



Holding On

Mel Morton

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‘There were certain events, things that happened to you in life that were best forgotten about. If you didn't think or talk about them then they didn't have power over you, did they?’

Set in the village of Heatherton, the entwined lives of Beth and Peter Scott and Charlotte Gardner are disrupted by changes beyond their control. When their pasts catch up with them, their lives and relationships begin to unravel...

Beth has boxed and buried away her childhood secret. When award-winning war photographer Don Meadon returns to the area to promote his autobiography, Beth has to confront the damaging effects of her abused past.

Since the death of his mum, Peter and his dad, Edward, have been exceptionally close, working together at the family carpentry business. When Edward retires to Spain and meets Fiona, Peter struggles to cope with his dad leaving him.

When Robert Armstrong arrives in the village as her temporary deputy, Charlie, head teacher of Heatherton Junior School, finds herself attracted to him. But she's been hurt badly in the past, so when Robert tries to pursue a relationship, she is reluctant to take a chance.

Holding On Details

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Aditi says

Life teaches us a lesson in a big way. Hiding a secret can cost a lot. *Holding On* by Mel Morton is all about letting go of your past secrets, which can kill your soul and to come forward and enlighten your loved ones about those deadly secret of yours, because if you hold on to those dark secrets, you might lose yourself!

Thanks to the author for sending me over a copy of her book, in return for an honest review.

This is about three people whose lives are entwined in a special way. Beth, a 44 year housewife, who is an active member of her village community, which is planning to organise a fete, is holding on a deadly secret about sexual harassment while she was a kid by a guy named Don, who's a celebrity war photographer. Peter, Beth's husband, who loves his late mother way too much, he, gets insecure and vulnerable when he learns the fact that his father has fallen in love with a woman in Spain after all these years. Charlie, an old lonely woman, was left heart-broken many years ago, so never welcomed love in her life ever again, but now love has come into her doorstep, so she gets confused whether to open her heart after so many years of isolation.

The story-telling of the author is wonderful, keeping us in loops, when Beth reacts to the name Don Meadon. Slowly and eventually her dark secrets were unfolded to us, which brought a lot more emotions into us, along with Beth, we can feel the pain and trauma of a 8year old girl, a victim of sexual harassment, who's afraid to speak out! And then there's Charlie; the author has not ruled out that love cannot happen twice in a lifetime and also in such an older age, same happens for Peter's dad too. All these characters make the plot more and more justified and fall in perfectly with the story. This book is all about pain, reunion, and love. The writing is totally flawless. The plot is really very compelling and a must-read for everyone who's holding on to something.

So if you want to learn to let go and want to give your heart another chance, then this book is definitely the one you should read.

Dixiane Hallaj says

Beth married the only man she'd ever loved, and they lead a quiet life in the English village of Heatherton. Naturally shy, Beth is proud of her teenaged daughter and her independent personality. Like all teens, amaJen spends hours texting and visiting with her friends and on social media sites, but she does not neglect the rest of her life. All is well until the committee planning the village fete decides on their guest speaker. Beth is suddenly overwhelmed by a host of long repressed memories and her life is turned upside down. I enjoyed reading about the well-developed characters that inhabit the village and play their part in either making Beth's life more frightening, or supporting her as the fete approaches. Each character's voice is distinct, and each has his or her own story, often told in a few well-chosen words. The descriptions of the village were just enough to nestle Heatherton nicely into my own vision of an English village. Although there were terms and phrases that were unfamiliar to me (an American reader), it was clear from the context what they meant, and they added authenticity to the characters.

I don't know what else the author has in the works, but I would love to read more about the interesting people of Heatherton.

Kayla says

I won this book a part of the first-reads contest. Unfortunately it arrived while I was out of the country.

Upon returning I picked it up immediately and began reading.

This is cute book and an easy read, despite covering sensitive topics.

I thoroughly enjoyed the setting of the book, the characters, and the story. I would definitely recommend it.

Shelagh Mazey says

Mel Morton has written an insightful story with believable characters. Sexual abuse is a difficult and sensitive issue to handle and she does it effectively and sympathetically. Her characterisation of the village folk is excellent. I really empathised with Beth, the main character, and I liked the way the situation came to light and the abuser got his comeuppance. Highly recommended.

Leticia says

Beth is an interesting character. She had a hard time coping with the jerk Don was to her, and the bitch her own mother was to her about it. Years later, she has the chance to do something about it again, and well, she does, against all odds.

It makes for an involving story, but it is not well told enough to be memorable, sadly.
