



The Midwife of Hope River: A Novel of an American Midwife

By Patricia Harman

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A remarkable new voice in American fiction enchants readers with a moving and uplifting novel that celebrates the miracle of life. In *The Midwife of Hope River*, first-time novelist Patricia Harmon transports us to poverty stricken Appalachia during the Great Depression years of the 1930s and introduces us to a truly unforgettable heroine. Patience Murphy, a midwife struggling against disease, poverty, and prejudice—and her own haunting past—is a strong and endearing character that fans of the books of Ami McKay and Diane Chamberlain will take into their hearts, as she courageously attempts to bring new light, and life, into an otherwise cruel world.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Seeking refuge from the law in the Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia, Patience Murphy sets out as a midwife in the wake of the 1929 stock-market crash. Armed with a birth satchel and what confidence she can muster, she delivers babies for blacks and whites who can no longer afford a doctor, accepting payment in chickens and flour and the occasional coin. Harman, herself a midwife, transports the reader to another time and place in this quiet story of a white woman who fights to usher life into an impoverished, prejudiced world. As Patience struggles to overcome her dark past, she opens her heart to Daniel, a lonely veterinarian, and her home to Bitsy, a black servant who becomes her apprentice and close companion, rousing the attention of the Klan. There's a whole lot of birthing going on in *The Midwife of Hope River*, but don't let that dissuade you from reading it. The author's love for the profession shines through in this testament to the power of women. A first novel well worth attention. --Diane Holcomb

Review

"*The Midwife of Hope River*...is still on my mind days after finishing. From start to satisfying conclusion, it is a beautifully imagined novel, a marvel of a debut, rich with fully realized characters and events. This is one I'll read again, more slowly next time." (Johanna Moran, author of *The Wives of Henry Oades*)

"As always when writing of birth, the bleakest of times can be transformed by the power and beauty of birth...the moments of joy between new parents and their baby, between the mothers and the midwife, and between the midwife and her young assistant, light up the pages. Amen baby!" (Penny Armstrong, CNM, author of *A Midwife's Story* and *A Wise Birth*)

"I learned, I laughed, I cried, but most of all I was deeply impressed by the artistry of the midwife and her central role in women's lives prior to the advent of commercialized, institutionalized medicine. This novel will live in my heart for years to come." (Amy Hill Hearth, author of *Miss Dreamsville* and the *Collier County Women's Literary Society: A Novel*)

"a luminous novel of new beginnings, loss, love...and yes hope! Patricia Harman's all-too-human stories of birth mingle with the harsh realities of rural life in the 1930s...A thoroughly satisfying read by a talented storyteller." (Gay Courter, author of the New York Times bestsellers *The Midwife* and *The Midwife's Advice*)

"Midwives are warriors in this beautifully sweeping tale." (Kirkus)

"...will definitely renew your faith in love, loyalty, forgiveness, understanding and just plain HOPE." (Fran Lewis)

"Memoirist Harman (*Arms Open Wide*; *The Blue Cotton Gown*), herself a certified nurse-midwife, takes readers back to hardscrabble times and adds plenty of medical drama and a dash of romance, to offer an uncommonly good piece of American historical fiction." (Library Journal)

From the Back Cover

Midwife Patience Murphy has a gift: a talent for escorting mothers through the challenges of bringing

children into the world. Working in the hardscrabble conditions of Appalachia during the Depression, Patience takes the jobs that no one else wants, helping those most in need—and least likely to pay. She knows a successful midwifery practice must be built on a foundation of openness and trust—but the secrets Patience is keeping are far too intimate and fragile for her to ever let anyone in.

Honest, moving, and beautifully detailed, Patricia Harman's *The Midwife of Hope River* rings with authenticity as Patience faces nearly insurmountable difficulties. From the dangerous mines of West Virginia to the terrifying attentions of the Ku Klux Klan, Patience must strive to bring new light and life into an otherwise hard world.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Tyler Smith:

Now a day those who Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by match the internet and the resources included can be true or not involve people to be aware of each info they get. How many people to be smart in acquiring any information nowadays? Of course the solution is reading a book. Reading through a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information specifically this The Midwife of Hope River: A Novel of an American Midwife book since this book offers you rich information and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred % guarantees there is no doubt in it you may already know.

Raymond Albanese:

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Ellis Dunn:

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