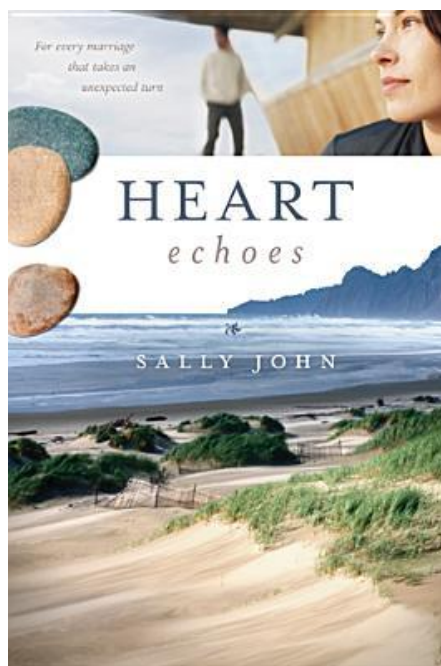




Heart Echoes

Sally John

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2013 Carol Award winner for Contemporary Fiction from ACFW!

In the aftermath of a massive Los Angeles earthquake, the perfect existence Teal Morgan-Adams has built begins to crumble. Teal's daughter, Maiya, is determined to learn the identity of her biological father, despite the loving devotion of her stepdad, River Adams. But that's a secret Teal hoped would remain buried forever. She has never shared the truth with anyone . . . not her family, not River, not even Maiya's father.

As Maiya's rebellion escalates, Teal receives tragic news from her sister and decides to take Maiya home to Cedar Pointe, Oregon, a place she's avoided most of her adult life. But will her already-strained marriage survive the distance and the secrets she'll be forced to face there? And can Teal erase the lies that echo in her heart?

Heart Echoes Details

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Author : Sally John

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From Reader Review Heart Echoes for online ebook

Janet says

Sally does a great job of emotions with her books, I forget that when I don't read her for a while.

This book starts the day of a massive LA earthquakes. Teal, River and Maiya are not together and this starts their story of how the earthquakes effects them going forward.

We also deal a lot with the past of Teal and River and met Teal's sister who has a story of her own.

I liked that this book only have the characters needed and didn't bring in too many outsiders so we could stay focused on Teal and her growth, regrets and joys.

Amy Bradsher says

Teal Adams is lost - and it's a first. Usually very confident, since experiencing a horrible earthquake on her way home in LA, she's suffered from PTSD, and with her family members traumatized, as well, it takes little for her to run to her childhood home with her daughter, Maiya. With Maiya wanting to find her biological father and Teal hoping to avoid any more of the verbal abuse heaped on her by her stepfather growing up, their visit doesn't promise to be rosy. Can they find their way through this emotional mindfield and land on the same side of the fence?

Teal Adams was very appealing to me. A no-nonsense kind of woman, she was beautiful and friendly, but she didn't let many people get close. She was a hard worker and had transformed life from an unhappy childhood to being a successful lawyer, wife, and mother - maybe in that order.

Even with a new relationship blossoming with her sister, I found it curious that Teal wanted to return home to Oregon when disaster struck. In the midst of emotional chaos, why return to the scene of so much former pain - and add stress to a great marriage? Yet facing her past burdens was exactly what Teal needed to do, and seeing the normally unflappable lawyer being tossed about made for a dramatic, draw-you-in read.

I couldn't wait to read the end of the story. I so hoped that Teal resolved her past, was able to restore her relationship with her daughter, and save her marriage. If you like books that do more than scratch the surface, the kind that make you really examine your own heart issues, then Heart Echoes is the perfect book for you.

I received a free copy of Heart Echoes from Tyndale House in exchange for an honest review.

Kathleen (Kat) Smith says

When a massive earthquake rocks the city of Los Angeles, it brings to the surface some things that Teal Morgan-Adams has kept buried for years. At the thought of almost losing her daughter Maiya and her new husband River, she is faced with a challenge to return home and confront the past she has tried to forget.

