



# The Muir House

*Mary E. DeMuth*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

# The Muir House

Mary E. DeMuth

## The Muir House Mary E. DeMuth

"You'll find home one day. Sure as sweet tea on a hot afternoon." Words from Willa Muir's sketchy childhood haunt her dreams and color her days with longing, regret, and fear. What do the words mean? Willa is far from sure. When Hale Landon places a ring on her finger, Willa panics, feeling she can't possibly say yes when so much in her past is a mystery. Bent on sorting out her history, Willa returns to Rockwall, Texas, to the Muir House Bed & Breakfast, a former funeral home. But the old place holds her empty memory close to itself. Willa's mother utters unintelligible clues from her deathbed, and the caretaker of the house keeps coveted answers carefully protected. Throw in an old flame, and Willa careens farther away from ever knowing the truth. Set in a growing suburb of Texas, *The Muir House* explores trauma, healing, love new and old, and the life-changing choices people make to keep their reputations intact.

## The Muir House Details

Date : Published July 9th 2011 by Zondervan (first published April 12th 2011)

ISBN : 9780310330332

Author : Mary E. DeMuth

Format : Paperback 325 pages

Genre : Christian Fiction, Fiction, Suspense

 [Download The Muir House ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Muir House ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The Muir House Mary E. DeMuth**

---

# From Reader Review The Muir House for online ebook

## Andi says

Willa is a young woman who is looking for a place to call home, she has secrets locked inside of her that she can't remember. As she begins to search for the secrets to who she is she learns who she is. There is powerful symbolism between the Muir house that Willa is to refurbish and Willa herself. They both are in shambles. My favorite quote from the book is found on page 125 "Let the past sleep, but let it sleep on the bosom of Christ. And go into the irresistible future with Him."

Mary has written a suburb book that will take you on a journey of your own, who do you call home? Is it God, or is it someone or something else? Are you carrying your past around with you, or leaving it with God to let Him take care of. This is an absolutely AWESOME book! I give it 5 lighthouses and shine a light on it for pointing a path to God!!! Way to go Mary!!!!

---

## Laura says

Mary DeMuth's book, The Muir House, is a rich telling of a young 28-year-old young lady, Willa Muir, who is haunted by her dreams and days of longing to know about the 'blank memory year' of her childhood. She has a deep sense of wanting to be loved and finding where she belongs, as her life seems like such a mystery and so scattered. She's convinced if she finds that missing piece, her life will be resolved. But does she realize it could open another can of worms to haunt her even more?

Then, when Hale Landon puts a ring on her finger, she panics and flees back to her hometown of Rockwall, TX, to The Muir House, hoping to find the answers she's been looking for to set her life on course. What she finds is her home changed into a B & B, and no one willing to share about her past, including the caretaker, Genie. Even her mother's deathbed mumblings make no sense to her.

Willa's story is so real and relevant to many even today who find hauntings in their own lives that just don't connect. But it's her relentlessness in pursuing her past, dogging anyone she thinks can supply her information, including her old boyfriend, which makes for relationship problems with some of those she loves.

Mary's incredible list of characters will resonate with you in some fashion. Some you will like-some you may not. Either way, you will find yourselves rooting for some and wishing others would change. You may even find some traits that you recognize in your own life and/or family and friends, both good and bad. Her picturesque word choices let your imagination soar.

The painful revelations, and the way some are found out, will steal your breath away in shock and reach to the very core of your emotions. Yet the tenderness that Willa experiences will delight your soul. Mary doesn't spare you any of the ranges of emotion, which to me, makes for a great read! Because it's life's reality!

The faithfulness of God is felt throughout, though sometimes it seems so hidden. It's His influence that wins in the end because hearts are open. How His influence wins out will be the mystery you will be searching for yourself in Mary's book. Enjoy!

This book was provided by Mary DeMuth in exchange for my honest review.

---

### **Casey says**

There is a powerful symbolism in “The Muir House” between Willa’s old home and Willa herself. And as the story progresses, that symbolism only becomes more clear.

Willa is a young woman desperately searching for “her” place in the world. But there are so many secrets locked within her, that it pushes her away from everyone and everything around her. Until she comes to her moment of breaking.

The story is told through her surroundings. There isn’t a lot of dialogue (what is though is excellent), but is mainly a story told through what her memories and surroundings, as she digs to remember what she can’t. Can Willa move past the struggles of her youth that are encroaching on today’s promises?

That is basically the premise of the novel. As she sees everything she holds dear being stripped away, she sees where she has gone wrong for so many years. “The Muir House” is one of those books I think you would have to read several times over just to grasp the full power. There is a great deal of subtext buried in the writing and you can’t wear it out by re-reading.

Once I got into the story and grasped the writing style, it was an enjoyable read, it makes you think, but also presents a story that I couldn’t help but sigh in closing. (it is a lovely ending!)

This review is my honest opinion. Thanks to the publishers and the author for providing a copy to influence on behalf of the author.

---

### **Brenda says**

Willa Muir grew up believing that her father loved her beyond measure, but that her mother could barely stand the sight of her, but when a wedding proposal by her boyfriend Hale causes her to realize the only way she can move forward with her life is to figure out the secrets that have haunted her for years. When she gets a call from the caretaker of her former home, The Muir House, to come and help with redecorating because the former funeral home is being transformed into a B&B, Willa decides its time to go home and hopefully make peace with her dying mother, and also to solve some of the mysteries that haunt her.

This is one of those stories where you think you know what’s going to happen but the twists thrown in aren’t what you expect. As Willa learns of the secrets that were buried in the past, I couldn’t help but wish that she would have had more time with her mother. I thought the author did a great job of allowing the reader to see the character of Willa, someone who had difficulty with relationships, in essence allowing someone into her life, but as the story progresses we also see Willa change and grow. The ending for me was a bit of a surprise but it was perfect! The fact that Willa grew up in a funeral home was quite interesting, it brings to mind the funeral parlors of my childhood where the funeral director and his family actually lived upstairs.

There are discussion questions included that would make this book perfect for book clubs. If you enjoy a

story that pulls you in and gives you a bit of mystery, romance and also an inspirational message then your in for a real treat with "The Muir House."

---

### **Barbara Ball says**

I just couldn't get into this book and have too many other books to read to give it a second chance.

---

### **Alycia Morales says**

Mary DeMuth has written a page-turner that had me holding my breath as I turned the next page. I questioned, "What happens next?" more than once throughout reading The Muir House.

Meet Willa Muir. An interior decorator who's been "cutting" since she was a young girl. A woman afraid to commit her life to another, because she has a hole in her existence. She can remember every year of her life, but one...

Hale wants to marry Willa, as well as see her whole. He's reminded her of her need for Jesus, but he can't convince her to marry him. So he lets her go.

As Willa returns to the Muir House in Texas, will she be able to fill the hole in her past, find forgiveness for those who've never loved her, and find her home?

I thoroughly enjoyed reading The Muir House by Mary DeMuth. DeMuth's characters are so real they could live next door. One of the things I love about her writing is how much truth about human nature is embedded in every word she puts on the page. This is what keeps me turning pages like I check my facebook home page. I want to know what happens next. I want to see what's going on in her character's lives. I want more. And I get it.

Mary has a way of writing that keeps the answers a chapter away. In order to find out what the new connection is, one has to keep reading. She mentions one thing at the start of the book, and it isn't until the end that it all comes together and back around to the first thing.

I highly recommend The Muir House for summer reading or your Christmas wish list. Then pass it on to a friend. I know I'm going to!

*\*Disclaimer\** I received my copy of The Muir House from Zondervan via Mary DeMuth. I wasn't required to write a positive review, but I couldn't help myself. The quality of writing is superb!

---

### **Beth says**

A young woman's search for truth...

Willa Muir's cloudy recollections of her childhood make her unable to fully "let go" and love as an adult.

When she runs from Hale's marriage proposal, Willa realizes she needs to sort out her fears if she ever wants a chance at happiness.

Determined to unlock the secrets of her vague childhood memories, she travels cross-country to her hometown. Willa stays in the house where she grew up, hoping its familiar walls will jiggle her memory and release the truth about who she really is.

Willa's story speaks to a universal challenge many women face - trying to overcome the past to change our self-images and behaviors in the present. I loved the depth and "realness" of the characters in *The Muir House*. They argue, laugh, make mistakes and express raw emotion in a way that allows the reader to feel their brokenness. For me, the beauty of this book is that it gently persuades us to confront our own long-standing frailties and make the choice to change. Like Willa, no matter what our past, we can face the future with hope.

I received this book from the author/publisher. This is my honest, unbiased review.

---

### **April says**

*THE MUIR HOUSE* by Mary DeMuth is an interesting inspirational contemporary romance set in small town Texas. The plot is interesting, engaging, believable and will keep your attention. The characters are believable, engaging and will capture your heart. It has romance, secrets, childhood dreams, trauma, healing, love, faith, choices people make to keep their reputations intact, mystery, drama, fears and triumphs. While Willa is looking for her home, she will find her home and so much more. Finally she will find real love, understanding, her reality, and the truth that has eluded her all her life with a mother who she believes didn't love her and a father who she had on a pedestal. Enter Hale, who loves her deeply and will give her room to find her "home". Then there is Blake, an old friend, and old flame. This is a coming of age story with powerful secrets, conflict, haunting mysteries about Muir House, and the story of yearning and redemption. *The Muir House* is a must read for any romance, mystery readers. It has twists and turns you want to see coming. This is a story of complex lives and troubled characters. A must read. The author shows the reader the true meaning of family and faith. This book was received for the purpose of review from the publisher. Details can be found at Zondervan and My Book Addiction Reviews.

---

### **Candy says**

The truth will set you free—or will it? Willa Muir believes wholeheartedly that it will, and will stop at nothing to piece together her missing memories of early childhood. In fact, she has boxes of memories, dreams, thoughts, and images stored in her attic to help her do just that. She thinks she has moved on with her life, renting a house in Seattle and establishing her career there. But when her boyfriend, Hale, proposes she realizes just how much she has not moved on and turns him down in a panic. She runs out on him and heads home, only to see her house going up in flames, taking her painstaking research of memories with it. She does the only thing she can do at that moment, and that is to accept an invitation to return to *The Muir House* to help the old caretaker, Genie, turn it into a bed and breakfast. Willa figures she can research her memories there better than anywhere. And thus begins the mystery, the agonizing search for the truth that everyone seems to know but no one is willing to share. We are taken through many twists and turns

throughout Willa's life and find that not all is as even she remembered it, and reputations seemed to be esteemed higher than the welfare of a child.

We begin to see bits and pieces of Willa's childhood through her memories, and the author does an expert job of letting us see this story. Willa believes that no one wanted her except her father, and that he loved her beyond belief. The writing is melancholy, with bursts of occasional happiness throughout, and some quirky humor, which really stands out against the melancholy backdrop. There is enough mystery to keep you turning pages to see what memories Willa is able to recover and what really happened in her childhood. When Willa is melancholy, you feel melancholy. When she is happy, you are happy too. The author really knows how to make you feel what the characters feel. I also like the way she handled dialogue, not saying "he said" or "she said" too often, yet always allowing you to know who was speaking. Being from the south myself, I loved the descriptions of Texas and everyday events of life in the south, like sweet tea on a humid summer day, or friends gathered for an impromptu picnic or cookout.

While Hale tells her to keep the ring he gave her when he proposed because he will never stop loving her, and that her home is with him, he seems to show something totally different with his actions. She feels that he has abandoned her and no longer feels that way for her. Meanwhile, her old boyfriend Blake is still around her hometown and is more than happy to fill his place. But things start to get creepy, in my opinion, when Blake tells her, "I always knew exactly where you were, Willa. Knew every address, every roommate you had. Every phone number, email address, profile. I knew what you read on Goodreads, what you bought on Amazon. There's a deliciousness in knowing everything about a girl, yet not making a move, wouldn't you say?" But while Hale is a God fearing man who loves to teach lessons about Him in creative ways, wants to spend his life helping the broken, he is not without his own faults. This is good because no human is ever without faults and that is what makes us human. However, Hale made me want to just yell at him! He seems to abandon Willa in her time of need, he seems to want to keep a hold on her yet push her away at the same time. Things have to be on his terms so that he seems to be controlling her just as Blake is trying to. There is a major decision that Hale just doesn't discuss with Willa that is pretty important when you want to marry someone, and he simply tells her that if she doesn't agree then he can't pursue a relationship with her. Yet Willa can seem selfish too, because she is so dead set on discovering her missing memories.

I won't give away the ending, but I will say that while it was a happy one, I didn't want either of the men for Willa. I wanted her to realize that she was depending on the men for her self-worth and her decisions. Even though she was a Christian, I wanted her to become a stronger one and do something useful with Muir House, perhaps later finding a different man, perhaps not. All in all, I enjoyed this book, and would heartily recommend it to any woman.

---

## **Cynthia says**

She left one life behind for another, quite different than how she grew up, but she's learning she hasn't left it behind. Haunted by dreams and memories that she can't remember or place in her life, she begins a journey to claim the truth. Willa Muir goes home, to the house she grew up in, The Muir House. She finds the memory of her cherished father, the failing health of an unloving mother, and the mysterious grumpiness of the house caretaker. Old and new friends help and hinder her quest. Will she find the truth or will she learn to live with mystery?

What is the secret to Willa's past? Who wouldn't love that? Personal mysteries are among my favorite reads. This book does a fairly good job of taking the reader along on the journey. Early on I felt that some of

Willa's actions were over the top, but as the book unfolded, I better understood the direction DeMuth was trying to take her. The other characters are nicely developed and realistic. Another interesting aspect was the development of Willa's faith. At the beginning, she isn't sure what she believes, if she can trust God. As everything else is stripped away, she's left with God and learns what she believes. By the end of the book, she knows God can be trusted, even when nothing/no one else can. The Ruminating Reader will award The Muir House four pieces of bacon.

Mary DeMuth is a wife, mother, and writer of both fiction and non fiction. She teaches and mentors writers.

The Muir House by Mary DeMuth, published by Zondervan

"My guess is that you're so used to believing the crap in your life that you've crowded out the beauty."

I received this book free from the author in exchange for my honest opinion

---

### **Jo Rae Jetton says**

Did your childhood leave holes in memory or heart? Has your painful past eroded today's joy? What if returning home could open a time capsule where untold memories are held? Would you go?

Willa Muir is on a quest for missing memories. Clues to her past flit in and out, like a butterfly that touches down and is off again. The glint of a gold ring, a green-eyed man, vague words of hope and home alight then fly away.

"What if home is a person, Wills? What if I am your home?" Hale's words, and the gold ring he managed to slip on her finger, pushes Willa back to her childhood home to uncover secrets left hidden there.

Her mother's declining health and wandering mind offer little hope of revelation. The Muir House caretaker (the other keeper of the past) is resolved to keep her mouth shut and Willa's questions unanswered. A showdown between the younger "Facebook tell all" generation and the "silence saves face" older generation ensues.

As Willa struggles to emerge from her protective cocoon, an old flame from the past hovers dangerously close while Hale seems to have taken permanent flight. Does the one who "understood her story not from the recounting but in the living it" have an edge over the man who calls himself her home?

Willa's search for home is one we all can understand. Her resolve to remember rewards her with healing and wings to take flight. I found this book not only entertaining, but enlightening. The Muir House is a great read; you'll not want to put it down.

I received this book free from the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."



---

## **Sara says**

"The Muir House" is by Mary DeMuth and takes place in the small but growing town of Rockwall, Texas. Willa Muir, recently of Seattle and fleeing a proposal from her boyfriend, returns to her hometown of Rockwall amid some interesting circumstances.

The house Willa grew up in is being turned from a funeral parlor into a bed and breakfast by the caretaker. Willa's father passed away several years ago, and Willa's mother is currently in a nursing facility where she suffers from Alzheimer's disease. The main reason for Willa's return, however, is to once and for all find out the truth of her childhood.

An old friend, an old boyfriend, and a surprising new friend all play a role in Willa's search to find home.

Read my complete review here: <http://shoopettesbookreviews.blogspot...>

---

## **Melanie says**

The Muir House  
Mary DeMuth  
Published by Zondervan  
Source: Review copy

Old houses, family secrets, missing memories, search for answers...

Oh I love these kind of books. Read this one nearly straight through, unfortunately the need for sleep, well, got in the way of a straight read! Loved this book. Willa Muir has vivid recollections of much of her childhood minus a time when she was 4 years old. She just can't seem to piece together what happened that year and why she is blocking it out. Her relationship with Daddy was special and grand, her hero though now deceased. Relationship with Mom was strained and hurtful leading Willa away from TX to live in Seattle. The caretaker of the old Muir house contacts Willa as a decorating consultant to come and help her fix the house for a bed and breakfast. Willa decides it is good a time as any to finally find the missing pieces to her memories. Leaving behind a great guy Hale, and his marriage proposal, Willa heads back to the place that haunts her.

Basic theme yes, but well crafted, great characters and the intertwining theme of Jesus never leaving us or forsaking us. That though Willa may feel orphaned, abandoned and unloved, Jesus loves her and is there for her.

Fantastic 5 star book, I am looking to get some of Mary DeMuth's previous books for my summer reading! I received a copy of The Muir House from Zondervan in exchange for an honest review of the book.

---

## **Melissa says**

This is another one that was 3.5 stars. Really well written.

---

## **Jenny Rose says**

The Muir House by Mary DeMuth is about a young, determined woman named Willa Muir who is looking for home and a missing year, a missing memory. She turns down a marriage proposal believing her life is too unstable with missing memories. Willa was starting to piece together some fragments when the house she was staying at in Seattle burns to the ground. She feels driven back to where she grew up—Rockwall, Texas. There she tries to sort through her feelings about her deceased father, her dying mother, her old boyfriend, the caretaker of Muir funeral home turned Bed and Breakfast, and the fractured memories that come back to her as she uncovers answers.

I appreciate that Willa is a strong-willing woman, undeterred by those who think the past should be left hidden, buried, or forgotten. There were moments when I wanted to keep turning pages to discover what happened next, but I had to put it down to chew on the concepts Demuth creatively wove into the storyline.

The Muir House includes mystery, suspense, romance, and healing in an order I did not expect. I would definitely recommend this book.

I received this complimentary copy from Zondervan to read and give an honest review.

---