



## Delivering Hope

*Jennifer Ann Holt*

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Olivia Spencer wants to be a mother more than anything else, but years of infertility have left her soul wounded and her marriage strained. Allison Campbell is a young, single woman who discovers that a moment of excitement has led to an unplanned pregnancy and overwhelming heartache. Deep love paves the way for sacrifice as the lives of these two women touch.

## **Delivering Hope Details**

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Author : Jennifer Ann Holt

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## From Reader Review Delivering Hope for online ebook

### **Babs says**

Olivia has struggled with wanting to be a mom with all the infertility she is down and doesn't know what to do. Her marriage is starting to take a toll on both her and her husband. She meets Allison who is a young single woman who has gotten pregnant. She has not clue what to do until both these woman come together.

The book is remarkable. A lot of women will be able to relate. I was up and down through the book as I too struggled with infertility lossing 2 babies and then nothing. I was so depressed for a few years until my husband talked to me about adopting. It has changed my whole life. I know what joy my 4 boys bring to me. I have no regrets and I love being a mom.

Jennifer has written a wonderful book that I think mom's and daughter's all over the world should read. They need to know most of us go through the same things, but there is hope. You are still a mom even when you adopt. My oldest was 8 when we adopted him and he is the first to tell you he was happy his birth mom gave him up so he could be loved by us. We have sense adopted his siblings.

Delivering Hope is a wonderful uplifting message to get across. I will be re-reading this book for years to come.

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### **Emily says**

A truly touching story of the intersecting of lives for the better.

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### **Teresa says**

This book was very true-to-life. It's one of the best fiction books I've read about adoption. Although every woman dealing with infertility has a unique story, I think that many of the feelings they experience are universal, and the author does a great job capturing the emotional turmoil of the adoptive mom. The birth mom's perspective also seemed realistic. I would recommend this for anyone who wants to adopt, who has adopted, or who would like to better understand those who suffer from infertility. Just keep the tissues handy when you read it.

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### **Arlena says**

Review:

Olivia and Michael Spencer would have been great parents but after trying over a period of time it just was not in the cards for them due to a infertility problem.

Allison Campbell was a senior just out of high school and from one mistake made with her boyfriend (Brandon White) she was now dealing with a unplanned pregnancy.

Through guidance from Allison's' Bishop she was going to the Family Service for support. At this time adoption was not the cards from Allison.

There was lots of drama getting to this adoption story process but one will find story very uplifting in how the two families were brought together. One was to make a huge sacrifice for the better of these two women. Truly the author Jennifer Ann Holt did a wonderful job of "Delivering Hope" to these two families.

If anyone is dealing with infertility or adoption this novel would definitely be an uplifting novel to read.

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### **Darla says**

(Genre:LDS fiction) This book is told from two view points. Olivia and Michael, a married couple and Allison, a new high school graduate looking forward to college. Olivia and Michael have spent years trying to conceive and have a family and it has taken a toll on both of them and their relationship. When they receive particularly discouraging news about Olivia's ability to get pregnant, Michael wonders if he will ever again see the happy girl he married. Olivia is bitter and angry towards him, others, and God. Allison has just discovered that she is pregnant after one slip up with a young man from her school. She experiences true remorse and heartache as she navigates her way towards repentance as well as dealing with the consequences of her choices.

I think the reason I liked this book so much was the real feelings that it invoked as I read it. Infertility was not something I had to struggle with. Neither was teen pregnancy. But the author did a good job of exploring the pain that both of these characters experienced. That doesn't mean that I always enjoyed it or was comfortable with it. Like her husband, I thought that Olivia needed to get out of her own head and recognize that other people had serious challenges, too. But I also appreciated how honest Olivia was about how she couldn't wrap her head around other people's struggles, because she was wrapped up in her own challenge and it was the only one that was real to her right now. When we are in the midst of our own pain, it can be hard to care about someone else's pain. I wasn't surprised to read at the end of the book that the author had some personal experience with infertility and adoption. I thought it was a good read, especially considering it is the first book by the author.

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### **Sharlene says**

I won this book in a Goodreads giveaway and was very excited to tear it out of the envelope and start reading it.

I was a little taken back with some of the religious wording used in the Latter-Day Saints religion that was used in this novel. I am Christian but found it distracting at times not understanding the religion, as another LSD member would. I was lost for a few pages wondering how a Sister or a Brother could have children. I had visions of two people who had pledged their celibacy to God breaking them to have children! There were other terms along the way that had me googling what they meant, which for me took away from the storyline.