When Maiya begins to act out against her parents wishes and begins seeing a boy name Jake, her parents are

at a dead end with how to deal with her. At 16 she has been forbidden to date anyone until she finishes with high school, but since Jake showed up at her house to help with yardwork, she thinks she has fallen in love. When he shows up on campus, the school is immediately placed in a lock down mode until they find him. Now Maiya faces a 5 week school suspension, even though she claims, she didn't invite him to come see her.

When tragic news arrives from home in Cedar Pointe, Oregon, Teal is faced with a decision to return home to face her past or will she once again simply close that door and try to forget that was ever her home?

In the novel, Heart Echoes by Sally John, the reader is immediately invested in the story through a tragic circumstance surrounding the earthquake that makes everyone question their own mortality. Even though River has tried to become a great father figure for Maiya, her mother Teal refuses to provide her with any information regarding her father, simply saying he didn't want anything to do with Maiya or Teal once she told him she was pregnant, but for Maiya it's a piece of her life she is desperate to know about but her mom won't budge, until the call from Cedar Pointe comes and perhaps God is answering her prayer after all.

I received this novel compliments of Tyndale House Publishers for my honest review and think this one opens the readers eyes on what hiding the truth can do even though it may be hard to admit it. As always God is the central focus and shows the characters how trust and honesty are the bases for a good family foundation that will only grow in the years ahead. It also showcases the struggles of step parenting from a unique perspective and one I personally feel the author did a great job at. It isn't an easy role at all at times. I rate this one a 5 out of 5 stars in my opinion and know you'll enjoy this heart-warming story.

Terri Harr says

This was the first time I had read a book from this author. I am not sure why. It might be because I am more into the historical and regency romance instead of the contemporary. She writes a very compelling story that draws you in.

Teal is a very complicated person. Her love for her daughter is the strongest thing in her life. While she has protected her from some things in her life she has also been very open about other things and willing to listen to her when she has something to say. The struggles they go through as a mom and teen girl are minor compared to what some go through, because of the foundation they have.

Her relationship with her sister is one that tugged at my heart. I have a half sister who is five years younger than me. We did not grow up together but I love her dearly and she always looked up to me as if I was on a higher level than her, like Lacey sees Teal. It was great to see how their relationship grew throughout the book.

The life Teal thought was so perfect begins to crumble because it is not build on truth. As the truth begins to come out they are strong enough to pick up the pieces and keep going and become stronger than before. I really enjoyed this book about forgiveness and moving forward instead of living in regret. We can only move forward learning from our past mistakes.

Victor Gentile says

Sally John in her new book, "Heart Echoes" Book Three in the Side Roads series published by Tyndale

brings us into the lives of the Adams family, the secrets they hide and are about to be exposed.
From the Back Cover: Only an earthquake could shatter the walls she's built.

In the aftermath of a massive LA earthquake, the perfect existence Teal Morgan-Adams has built begins to crumble. Teal's daughter, Maiya, is determined to learn the identity of her biological father, despite the loving devotion of her stepdad, River Adams. But that's a secret Teal hoped would remain buried forever. She has never shared the truth with anyone—not her family, not River, not even Maiya's father.

As Maiya's prying reopens old wounds, Teal receives tragic news and must travel home to Cedar Pointe, Oregon—a place she's avoided most of her adult life. Will her already-strained marriage survive the distance and the secrets she'll be forced to face there?

With wit and wisdom, bestselling author Sally John delivers a touching story about life's unexpected detours and the courage it takes to erase the lies that can echo in our hearts.

The earthquake is what starts the events of the book to happen. The Adams family's foundation is mostly built on lies and, symbolically, the natural earthquake begins to break apart the lies so that the family can grow straight and true. God tells us He will shake whatever can be shaken and only the good will be left standing. We are also told that whatever is hidden in darkness will be brought to light. This all happens in "Heart Echoes". Heart Echoes is a remarkable story of a family trying to overcome all the secrets and lies they have used to hold themselves together when they find it all coming apart. At the center of this book is God with His power to heal and to forgive. Ms. John weaves a captivating story with wonderful characters that breathe. I was glad to spend the time with this family and look forward to more from Ms. John in the future.

