



Plucking One String

Kris Knorr

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If you're looking for a sweet book about dealing with change—this isn't it. The Lutheran Ladies are sassy, have strong-spined opinions, and have stepped out of your office, your kid's soccer club, or your church to live on these pages. They deal with change—sometimes poorly—but with humor and heartache, they're on the journey home.

In Book One: Plucking One String, Vera Henley has pulled the strings of the Lutheran Ladies Circle for years; now everything has unraveled. A new, young pastor is altering traditions, and the independent Circle women are cheering the changes—all except for Vera. When her high-maintenance, crazy aunt introduces even more rebellion and chaos, Vera must choose which thread of change to pluck—and which to let go.

Plucking One String Details

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Tuppence says

I gave this book a five star rating simply because at one point I felt compelled to stop reading, copy three paragraphs, and email it to a friend halfway around the world because she HAD to read this one part as soon as she woke up. HAD TO. A book that screams "share me now" is a good book. Period.

As for the story itself...

I am not Lutheran, so the explanations behind the symbolism used were fascinating and educational, and valuable as they helped me visualize some of the scenes at a deeper level. And even though the book was about a church committee in a church doing churchy things, it wasn't dripping with churchiness (is that even a word?) to the point where I felt like I was at the bottom of a sermon. I didn't at any time feel preached at.

The story itself is two fold. It tells of a year in the life of a church going through changes in both leadership and traditions, as well as what happens in the private lives of a few of the members of that generic Ladies' Committee found in pretty much any church, school, club, or what have you. They are bound together only by a mutual love for their church community, which leads naturally to conflict, tension, mis-understanding, practical jokes, passive aggressive comments, manipulation, and power-plays. There is also forgiveness, empathy, sympathy, bonding, a group hug, and compromise. It is well rounded, taking the reader through several highs and lows, and at no time appears flat or static. Importantly, everything is absolutely believable. It feels real. It feels honest.

The read was quick and light. I laughed out loud (literally) at several moments and sniffled back tears at a few others. The only moment that left me scratching my head involved the incident on Easter morning and Lorena. It felt too vague and I was left feeling that I wasn't getting the punchline and/or message. And I am pretty sure I am a bad person because I thought the hamster incident was incredibly funny. And I loved the whole concept of Saint Scary. And I am leaving it vague so as not to ruin it with a spoiler. My only other negative remark (if you can even call it that) is that some chapters were headed with scripture, and others just standard chapter titles. I wish all were headed with scripture as I felt those were more thought provoking and set the emotional tone without giving anything plot related away.

I haven't had the guts to try the jello salad recipe included at the end. But I love the fact it is there.

Gina says

Poor Vera Henley. After years of being married to the Pastor the local Lutheran Church and having things done her way (which is always the best - just ask her), her husband had the gumption to up and die on her, leaving her with a congregation who no longer listens to her. Worse yet, they are being led by a young Minister who will be doing God knows what to undermine all the good her husband has done. Vera gets on everyone's nerves with her bossiness and know-it-all attitude, but most are too afraid of her to stand up and say so. The book made me laugh out loud more than once because I could picture all these ladies with their gossiping, their bake sales, and even their backstabbing when it was necessary. In the end, much like the famous Grinch, we find out Vera does have a heart after all. It was just "two sizes too small".

Martha Campbell says

Laughter Out Loud

My husband asked what I was reading because I kept laughing. I loved Aunt Ula she so wanted Vera to open her eyes and let go of the past. So many of us had a similar upbringing even if we were not pastor's kids. I loved the little tidbits of Christ love and Word through the story. I can't wait to read the next book. Thank you for the free book or I may not have heard about this series.

Susan says

I liked this book. The ladies were interesting. Confusing at first, but once I figured out who was who it all worked out.

These ladies will keep you guessing. A sweet, Christian kind of read.

Vicky Connelly says

Dealing with changes in life is difficult. We turn to our church for stability only to realize the church is also changing. I remind myself the church is made up of imperfect people who really are trying to do their best to live life as they believe God has directed. But God doesn't direct us all in the same ways. I found myself laughing as I read this book. I also found I identified with these women in ways I wished weren't true. I wanted to call my girlfriend in Pennsylvania several times and read a funny excerpt aloud to her so we could giggle together. Change can be good for us once we stop the fighting and accept new possibilities.

Tammy says

I enjoyed this book. I was expecting one funny story after another. Instead it was funny stories mixed in with stories about the year-long spiritual/personal journeys of a few singles in a Lutheran church. Well worth the time.

Alice Harbin says

I almost didn't finish reading this book. After 50 pages I was ready to quit. I have been a Lutheran for the last 13 years, but have never joined any ladies group. I just couldn't do it. The one or two meetings I went to were almost as disorganized as the meetings described in this book. However, I stuck with the book and gradually could see the strong relationships that existed between these ladies. There was the value of the book for me.