Readers of other denominations may find this hard to read for those reasons and give up on it. Other than that, I could relate to references of praying for guidance, strength and forgiveness.

I continued on, regardless of religious differences, and was able to put them aside, after all, this wasn't a debate but a heartwarming story about lives changing and coming together.

The book is separated into three sections. The first being about Olivia who is unable to conceive, followed by Allison who is a teen who finds herself pregnant and finally Hope who is the baby who brings them all together.

Olivia was very easy to relate to. Her anguish and tears were believable, as was her husband's reaction of not really knowing what to do and his urge to try to protect her from being hurt. I believe that Holt was able to make it truly feel that their marriage was on pins and needles and under stress.

Allison, on the other hand, didn't draw me in, as much. I felt that her side may have been more predictable. I found her relationship with the father of her baby not as believable as I wanted it to be. Best friends for two years and suddenly this coldness from someone who is lovable up until the point he finds out he is a dad and he is almost excused from it as he doesn't have the same religious ideals as Ally because he requests she gets an abortion? It just seemed too easy but with that said, I do believe Holt was looking for a way to show all the options that Ally had with one friend suggesting she raise it and another suggesting adoption. By doing this she covers all three choices a young mother must decide between.

I did want more from this book. I wanted to know more about open and closed adoptions. I wanted to know more about the biological mother's choices once she went through the process, such as what if she changed her mind on who she chose or requested more time to be sure. What happens if a young father changes his mind and wants his child after the papers have been signed by the mother?

Overall, I believed the book was well written and covered much of what happens through the process of grief over not being able to conceive and the loss of sacrificing for another's needs over personal wants and desires. A predictable book but I believe for many parties this would be a valuable aid in assisting them through the adoption process.

On a side note, I do believe that the author's blurb at the end about her own adoption experience would be worth writing a non-fiction about. I found it very compelling and wanting more!

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### **Christal says**

This book is so so amazing I could have written it myself. It is my story minus a few details but while I was reading it I laughed, I cried and remembered so freshly the frustrations and agony over infertility in my life and all that goes along with it! I read some of it out loud to my husband and he was like wow totally what we went through!

It is such a good book I read it in 5 hours! If you want to read a story of love, infertility, adoption and a birth mothers side of it READ this .

Quite honestly it will help you understand a little bit of what infertility is about and how it feels....when those around you have no idea how much your aching, hurting and yearning!! I honestly could have written word for word some of the pages in this book and though some parts brought old feeling to the surface it was awesome to know that I WAS and AM not alone in my past feelings and feelings today...

Thank you to the author for putting into words what so many of us have been through and continue to go through....it is beautifully written in a story format and like life miracles do happen and peace does come.

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### **Suzette says**

Cried my way through this one. Liked that it showed both points of view and the characters feelings were real.... not made out to be saints, but genuine.

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### **Shauna says**

I picked this book up on a Saturday morning and spent the entire day wrapped up in its story. I felt embraced by the amount of love conveyed in this book...I couldn't put it down...until it was finished!

I LOVE how Wesley D. Hutchins, Esq, stated in the front of the book "Somewhere in the world a pregnancy test is negative...and a woman weeps. Somewhere else in the world a pregnancy test is positive...and another woman weeps."

I was AMAZED at the feelings that infertility can cause both in the husband and the wife.

I am also amazed at how much LOVE it must take to give your child up for adoption.

My heart is full of gratitude that I was able to read this WONDERFUL book and be part of these two families' lives...albeit...in a fictional portrayal...

I will forever more look at pregnancy and adoption with a more humbled attitude...life is precious!

I am also grateful for a Savior who does heal ALL...for only HE knows ALL.

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### **Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says**

This was a tough book for me to read. In the beginning I set it down several times as I remembered thoughts and feelings that I had thought buried and forgotten.

I struggled with fertility issues for two years before I was able to conceive my first child with the help of fertility hormones. I remembered the anguish that is so eloquently described in the book. I now have four children. When you feel that much despair, you never forget.

The first section of the book is about the struggles of a couple who find that they are unable to have children. The road that they travel is tough, they have to come to terms with infertility. It describes accurately the stress on the marriage and the couple individually.

The second section is about a young woman who is 18 and makes the mistake of sleeping with her best friend in an unplanned moment. One mistake and she finds that she is expecting a baby. The father is not ready to be a father and doesn't want to be a part of the process. He in fact wants her to abort the baby and then he wouldn't have to face any consequences.