If you would like to listen to interviews with other authors and professionals please go to www.kingdomhighlights.org where they are available On Demand.

To listen to 24 hours non-stop Christian music please visit our internet radio station
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Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Tyndale. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Starr says

Rating: Compelling, heart-wrenching and inspiring.

Teal Morgan-Adams is married to River Adams and she has a fifteen year old daughter, Maiya. They have lived in Los Angeles long enough to be used to earthquakes and crazy traffic. But there's something different about this one, it throws everyone through a loop; causing them to question and to seek. It heightens Maiya's desire to know her biological father, and strengthens Teal's attempt to keep her secrets. Teal turns to the people and the place that she has run from for the past nine years. Teal's heart echoes with the pain of her past, the lies she was told and the secrets that she's held. But, in the end she discovers what it means to share the truth and in so doing finds a new definition of family.

It doesn't happen often that a book compels me to read late into the night or to pick it up first thing in the

morning. Or at least it hasn't happened recently. But this one did. I like romances, not the kind that based in wishful-thinking-land. While, I wouldn't say that this is purely a romance, I enjoyed that aspect of it, mainly because the characters were so flawed. Not in an over-the-top way, but in a way that makes them human –makes them real. I could say that this story is about family, it's really about fathers and the roles that they play in our life. Fathers impact us whether they are present and abusive, absent and abandoning, absent and unknowing or present and loving. Heart Echoes shows examples of each in a way that is subtle as well as gentle, harsh and abrasive as well as flawed, true as well as tangibly real.

I enjoyed the dynamics of the characters. They were so well written that they jumped off the page. I felt like a fly on the wall. This was beautiful as well as heartbreaking.

Recommendation: I recommend this title for anyone who enjoys a good story, who enjoys flawed and alive characters. I will be looking to read more by this author.

What's next: I looked at the website and didn't see anything mentioning any upcoming books.

A copy of this novel was given to me, free, in exchange for my honest opinion.

Always Shine,
Starr K

Jamie says

How have I not known about Sally John before now? I absolutely loved this book and the way it was written. I usually don't enjoy when the narrator changes throughout the book but this one was so well done that there was no confusion while reading. Can't wait to read more from this author.

Katelyn Bolds says

The crises and human emotions contained in Sally John's book Heart Echoes resound within the soul. Some of the struggles her characters deal with are cancer, the death of a loved one, broken homes, and an out of wedlock pregnancy. Her main character, Teal Morgan-Adams is a confident lawyer, mother, and wife, until an earthquake shakes up her life and almost destroys her family.

Teal's struggle with workaholicism has created a void between her daughter Maiya and herself. Almost 17, Maiya is rebellious, sassy, and everything Teal was at her age. When Maiya begins to question who her biological father is, Teal knows she's going to have to give an answer eventually. But with her husband dealing with his own problems, Teal questions whether or not it would do more harm than good to reveal the name of the man she had a one night fling with.

While there are topics such as unmarried pregnancy and divorce in Heart Echoes, there is nothing that should concern adult Christians. Teal and her family look at these struggles through a Christian perspective. In the end, too, Teal gives over her worries to God and trusts that God will be faithful (Matthew 21:22).

Sally John writes in a way that readers can connect on a personal level with her characters. The same plot in a less-talented author's hands might have turned out overly dramatic and cheesy, but John has crafted her story very well. The constant mother-daughter struggle, healing sister relationship, and love between Teal and her husband River, are relationships that are depicted realistically, poignantly, and powerfully.

Heart Echoes is good reading for anyone who has ever struggled with family problems and the difficulties life brings.

