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This Quiet Sky



Synopsis

There is nothing extraordinary about Tucker O'Neal - he's just like any other 17-year-old. He wants to go to college, become president, and fall in love. But when he meets 16-year-old Sarah Miller, he finds himself swept up in a friendship that changes the way he sees the world and a love that changes his life.

Sixteen-year-old Sarah Miller doesn't expect anything out of the ordinary when she begins her first day at the one-room-school house in her new hometown of Rocky Knob. But when she meets seventeen-year-old Tucker O'Neal - the boy with the fatal illness who volunteers to tutor her in algebra - she finds herself swept up in a friendship that changes the way she sees the world and a love that changes her life.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

Two time Christy Award finalist and author of the Cadence of Grace series, Joanne Bischof has a deep passion for Appalachian culture and writing stories that shine light on God's grace and goodness. She lives in the mountains of Southern California with her husband and their three children. You can visit her website at joannebischof.com.

This was a beautiful story of young love, written thoughtfully and artfully. Written in first person, I immediately became the main character, Sarah, and lived through every emotion. Having read the Cadence of Grace series, I felt a great connection to the characters in the story and the picturesque

location, however, I'm sure this would have happened had I been a first-time reader. A Christian message of trusting God was woven delicately into the story and didn't feel forced. Please, please, please Joanne can you write another novella about Sarah, this time in her thirties! I would love it. I can't rate this book highly enough.

Okay, I'm not a cryer -- but this book had me in tears. It was truly lovely. I read the blurb, so I thought I could keep some distance. But Joanne Bischof is a master at pulling you into a story. I loved Sarah, she was so authentic. And how could I not care for Tucker? He was brave and smart and fun. The way their story played out - and the lessons that they learned - will stay with me for a long time. This book beautifully illustrated the truths that God cares for each of us and He never stops giving, no matter the circumstances. But so often we don't see the gifts until we shift our perspective. I can't recommend this novella strongly enough. But be sure you're near a box of tissue. You'll need them.

This book ... so sad, but so beautiful! Joanne Bischof writes with such tenderness and grace! I loved her other books, and loved this bittersweet, little novella, *This Quiet Sky*. It centers around a sixteen-year-old girl, Sarah, who attends a one-room schoolhouse in 1885. There she meets Tucker O'Shay, the boy who rocks her world; who heightens her dreams. The boy who is ill. In a breathless tale of discovery and heartache, we hear Sarah's story. *This Quiet Sky* connects to Joanne Bischof's *THE CADENCE OF GRACE* series; Sarah to be Lonnie Sawyer's aunt. I'm not one for tragedies, but there's just something about this simple, impacting short story. The classic-ness and warmth to the writing. The vividness of the characters and their emotions and dreams. The message to live every moment to the fullest! Aw, it was radiantly beautiful in a heart-squeezing way. I appreciated how it showed the journey through fear and grief. Though mournful in many ways, *This Quiet Sky* somehow bursts with hope. Note: This is definitely a romance, and there is some kissing. Some kissing scenes were a bit much in my opinion. I would recommend at least 16 and up. It could feel something like Janette Oke's or L.M. Montgomery's novels. Such a sweet, lyrical, old-fashioned touch to the writing style. (Though it was written in first person, I believe). Anyway, I loved it in some way or another. The Epilogue was precious, in, yes, a bittersweet kind of way. I do like how it ties into *THE CADENCE OF GRACE* series ... makes me want to read them again! Don't miss this heartfelt, historical tale! It's truly touching. I can't wait to read more by Joanne Bischof!

I first discovered the pen of Joanne Bischof, however all it took was

one novel to know this was an author whose works I had to further look into. After all that one work of fiction was poignantly beautiful, so much so that my usual preferences for a specific era were blown out the window and I read her book, *Though my Heart is Torn* in (mostly) one day. Her latest offering is a novella of the YA persuasion and tells the story of Sarah, a teenage schoolgirl, who is struggling in math and thanks to her teacher, gains a tutor in the kind, Tucker, a boy who soon reveals there is more to him than Sarah first thought. After all, he is and is the one boy who changes her life forever. When a story such as this comes across your radar

it's tough to properly talk about it, to speak to its qualities and hope you are doing it the justice it richly deserves. That and then some is the dilemma of *This Quiet Sky*. Like its title it's the quiet kind of story that leads us into the hearts (as well as a gentle introduction into Joanne's *Arcadia* and *Cadence of Grace* trilogy) of its characters. After all, particularly Sarah, since she is our narrator, and beautifully illustrates what selfless love and the choice to love looks like. Both Sarah and Tucker were darling as individuals and together in their too few scenes, he was particularly kind and loving as a boy struggling to learn how to have relationships, and whose character had a right to be anything but. I enjoyed the set up scenes (the story moves quickly because of its limited pages) between them and the reader can even glimpse similarities in said scenes to a certain school girl whose name is Anne spelled with an

“e.” In Sarah, there is a character whose view of love might bother or be thought unrealistic to some people, when in reality, it's one of the most healthy realistic instances of love in modern literature. And yes, I do realize I'm being ambiguous with this sentence, but guys, I can't give away what happens! Just, you know, go read it. *smile* *'This Quiet Sky'* has the nostalgic charm of 'Anne of Green Gables' (that schoolroom scene

awful) before it beautifully collides with the miseries of life, and leaves the reader reaching for a Kleenex box over its poignant and bittersweet conclusion that is sure to make us think about life, love and the important things we cannot forget. After all, and don't want to. Tucker and Sarah's story is definitely not a tale to miss; it's a kind of love not easily forgotten, and while that may be the most heartbreak variety of all, Sarah proves to be a heroine whose hope is in more than love. This is one of those novellas that strength is in being unafraid to have a weakness and sometimes those are the most memorable and beautiful stories. After all, in those, we can often find the genuine gifts life shows us. *'This Quiet Sky'* is such a gift for any reader open to

receiving it. Sincere thanks to the author, Joanne Bischof for a complimentary e-ARC copy of this book for reviewing purposes ☺ thank you, Joanne!

Be warned, I stayed up way past my bed time to finish this. Joanne delivers another stellar book, whisking me deep into the Appalachian mountains and hollers. I ended up crying at the end... a tale that sticks with you and shows real love and God's plan for us, despite the grief and pain, His beauty is on the other side. My only complaint, it wasn't long enough! Joanne's writing always has me eager for her next book and this one didn't disappoint.

I was looking for a wholesome book for my 12 year old daughter who has been having a hard time finding quality books that are not too "babyish" and not too sexually charged. This fit the bill perfectly. She loved it and said it was a good christian read. Unfortunately, she couldn't put it down and stayed up until midnight on a school night in order to finish the book!

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