Her journey is a hard one, deciding to give the baby up that she loves so much.

Their paths merge when the young women picks the couple to be the parents of her baby. I am giving you the outline of the story, but there is so much to be gained by reading the book.

Like I said, it may be tough to read for many people. Those who have struggled with infertility or a young mother who decides to give a child more by giving them two loving parents. The message is of hope.

I recommend this book highly. I am glad that I didn't put it down when I was overwhelmed with emotion. I have to admit that I cried in many places. This book is one that deals with the atonement of the Savior, Jesus Christ, and how we can become whole with his help and love.

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### **Christy says**

Delivering Hope by Jennifer Ann Holt

What an inspiring book this is! I loved reading it.

Olivia and Michael are unable to have children. Through years of waiting, anticipation, hope and prayer, the fertility doctors finally tell them there is no chance of them getting pregnant. Olivia has a difficult time accepting this path until she reads her Great Aunt Elizabeth's journal and finds that this grand lady walked the same road with honor and dignity, giving love and service throughout her life.

Allison is a model young woman, active in the Church and a good student with plans to attend college after high school graduation. A night of poor decisions changes her life forever, and she finds herself in the Bishop's office, telling him that she's pregnant.

The author has skillfully presented all the obstacles that line the paths for each situation. Her understanding of the issues for both parties is presented with depth and insight.

As a retired Marriage and Family Therapist, I would love to have had this book for my couples who faced infertility as well as the young girls I worked with who found themselves pregnant. My hat is off to you, Jennifer. This is a well-written book. I give it a great recommendation.

Christy Monson, L.M.F.T., Retired.

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### **Christina Tarbet says**

I really enjoyed this book. As a mom my heart broke for the women characters: Olivia, Allison, and Allison's mom. I found myself crying during different parts of the book. It is a good book about forgiving yourself, consequences for our actions, following the spirit, and love. Allison grew tremendously throughout the book and learned important lessons in life. The most important being that the Lord knows who she is and loves her. Good read!!!

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### **Jenn says**

As both a birthmom and an adoptive mom, I've seen my own unique sides of adoption. Because each adoption is different it is hard to find a book (fiction or non) that I can completely identify with. This one came very, very close and I really enjoyed it.

I can definitely identify with Livvy's feelings. While I'm not Mormon, I think the main aspect of faith can translate to whatever religion you do (or don't) practice. Even after a successful adoption, it is hard to lose those hopes for a successful pregnancy.

I've been searching for 15 years for a book that I can identify with the birth mom. While our situations weren't exact, I related to Ally's love for her child and following her faith that the adoption was best for the baby, while it broke her heart to bits.

Thanks to the character Melanie, I now have the perfect explanation of why I don't share my story with everyone. It is sacred and something I hold dear and close to my heart.

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### **Leslie L says**

A great piece of LDS fiction. You really get an understanding of both sides of the adoption process.

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### **Shanda says**

Author Jennifer Holt draws on personal experience to add emotion and perspective to both sides of the adoption process in her debut novel, *Delivering Hope*. The first section of the book pulls the reader into the anticipation and then ultimate heartbreak of Olivia, who wants more than anything to have a child, and her husband, Michael, who worries he is losing his happy, loving wife to the bitterness of infertility.

In the second section of the book we meet Allison, a good, intelligent LDS high school graduate with a scholarship and plans for the future. She makes a poor choice after a graduation party and learns that every wrong choice has consequences, in this case, a pregnancy. The father wants nothing to do with the baby, and Allison soon falls in love with the tiny, innocent life growing inside her. Allison is hard-working with a supportive family and she is looking forward to raising her daughter. As time goes on, though, Allison realizes she must decide if, as a single mother, she can provide everything her precious baby needs.

While *Delivering Hope* is more tell than show, I was pulled into the stories of these two families enough that it didn't really matter to me. I especially felt Allison's anguish as she tried to decide whether to place for adoption the baby girl she wanted to keep so badly. There was one particular quote that touched me during a scene with Allison and her father:

“When the heartache became almost more than she could bear, her dad squeezed her tighter, and Ally’s heart broke as she realized that her baby would not have the safety of a father’s arms to be held in when she cried.”  
-page 118

There are strong themes of turning to the Savior, repentance, forgiveness and love running throughout the story that will uplift all readers, and those who have had experiences similar to the characters will particularly enjoy *Delivering Hope*.

Review originally published here: <http://bit.ly/wMgvvV> [www.ldswbr.com]

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