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Mehl's "All abuzz at the honey bee" (Book Review)

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Book Reviews



Mehl, N. (2016). *All abuzz at the honey bee*. New York: Guideposts. 264 pp. \$7.99.

Sugarcreek, Ohio is home to a large Amish community as well as many Englishers. Sugarcreek is a real place and many of the locations and characters in the story are based upon real businesses and people, but the story is entirely fictional. Local shopkeeper, Cheryl Cooper and her Amish friend, Naomi Miller have formed a close friendship that transcends their religious affiliations. The two women share heartwarming and Christ-centered interactions all through the story. Cheryl is a young single woman who recently moved to town and Naomi is a married woman with grown children. Through their friendship they have gained a reputation for solving local mysteries, much to the chagrin of the local sheriff. The mystery is non-violent yet still provided a few thrills for the reader. Although part of a series, this book can be read as a standalone. Pre-existing conflict and relationships were explained in a way that flowed well through the story, not leaving the reader to guess at prior happenings or to feel annoyed at the re-telling of prior events. An entertaining page-turner with a fall-themed setting.

Reviewer

Jeanette Parker, Newman University

Sudin, S. (2016). *Anchor in the storm*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 393 pp. \$14.99. ISBN 9780800723439

Anchor in the Storm is Sarah Sundin's second book in the trilogy, "Waves of Freedom," and features Lillian Avery and Ensign Archer Vandenberg, both who are battling their own personal demons while clinging to the one and true anchor – Jesus Christ. Lillian is strong, but she has had to be since she lost her leg in a childhood accident. People judge her not for who or what she is, but for what she is lacking. She has worked hard to overcome her disability and earn her pharmacist degree so she can help others in 1940's Boston. Ensign Archer Vandenberg struggles with self-worth and nerves since being trapped in a sinking ship. Also, he struggles with being the son of an affluent family. Do people judge him and like him for who he is or for what he is worth? Lillian and Archer meet through Lillian's brother Jim, but their relationship immediately goes awry with mistrust and misconceptions;