Read the rest of my review at Christian Book Previews <http://www.christianbookpreviews.com/...>

Janet Reeves says

Teal has a long-kept secret. The people closest to her know she's keeping this secret, but they're okay with that. Until a California earthquake reveals her teenage daughter's secret. Suddenly Teal's secret begs to be told, leaving Teal desperate to keep the truth from being revealed.

I could hardly put this book down!

A conversation between Teal and her half-sister, Lacey, seemed especially profound to me. During this conversation, Lacey told Teal to:

"Just act like God adores you, no matter how awful you think you are, and after a while, it will become your first thought every day. It will be what echoes in your heart instead of those lies from the hurts." (p. 238)

She continued:

"There's so much more to this relationship with the holy Father. I mean, God is absolutely crazy about us. He can't stop thinking about us. He's always watching over us, waiting for us to notice Him so He can show us what new gift He's got in His hand." (p. 239)

I love that!

Heart Echoes helps readers understand they don't have to prove their worth to God because He already loves and accepts them. It also shows that they don't have to prove their worth to others because we're all messed up in some way. God offers grace and teaches us to pass it on freely to the people He's placed in our lives.

I'm happy to recommend this book to you.

Heidi Strybos says

Sally John writes more about real marriages and families than many other Christian authors and I appreciate that. Another great read - not one I personally related to but good none the less.

Lisa says

I've never read Sally John's books before. And although this is the third in her Side Roads series, it would seem that you're not "out of the loop" having not read the first two. Looks like the other two have different characters but contain similar themes about marriage. (A side note: I learned that Sally John grew up in Moline, Illinois, just a hop, skip and a jump from my hometown of Dixon, Illinois. Though she lives in California now, I will forever claim kinship with her for her midwestern roots.)

Heart Echoes starts with an earthquake and never lets up in intensity. Teal Morgan is trapped in traffic when the quake hits. Her husband, River, is home, trapped under a stack of bins in their garage. Daughter Maiya is nowhere to be found. They all physically survive the quake; it's the aftershocks that almost destroy them.

Teal has been hiding the identity of Maiya's father for all of her daughter's 16 years. River, her stepdad, is the father Maiya never had, but she's at an age where she starts questioning and seeking. River lost his first wife and unborn son in an accident a decade earlier and the quake stirs in him feelings of loss and the risks of love. Their lives were headed in a predictable direction before the quake. Now, they find themselves on a detour none of them asked for.

Their journey to truth, wholeness, joy and a beautiful life is intense and heartbreaking at times. This story reaches deep inside to our darkest parts and brings them into the light of love. It's not always pretty, but it is beautiful.

Like life, itself.

Bravo, Sally John. You have drawn a picture of marriage that is gritty and untidy and insecure yet flourishes with patience, commitment and love.

I'm a new fan.

Marianne says

This is truly a story of the heart...and heart echoes. Although Tyndale catagorizes this novel as contemporary fiction, which it really is, it is so much more. It will transcend the ages, because it deals with issues that face each generation, each age and era. The truth will make you free is not just a cliché, it is a fundamental truth. Forgiveness is necessary for the victim to face a life of meaning. These are just a few of the things that The Heart Echoes deals with and brings to the forefront in this captivating novel. No, I have not dealt with the exact themes that are portrayed here, but who has not dreamt of a life that would be better if only someone had not done that, or if they would only notice me. But often reality is that life might have been worse if I had gotten what I wished for.

Not knowing your parent might throw you a curve ball, whether you never knew them (as in adoption or as this story says it) or whether they abandoned you. But we can not change the past, we can only change our reaction or attitude to it. And our memories of the past may or may not be what actually happened, as Teal finds out in The Hear Echoes. Memories are, after all, our rendition of what has happened, and are shaped by our own thoughts, emotions and history.

This is a well written novel about relationships with our siblings, parents and close loved ones. I would recommend this novel to anyone who loves a good romance, but also one that causes us to look into our own lives and learn from it.

This book is available where fine books are sold.

Trish says

In Heart Echoes, author Sally John gives us a thoroughly entertaining novel about second chances.

