



Slender Thread, A

Tracie Peterson

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Driven Apart by Their Past, Can the Bonds of Sisterhood Survive What Lies Ahead?

From the dramatic tradition of such classics as Little Women and A Thousand Acres comes Tracie Peterson's contemporary novel, A Slender Thread. Well-known for her Westward Chronicles series as well as her historical series with Judith Pella, Peterson now uses her agile storytelling skills to tackle a family saga about the bonds of sisterhood, which you will not want to miss.

United for the first time in years, five sisters return to their childhood in order to bid farewell to a mother they never knew, lost to the world that had made her a star. Knowing her only in her films, the sisters feel neither an emotional connection with her tragic death nor with each other. Only their deep love for their godly grandmother, Mattie, pulls them together.

In the wake of the funeral, the Mitchell sisters discover the impact of their absent mother on the choices they've made throughout their lives. A heartrending betrayal and a second tragedy threaten them further. Haunted by the past, unsure of the future, the sisters have only the example of Mattie and God's grace reaching through her lives to make them a family.

Slender Thread, A Details

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Rev. Linda says

This novel was a bit unusual for Peterson, as I ordinarily think of her for historical fiction. The plot for this book is a mother who abandons her five children as each are born to be raised by her mother Mattie, who is a saint (not literally, but as close as a human can get on earth). Each daughter's life is detailed based on how the abandonment affected her. I found it to be a little slow to read, but glad I stayed with it, as the ending was wonderful.

Cindy says

I really enjoyed this book, although some of the story lines felt a little rushed in their conclusions. (maybe because she was planning a sequel?) I felt that Brooke's story was a little too short and the romance between Connie and her man (don't want to spoil anything!) was a little rushed too.

F says

Overall, after reading every word of the book, I was not impressed. The plot was very predictable and weak. I do hope, though, as a grandmother I am the pillar of strength that Mattie Mitchell portrayed in the book. My favorite passage of the book is in Chapter 35 when Ashley recalls one of her grandmother's pearls of wisdom: "Houses do not make homes -- people do. Possessions are irrelevant in matters of the heart, and that love grows anywhere so long as it finds fertile, willing soil." My least favorite passage of the book was in Chapter 39 when Mattie reminds her granddaughter, Ashley, that one reason she should not consider divorce from Jack was the loss of financial security. That specific reason is as weak as the book's plot.

Karen says

What a good book! I really liked this story of a family growing closer to each other and to God when dealing with turmoil and heartache in their own lives. I grew up with 2 sisters so a lot of their issues hit close to home! I've also been far from home for a really long time. Makes me want to visit...

Sherrill says

I read this while at Cozzetta's this past week. I think it was good, to show how siblings (five sisters) can get torn apart and how they could get back together thru the love of their grandmother and each other.

Marianne Jay says

The reason I'm giving this book only 4 stars - and it could have been a 5-star book was because something occurred in the book and there was absolutely no explanation for. It really ticked me off as it was a major event and a character actually states that she knows why something happened but the author did not bother sharing it with her reader and that is a major "no-no" in my book.

I didn't realize that this was a pseudo-religious inspirational book until I started reading it. Normally I don't like that particular genre - however this author doesn't go nuts with all the connotations.

The story in and of itself was very well written.

Alexxus says

A wonderful tale, a unique story line, and great characters. The plot twists were unpredictable and I enjoyed the shock. The only thing preventing me from giving this story a five-star rating is from the cheesiness of the quilting metaphors. But, it doesn't take anything away from the story itself, and I highly recommend it.

Melissa Stoltz says

It starts out really slow and wonder if you are going to like this book. But about half way or so it picks up and the characters start to grow on you and it gets really good. It's a very good story about family coming together and forgiving one another and how a grandmother shows them the way. So if you can stick it out I think you will be happy how it all turns out.

Margaret Chind says

This was a very dramatic book, maybe it was because I was hearing in with certain emphasis rather than reading my own thoughts into it, but this was a stressful book. There were several deaths throughout the book, and heart breaks, and lies, and betrayal. Almost everything that can go wrong did in one of the five sister's lives and then they had to struggle to go on. True it ends in a relative forgiveness, but rather abruptly when there were some 40-odd chapters of pure pain and torture. I love Tracie Peterson's work, but this is a book that I do not plan to ever read/listen to again. It is just too painful.

Beth says

Very real issues with a very supportive and loving Grandmother reminding each of the sisters of the importance of faith and family.

Gina Holder says

This is one of my favorite books I ever read.

Ginnie says

This was the worst book I have read by Peterson. Too wishy-washy. I think she should stick to historical fiction rather than contemporary. This review is rather harsh for me, but don't be mislead, Peterson is one of my favorite authors.

Barbara says

In *A Slender Thread* by Tracie Peterson, five sisters return home to Council Grove, Kansas, for the funeral of the mother who had abandoned them to pursue an acting career. They gather at the farmhouse of their grandmother, Mattie, who raised them and tried to instill in them a hope and faith in God. But each of the women has been affected in different ways by their mother's desertion which causes conflict between them.

Ashley is married to a doctor, has two young boys, and is vying for Supermom status, trying to be everything her mother was not to her. Brook is a model who can't let herself open her heart to the possibility of love. Connie feels alone because her two older and two younger sisters are close, and she has a different father, so she feels the odd woman out on many fronts. But she makes it worse by putting up walls that none of them can break through and making choices that she knows Mattie would be heartbroken over if she knew. Deirdre was the only planned child of her mother, conceived to try to heal her marriage. She's the peacemaker but hides a secret obsession. Erica was the youngest, born barely 9 months after Deirdre, a gifted musician who puts her potential career above her love interest.

As the girls gather for the first time in years, tensions rise to the surface and harsh words break out on all sides. Mattie tries to point them to the love they have for each other, the "slender thread" that ties them together, and to God's help and grace, but each one is too immersed in her own issues.

There's a lot of bickering in this book. A *lot*. It's meant to show that their issues go beyond the usual sibling rivalry, but they seem extraordinarily touchy and too willing to get offended by innocent remarks. Some of the same issues keep coming up over and over – which does happen when people are fixated on their past hurts without attempts to come to peace with them. But it did get old. The story seemed very slow in the first section when the girls were all together but the action picked up quite a bit when they all went back to their own lives and we saw them in their own setting. Their characters were developed quite a bit more then.

But I did appreciate the emphasis that we don't have to be bound by a bad past or a parent who has failed us. We'll forever be affected by them, but with grace and forgiveness and God's help, we can put the past in perspective and forge new trails for ourselves and our families.

Mickey says

After reading a Garrison Keillor humorous book, then a Jeff Shaara tome on the Civil War, I was ready for something a little more spiritual. I had seen books by Peterson advertised in "The Lutheran" magazine and had wanted to try one. I was really disappointed in this book. I thought it read like an assignment for an English class. Five sisters, raised by their grandmother, who were always bickering caused the grandmother to moan "Oh Lord, they're so lost." Come on! I have four daughters and the bickering is how they communicate -- it's not tragic, it's just the way life is, and they snap out of these moods about as quickly as they occur. I found myself objecting to Peterson's style of writing on almost every page: people don't talk like that! "Silently, she nodded her head." What? Can you be noisy while you're nodding your head? And the whole treatment of "the family's torn apart -- then they heal and get back together again" I found way too melodramatic. Other reviewers have suggested that Peterson does better with historical fiction than stories in contemporary settings. After reading "A Slender Thread" I'm not sure I want to give this author another shot.

C Jacobson says

Didn't like the premise, so I didn't read very far
