News, Promos, and Musings for Erin's Readers August 2012

Welcome Erin. If you'd like to view this newsletter your web browser Click Here.

You're receiving this mailing because you've expressed an interest in books by Erin Healy.

What Miracle Are You Waiting For?

Today my newest novel, House of Mercy, is officially in stores. I wrote this story during a season of begging God for a particular answer to prayer. Instead of giving me the solution I wanted, God gave me complications, uncharacteristic calm, and a question: Do you believe I'm good even when I don't give you what you think you need?

My heart said, Right now it doesn't seem like you're being very good to me. And my mind said, Hey wait—is this a trick question? If I give you the right answer will you give me what I want?

Instead of indulging my pouting, God has taken my hand on a guided tour of all the ways he has proven his goodness to me across the years. That uncharacteristic calm, for example, couldn't have come from myself. There is my "surprise" son (pictured), a constant source of joy and laughter. A community of God-fearing people, some of whom I've known only for a couple of months, have surrounded me with compassion, support, and kindness that I'm sure I don't deserve. And that's just for starters.

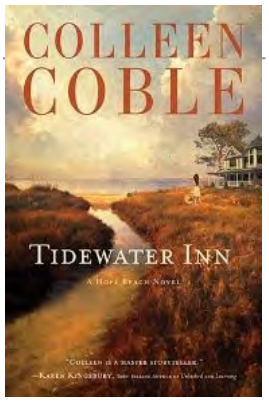
The goodness of God is not a trick question. It's a reality that is even more real than our troubles. As of today, some parts of my circumstance have grown worse. I still don't have the answer to my prayer. The answer that I want, that is. The one I think I need. And yet God has been more patient with me than I have been with him—proving his goodness again. When I seek him, I find him, no matter my circumstances.

Today, it seems that everyone I know is waiting for some kind of miracle. We're in need of important things. We're desperate for particular answers to our heartfelt prayers. But we are not abandoned. We hold the hand of a good God. Whatever pain, injustice, or deferred hope you face, my new prayer is that God will give you more than a merely happy ending (which waits for us in the next life, if not this one). May he fill you with a lasting sense of his true goodness, and of his love for you.

photo credit: Elisa Stanford

Buy Tidewater, Get Mercy Free

This month only, buy Colleen Coble's romantic suspense Tidewater and get House of Mercy free! Ask your local INDEPENDENT Christian bookstore if they're participating in this special promotion from publisher Thomas Nelson, Inc.



Wicked Plants of Colorado

During my research phase of House of Mercy, I purchased several books on poisons and poisonous plants. The receipt accidentally made it into the hands of my mother, who called to say, "I hope those books are for your next novel." I promise, they shall be used for no other purpose.

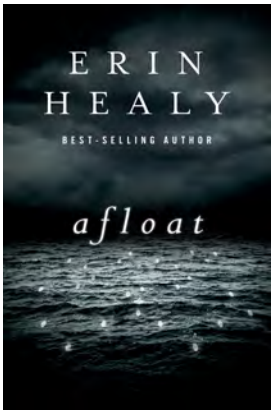
Among the titles was Linda Kershaw's Edible & Medicinal Plants of the Rockies, which provided helpful information about the distinctions between the varieties of camas that are edible and those that are deadly and deadlier—information Dr. Cat Ransom uses to gain the upper hand over her patients even before she finds herself cornered.

Amy Stewart's clever book Wicked Plants recounts a theory that death camas, mistaken for wild onions, might have been responsible for the severe poisoning of the Lewis and Clark expedition when they passed through the Rocky Mountains in September 1805. Lewis and others were near death for weeks before they finally recovered and moved on. Watch a video describing the differences between wild onions and death camas here.

Note to tourists: When in the Rockies, get your onions from the grocer.
photo credit: Pictoscribe Home again

You can read of other behind-the-scenes details about House of Mercy on my blog. Come join the conversation!

A Book for Your Thoughts



The first twenty-five readers to submit an approved comment about House of Mercy to my website will receive a signed copy of my next book Afloat when it comes out in April, 2013.

The comment must answer at least one of the following questions:
• How did the story challenge your beliefs?
• Which character did you like best and why?
• Did the ending succeed or fail in satisfying you?
• What kind of reader would you recommend this story to?

Submit your comments on my Books page here. Criticism is welcome. Comments will be reviewed and posted in the order they were received.

If you liked this newsletter and want to share it, please forward it to a friend.

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