Although Teal Morgan-Adams and River Adams are happily married and Teal's daughter Maiya loves her new stepdad, Teal is still carrying some significant emotional baggage from her past. Her own father abandoned her and her mom, her stepfather was physically abusive, and she has never revealed the identity of Maiya's father to anyone, not even to the man himself.

Experiencing a major Los Angeles earthquake up close leaves Teal shaken in more ways than one, especially after she learns that her daughter has been secretly dating an older boy. She decides to return to her hometown for a visit, with Maiya, to clear her head and reconnect with her daughter.

Back in Oregon, Teal has a chance to spend time with her sister and mother, and even seizes an opportunity to speak to her father. Throughout all of this, Maiya continues pushing to know who her biological father is, while Teal struggles with her fears of how Maiya would be affected if she is rejected as Teal was.

One of the most satisfying aspects of this book is the process that Teal goes through as she reconciles with (or at least confronts) her family members and also becomes more truly connected with her daughter and husband. Deciding to leave the physical comfort zone she has created for herself in LA leads her to recognize the emotional comfort zone she has built to protect her heart.

Although healing from the hurts of the past is not always an instant thing, or an easy one, it is still a miracle when we allow it to happen. And this book illustrates that beautifully.

I would definitely recommend Heart Echoes to fans of contemporary and inspirational novels.

Barbara Brink says

Sally John has once again written a provocative story with characters that will live in your heart long after you read the last page. Heart Echoes takes you on a journey with Teal Morgan-Adams as she struggles to deal with a lifetime of lies steeped in regret, love, pain, and longing that continue to reverberate in her heart like aftershocks. Her father's desertion, the angry, bitter words spoken by her stepfather and the lies she's told herself have caused her to live in a self-made bubble, refusing to deal with the hazy past her husband and daughter know nothing about.

Teal is a tough, savvy lawyer, mother to a teenage daughter she raised alone, and wife to a handsome, new, doting husband. She's a bit of a control freak but after a huge quake shakes loose problems in their lives that they didn't realize or refused to acknowledge were even there, Teal's safe world begins to crumble. She must learn to lean on and listen to the only One who mends hearts and loves unconditionally – until her heart echoes His truth.

The names in the book were so "California" – Teal, River, and Maiya. They made me smile. River was such a great guy, so patient and understanding, and a terrific stepfather to Maiya. He was almost too perfect, but he did have his moments of imperfection; he just didn't express them as loudly as Teal. The characters were all thoughtfully fleshed out, the storyline was engaging, and the dialogue was fresh and real. Maiya was pretty mature for her age but I think it was appropriate and true to the character. I would definitely read another book by Sally John.

Tyndale House Publishers provided me with a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for writing an honest review.

Paula Phillips says

It is said that no life is perfect , it may seem it but it can take only the slightest activity to occur and the cracks can slowly start to be seen. Some though are stronger than others and it takes a huge tragedy to occur before their lives start to break down around them.

In Heart Echoes , tragedy strikes in the form of an earthquake as Teal hangs in for her life , she starts to think about her past and her present with her new husband River and daughter Maiya.

All she can think is about being home safe with them , but when she arrives home. Life is about to get crazy as Teal learns that her fifteen year old daughter has been lying to them and going behind their back to date ex-con Jake whose Nineteen. On top of that Maiya has been asking Teal questions about her biological dad . Though Teal has a dark secret of her own , she has never ever told anybody - not even her family who Maiya's dad is and the other is that Maiya's dad doesn't even know she exists , he didn't even know that Teal was pregnant. On an impulse, Teal finds herself back in her hometown of Cedar Pointe where her Mum, Stepfather and half-sister Lacey and her husband Will live. What will happen though, when Maiya's dad ends up in Cedar Pointe - will her family and Maiya put two and two together and as she deals with this, is she pushing River further away from herself and will she lose him too ?

Find out in this new exciting book by Sally John, one that will have you engrossed from the very first page.
