



Mixed Signals

Liz Curtis Higgs

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Love Is on the Air

Belle O'Brien, the woman behind the warmest voice in Virginia radio, has one problem: Her oldies show on WPER-FM is a solid-gold hit, but her love life, at thirty-two years and counting, is an off-the-charts disaster. The pickings are slim in small-town Abingdon. Will it be smooth-talking Patrick Reese, the man who launched her radio career a decade earlier? Moody but handsome David Cahill, the chief engineer with a mysterious past and a new life in Christ? Or Matthew the Methodist, her pastor across the street? Surrounded by an on-air cast of colorful characters, Belle's journey toward joy is filled with humor, heartache, and endless surprises. Norah Silver-Smyth, her friend and encourager, will join Belle in discovering that it's never too late to listen to your heart.

Mixed Signals Details

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From Reader Review Mixed Signals for online ebook

Ashley Carmichael says

A light-hearted story about the irony of professional communicators who really have no idea how to communicate in the "real world". Belle is a lovable character and although at times she seems more like a teenager than a 30 year old grown woman, her heart is usually in the right place and the lessons she learns are applicable across ages. My one complaint is that sometimes the character seem a little too forced, their lessons to near the, their trials too wrapped up, and their relationships too forced. Though Hicks weaves a delightful story, the characterization doesn't always develop as smoothly as I'd like. Overall it is a great story I'd recommend!

Alanna says

Mixed Signals, which is Higgs first fiction novel, is an endearing book full of romance, heartbreak, humor, and suspense. As I read this book, I felt like I lived in Abingdon, Virginia, next door to Norah and Belle, and experienced all their ups and downs of their relationships with each other and the guys in their lives! Higgs does a great job of weaving together the plot and bringing several unexpected turns into the story. The faithfulness of God's grace is a steady factor throughout the book.

As the title suggests, the residents of Abingdon face their share of miscommunication all while being affiliated with a small town radio station WPER - PER for personality. :-) Belle's own lovable personality wins over the whole town including the boss, Patrick, and the engineer, David. But what about Sherry, the mother of David's son Josh, who have lived in California for the last eight years? How do they fit in? I suggest you carve out a couple of hours, and sit down with Mixed Signals -- I warn you, you may not be able to put the book down! Enjoy! :-)

Bruce Judisch says

'Nuther great book. She's on a roll.

Ms. Higgs sets Mixed Signals in the radio industry, one with which she's intimately familiar, being a radio personality herself. Her comfort with the broadcasting environment (there's even a glossary of jargon at the beginning of the book) is as evident as her comfort with the genre. And that's really comfortable.

This one is going to be difficult to summarize for two reasons:

First, I would like to fuss over our heroine, Belle O'Brien, but I'm still nursing a crush on Emily Getz, and, well, you know about two-timers... Belle is a treat in her own right—a very believable personality with just enough angst to make her lovable (but not be annoyed with), just good looking enough to want to meet (but not drool over), and has just enough faith to grow with (not roll your eyes at). In her mid-thirties, love has studiously avoided Belle through the years of her 'prime'. Her career as a disc jockey has soared with the eagles and crash-landed with the dodo birds alternately—making empathy with her story even more attainable.

Second, the story offers an early twist that a thorough synopsis will only spoil. Suffice it to say that Belle comes to Abingdon, Virginia, to anchor middays at a start-up oldies radio station. A former colleague has enticed her away from one of the dodo-bird landings in Chicago, and she accepts, wondering if perhaps there may be more to the job offer than just a job. That's all you get to hear about that.

She meets Norah, who becomes her landlord and best friend; runs into David (literally), the station engineer, who harbors some subtle secrets of his own; jousts with Patrick, the infuriatingly charming owner and station manager, and—well, there's a whole cast of characters who color the story in their own unique ways. As you'd expect, adventures and misadventures abound in Belle's world as she finds her way to love through her angst, her faith and *With A Little Help From Her Friends* (yes, that's an oldies pun and I'm just hokey enough to be proud of it.)

Ms. Higgs' pen again flows with a subtle—and sometimes not so subtle—witty prose that is a joy to read. Gentle sub-plots undergird the story that enhance its pathos and deliver its message of hope in wonderful style. This is another sure bet, if you like quirky realism and human interest that really is interesting.

(Two-timing aside; Emily, if you don't start answering my e-mails, you may just get bumped by Belle. Last chance.)

Thanks, Liz, for another delightful story. (I got all three words in this time, if you noticed.)

Courtney says

Okay. let me start off by saying that I just absolutely LOVE Liz Curtis Higgs, and she is one of the best motivational speakers I have ever had the pleasure of listening to. Now, with that being said, let me just say that I was absolutely nervous about reading her novel; especially when I saw that this was the first purely fictional novel she had ever written. I love Mrs. Higgs and the passion she shows for the Lord, and I was nervous that I wouldn't enjoy her as an author.