I found the book's characters and the plot were not well developed and it was hard to figure out what was the point, but perhaps that was the author's intent. The ladies' circle was almost chaotic and no one seemed to know what was going on. Yet, the circle continued and did have successful fund raising events and programs.

Maria Thomas says

Wanted to like this one more than I did. It is possible that it was because I played it on text to speech so I could work on other projects while listening. Text to speech is not the best way to get a book. The computer can't always pronounce words and it definitely doesn't get intonation, timing, humor, etc... And it is also possible that I wasn't in the right mood for it.

It is also possible that the book moved too slowly for me to follow well while doing other things. Not a lot of excitement in the book. Mostly just the mundane things in life. Typically I can relate to that and even enjoy a book about it. There is humor in the book but the text to speech ruined a lot of that for me. Several times I had the thought that it would have been a funny line if it had been delivered as it was meant to be. I almost want to try reading it myself and see if I like it better but I have an endless list of books to read so I'll probably move on.

It was clean. Might have had a few scattered swear words but frankly I can't remember so it must not have been too bad.

Erika says

Unpairing, funny, and heartfelt

I thought this book would be a simply light-hearted piece of amusement poking fun at the church and its many traditions, but it ended up being much more than that. The character were delightfully quirky and funny, while life-lessons and spiritual lessons were weird masterfully into the action in a way that was not "preach" at all! The growth of the main character was believable and heart-warming. And although I shed a tear near the end, most of the book kept me laughing and saying "aha!" Throughout. I definitely recommend this book if you enjoy a lighthearted journey through grief and learning to let go.

K.M. Montemayor says

Being a life-long Lutheran, (baptized in the church, confirmed in the church, married in the church and God-willing, buried in the church) I had to pick this up. When I began reading I thought, "Oh, no. This is exactly why people prefer corporate greed and the moral ambiguity of the workplace over trying to run the gauntlet of church politics." But thankfully, I was wrong. Yes, at first I looked at the characters and recognized them as people who sat in my pew, but as the book continued, I was more than a little surprised to see myself in the characters. I love how the author explains Lutheran theology and presents all its quirks and faults with a lot of humor. Some of my favorite lines:

"Why don't you ask God where your pen is?"

"I would never presume to bother God about a pen."

"Then your God is too small."

"The-I-can-do-anything. I'm-covered-because-of-grace doctrine. Right?"

"I wanted Easter to be perfect. Easter shouldn't change."

"That's what Pontius Pilate said, too. You crucify a guy, why can't he stay dead?"...

"This is different."

"And my favorite, and this is why I joined the church; 'Why can't that priest at that little church, what's his name? Martin Luther? Yeah. Why can't Luther juts shut-up and let us continue to sell forgiveness for sins? Little, nobody priest trying to change. things.'"

There are many more, but these were a few of my favorites. Recommended for anyone with even a nodding acquaintance of church ladies and all that goes along with their church work.

Becky says

I selected this because it was a free e-book, and the cover looked funny. This time of year, I need some humor in my reading choices.

I almost put this book down after the first few chapters. The ladies were selfish and mean. I was baptized and married in the Lutheran church. I don't attend Lutheran church anymore. The rituals that are described were some things I didn't know about the Lutheran church. Narthex anyone?

I'm glad I stuck it out because it turned out to be a decent book. I wouldn't say it was humorous. I don't recall laughing once, but the theme of change as it relates to Vera was nice. It was overemphasized that the theme was "change is difficult," but the book moved along nicely, and the idea of getting through hard times with help from friends was an unstated theme.

I recommend this for anyone who would like to learn a bit about the Lutheran church, and anyone who likes stories about "discarded" or "forgotten" women, who come together and support each other. Overall, it's a good read.

Cindy says

Fun, funny, pleasantly clean read. Christian-based (How'd I guess? :D) TTS-enabled eBook ©2012
Highly recommended.

Chris says

When I discovered this ebook for free on Amazon.com, I had to get it. It sounded so familiar. The outside world imagines that not only the Lutheran Ladies, but all church ladies are saints - sewing clothes for third world children, cooking once a week at the soup kitchen, being the first to volunteer for the winter outerwear drive, and certainly never thinking – much less saying – a cross thing to another soul. Well, welcome to the real world. All of us church ladies are sinners like everyone else. We cop attitudes, we can be slobs, we don't volunteer at every opportunity. We are human, but we continue to serve Jello salad at every occasion and we will attend all the major church functions.

I liked how this book spoke about the reality of what goes on in probably a lot of churches - things aren't perfect, but neither are they as bleak - or as strict - as outsiders think they are.

Kimberly Lynne says

Sweet and sassy slice-of-Lutheran-life. Knorr does poignancy well, and the book would be improved without the overt catechesis throughout. The best education comes when she's not trying so hard to teach.

Lynda says

Slowwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwww
