



Little Lies

Heather Gudenkauf

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In this riveting prequel to her novel *Little Mercies*, *New York Times* bestselling author Heather Gudenkauf explores how even the smallest lies can have far-reaching consequences.

When the body of a woman is discovered in a local park?with her bewildered four-year-old son sitting beside her?veteran social worker Ellen Moore is called in to assist in the police investigation. Positioned beneath a statue of Leto, the goddess of motherhood, the crime is weighted with meaning and, Ellen discovers, remarkably similar to one from a decade past.

Ellen's professional duty is to protect the child, but she's not equipped to contend with a killer. As she races to connect the dots, she knows her time is running out. And the stakes are high: if she fails, another mother is sure to make the ultimate sacrifice.

Little Lies Details

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Author : Heather Gudenkauf

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From Reader Review Little Lies for online ebook

Wendy says

"Little Lies" is a prequel to Heather Gudenkauf's new novel "Little Mercies" which is due to be released shortly.

We are introduced to Ellen Moore, wife, daughter, mother and Social Worker. She is called by police to a local park where a young boy is huddled against the lifeless form of his mother.

This story centers around the murder investigation and Ellen helping this traumatized child.

A compelling plot, realistic characters and an excellent introduction to "Little Mercies".

Stacie says

Novellas are usually short stories to get readers excited for a new novel coming out. I actually read LITTLE LIES after I read LITTLE MERCIES. I would agree that reading LITTLE LIES would make you very interested in reading more of Ellen's story. But, reading it after is just as good.

LITTLE LIES is comparable to a few chapters in a regular book. So, you have to fit a lot of details in a short amount and Gudenkauf does it well. The story flows well and gives you a glimpse into the horrors Ellen sees in her job as a social worker. The mystery of the murder will surprise you and leave you wanting more from Gudenkauf.

Norma * Traveling Sister says

Short review for a short story!

I don't read very many novella's but decided to read this one because I love HEATHER GUDENKAUF novels. I read LITTLE MERCIES quite a while ago and thought it was extremely good and wanted to learn more about the main character, Ellen who is a social worker with a husband and three small children.

LITTLE LIES was a worthwhile suspenseful read that was fast-paced, quick and easy with a satisfying ending.

<http://www.twogirlslostinanacouleereadi...>

Deanna says

I enjoyed this novella which made me even more excited for the new book.

I have read all of Heather Gudenkauf books and will continue to do so.

I've not been disappointed.

Diane S ? says

Enjoyed this little prequel and Little Mercies her new book comes out soon. I have always thought that social work is a very hard field to be in, and I liked the character in this one. If her new book is as interesting as this little short, it should be very good.

ARC from nETGALLEY.

TL says

Slow to start but picks up fairly quickly, it's a nice introduction to Ellen and Joe and the world they inhabit.

The murderer for me wasn't easy to guess but when all is revealed, mixed feelings. Not for the storytelling (which is done well) but for the fact that you are glad for just being served yet sad for what happened and hope that the little boy will be alright somehow.

There's a preview at the end for her novel at the end so the audiobook is 2 discs, with 10 tracks on the second one for the story.

Would recommend, it's worth the few dollars but I would suggest downloading off Itunes or buying it for your e-reader if you have one.

Bridget says

A murder mystery from a different viewpoint, that of a social worker. I didn't realise that this book would be so short, barely 100 pages, but whilst it is tiny, it is good. I will read more from this writer.

Shannon says

This short story did exactly what it was suppose to do, got me excited about the new book!

Rose says

Quick review for a quick read. This was a very nice, self-contained murder mystery. This novella is a prequel companion to Heather Gudenkauf's upcoming novel "Little Mercies." The story revolves around a social worker named Ellen who gets called in on an emergency run regarding a four-year-old boy who was left in the park under a Leto statue beside his murdered mother. Ellen notes that the case has a similarity to one committed 13 years ago, when another little boy was found beside his mother. Suspicions link to the surviving boy of that former crime, but Ellen believes another culprit is at work.

The narrative toggles between the crime scene and parties and Ellen's home life with her three kids and always on the go husband (he's a basketball player). I thought it was well done for the details it provided and for being a self-contained case with some finality. I didn't think the mystery would wrap up, but it provided a clear rationale for motive and the suspicious parties when it came up. I will admit it went by very quickly, but I was still invested in the details of the story.

I'm looking forward to seeing where this respective story continues with "Little Mercies."

Overall score: 3.5/5 stars

Note: I received this as an ARC from NetGalley, from the publisher Harlequin.

Denise says

This was a very enjoyable novella from Heather Gudenkauf. I love the idea of introducing us to a character through a short story, giving us a chance to meet him or her before the full-length novel comes out. I've seen a lot of authors do this "teaser" lately, but only offer the first few chapters of a new release. I like this approach of a separate story using the same characters much better.

While I admit that I'm drawn to this author because she writes about things or places I know, I think many of us could relate to her characters. I enjoyed getting to know Ellen Moore and the child she was called to help. I could also *relate* to her struggles with work/family balance and the issues that can arise when work sometimes *has* to come first.

Sometimes short stories can feel a bit rushed, but I thought this maintained a nice pace. It felt a little abrupt toward the end, but it didn't bother me because I knew there was more to come. I'm definitely adding Little Mercies to my tbr list.

*I received an advanced copy of this title from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Janice says

This is a short story that is a prequel to a coming novel, Little Mercies, by this author. I wanted to read this to see how authentic the portrayal of a social worker in the child welfare field might be. I was surprised at how realistic the story was, in many ways. There were exceptions--most notable the "quiet morning in the office" seemed almost unheard of, but there was much that took me back to many memories of children and families from the past. While the ending is within the realm of possibility, luckily it is a rarity.

Li'l Owl says

This is the third book I've read by Heather Gudenkauf and I've enjoyed them all thus far. Little Lies is the prequel to Little Mercies which follows veteran social worker, Ellen Moore. This was a nice short audiobook with a quick pace and once I started listening I couldn't stop until the end.

I liked narrator, Kate Rudd's storytelling and she was able to portray the emotions of the characters and it's

easy to follow which person is talking throughout the book. I'm looking forward to listening to Little Mercies. In fact, I've already listened to chapter one!

I recommend this audiobook.

Tania says

It's not that they don't love their kids - I know they do - but something has distracted them; a boyfriend, alcohol, drugs or life has hardened them so that they aren't capable of expressing that kind of love.

A prequel to Heather Gudenkauf new novel releasing later this year. It was short, but I connected with the characters and was totally hooked by the story. This novella was just to introduce us to the new characters. If you've never read any of her previous books, my favorite is One Breath Away, I read it in one day.

Heather says

Heather Gudenkauf seriously NEVER disappoints!

Debbie Desotell says

I loved it! I stayed up all night reading it and never put it down! I have all of her books, she is amazing!