HOWEVER, that all changed once I truly drove into the novel and situation myself in the small town in Virginia. I will say that the book started off a little slow as all of the different characters were being introduced, but then the further along the story went, the more I began to fall in love with each of them. The beginning makes perfect since once you read the ending, so for everyone out there- KEEP READING.

I know that not everyone has had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Higgs, but let me just say that in every chapter of this novel you can hear her laugh and her words. I felt like in some situations I could see her having that happen to her in her actual life. Once, I was blessed to be apart of a women's seminar, and my favorite part of hearing this amazing woman speak, was to hear her explain to us why we are beloved by God almighty. I felt like in a round about way, this novel did just that as well.

It was very well written and I am so glad that I noticed her works at my local library.

Kw says

Simply charming. Hard to believe this was her first novel!

AlixJamie says

I was expecting Francine Rivers. I got Dee Henderson.

For the most part, I enjoyed the book. The dialogue was good, the plot was pretty good (though it was infallibly predictable), the characters...they were good, and the Christian message was, if not inspiring, at least wholesome and on track.

But Dee Henderson is not Francine Rivers and Liz Curtis Higgs isn't either. Their fiction is upper-end for Christian authors because they keep the characters real, but they still can't avoid cliches and overdrawn, sappy romance.

I almost put this book down because I didn't think it was actually going to get good. But David came along and Patrick got dumped and things started to look up.

I was interested basically to the end, but the hot air balloon episode did me in. That was horrible. And tacky. And silly. The only comfort I had was that David did not propose to Belle in an absurd situation, reminiscent of Elizabeth and Will from "Pirates of the Caribbean". That, at least, the reader was spared.

And I got a little tired of long descriptions of each person every time (almost) that they came in contact with each other. Thank you, but I believe I am capable of remembering what a person looks like without needing to be reminded every other paragraph.

I would recommend this book for a light read, but if you're expecting Francine Rivers (I was hopeful, after I saw that she recommended it) you will be sorely disappointed.

And, I thought the back cover was sorely deceiving.

Jeni Enjaian says

A review from my old blog...

I absolutely adore Ms. Higgs Scottish series. In all honesty I cannot get enough of those characters and love her writing style. I've never read anything else of hers before and I was not disappointed in this book.

Ms. Higgs drew me in to the lives of her characters: the main character and the other secondary characters. Even though I had accidentally read a few sentences from the last couple pages and knew how things ended up I wanted to know how Belle would get there.

So many times Ms. Higgs threw another wrench in the path of Belle and David. I kept wondering how they were going to overcome those obstacles in the remaining pages of the book. Although I think that Ms. Higgs resolved them reasonably there were a few times that I wondered how Belle could get over her anger/impatience with David within the space of just a few seconds.

The ending of the book (even though I knew it was coming) is a little on the too perfect side.

Tanya says

This was a good light story about a lady who works in radio moving to a small town. She makes new friends and reconnects with an old one, while falling in love with a small town life and a man who wants to escape

the small town.

Jerry says

A great story of radio, family, and romance.

Kathryn Neuberger says

This was a fun read--light and entertaining.

Carolyn Tye says

Cute story

Kristy says

A bit predictable, but fun story written in true Lizzy humor!

Jordan Finch says

4.5 stars. A predictable but enjoyable read. I loved Belle! She was such a witty, funny character, and I loved all the dilemmas she found herself in. I liked the gradual love story between her and David as they both learned to trust one another and relying on God's timing. I also really liked David and his determination to do the right thing, even if that meant living on next to nothing so he could support a son he'd never had the chance to see. Norah, Patrick, and the rest of the radio station gang were all a lot of fun, and I liked all the other romances that played out. The small town setting was great, especially with all the historical touches, and a job at a radio station wasn't something I'd read before. I saw the ending coming, but I still loved the interactions between David and Josh, and I was glad that he and Sherry worked things out. I was also glad that Norah's meddling brought David's dad back into his life. Belle and David were so sweet together, and I'm glad they found their happy ending.

Amy says

This is actually two love stories in one book. There is the story of Belle and David and then Norah and Patrick. I especially enjoyed about Belle and Norah and how their friendship grew. The romance plot was okay. I do find cliche this idea of being able to tell who is the "one" by the sparks that fly during a kiss. Plot and setting was okay. There were funny moments too. Didn't understand why Belle was so mad at Patrick when she found out he had been responsible for engineering her career break.

All in all, an okay book.
This is a 3.5 rating for me.

Esa says

Starts off fairly slow. But picks up and turns into something you don't want to put down.
