbing things about members of her family, however, she is a very good example of someone with a strong faith in God. The things she went through and what she learned could have crippled someone without that faith. Even when she was at her weakest, she leaned on God.

Detective Julian Frazier was not a man of faith. When his partner died, his confidence in God disappeared and he changed. Watching him find his faith in God again was a really touching part of this story. I really

liked Julian and the fact that he and Sophia felt such an immediate attraction to each other without realizing the other felt the same.

This book was written from both Sophia and Julian's perspectives. It was fun to watch the feelings for each other develop through the story. I also really enjoyed watching the detectives work through the evidence to discover who the men were who attacked Sophia and her mother.

The mystery behind the attack, and the way it was revealed piece by piece was interesting and creative.

Thank you to Abingdon Press and Litfuse Publicity for the copy of this book in exchange for an honest review, which I have given.

You can read this review on my blog at:

<http://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.co...>

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### **Kav says**

Fast-paced action and an intriguing mystery had me riveted from the very first page. I barely had time to catch my breath. And what an innovative way to incorporate the quilt theme into the story! Not to mention the clever title tie-in. Love that attention to detail. The complex plot is steeped in suspense and romance and kept me on tenterhooks as I tried to stay a step ahead of the brutal killers stalking Sophia. Thrilling to the very last word.

My thanks to Litfuse Publicity Group and Abingdon Press for a review copy of this book.

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### **Ellen White says**

Sophie, after an attack, that left her like a discarded doll, and her mother dead. As was her competition days, because of the damage done to her hands. What were they after, words spoken were in Russian, as is the woman who tenderly baths her face. The detective comes for a statement has never seen anything like this. Unable to even speak, and a grandmother who she thought was dead. Julian can't understand the deep emotion he has for the case and her, after losing a partner he shut down. Slowly making progress, still can't speak, her coach found out. Yelling at her, for sabotaging the team, her mother's home has burned. Reporters having

a field day with the news from this little town. The quilt of the history of her mother's days as a famous ballerina was saved. Tension, heartbreak plot, that is filled with emotion. One wonders how Sophie will go on, will they find the 2 men who did this horrendous crime. Readers will be caught from the first page

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