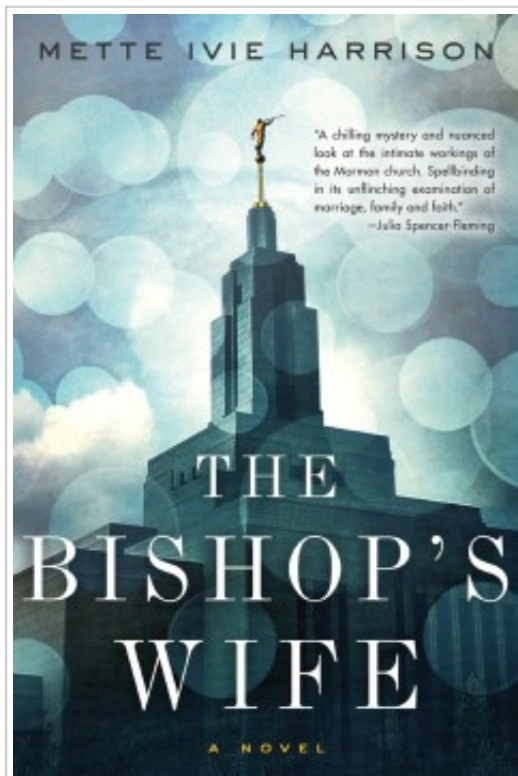


BookFilter

[Home](#) [Top Picks: All Books](#) [The Bishop's Wife](#)



The Bishop's Wife

by Mette Ivie Harrison

Price: \$26.95(Hardcover)

Published: December 30, 2014

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: In the predominantly Mormon city of Draper, Utah, some seemingly perfect families have deadly secrets.

Linda Wallheim is a devout Mormon, the mother of five boys and the wife of a bishop. But Linda is increasingly troubled by her church's structure and secrecy, especially as a disturbing situation takes shape in her ward. One cold winter night, a young wife and mother named Carrie Helm disappears, leaving behind everything she owns. Carrie's husband, Jared, claims his wife has always been unstable and that she has abandoned the family, but Linda doesn't trust him. As Linda snoops in the Helm family's circumstances, she becomes convinced that Jared has murdered his wife and painted himself as a wronged husband.

Linda's husband asks her not to get involved in the unfolding family saga. But Linda has become obsessed with Carrie's fate, and with...

[More](#)

Rate This Book

| [Rate/Review](#)

[Add To Bookshelf](#)

Get This Book

Go to your preferred retailer, click to choose a format and you'll be taken directly to their site where you can get this book.



What We Say

A mystery set in the contemporary world of the Mormons, with the wife of a bishop as the sleuth? Count me in. Unfortunately, the plotting of this debut novel by Mette Ivie Harrison is far stronger on Mormonism than mystery. Linda Wallheim loves her faith and her world, even though she's clearly on the progressive side of her religion. The work of her husband Kurt is challenging and important and Linda supports him and performs her job well. But the daily challenges of their life are soon overwhelmed with multiple dramas unfolding. A neighbor insists his wife has disappeared and left behind their 5 year old daughter. The man and his father's disdain for the child's mother makes Linda suspicious over foul play. At the same time, another member of their community is watching her husband slowly die and Linda becomes suspicious about what happened to that man's first wife as well. Linda is not much of a sleuth and rather passive at that until the climax of the tale allows her to take some bold action. Harrison is far stronger at delineating some of the interesting facets of Mormon life and the philosophy that guides them in their dealings with each other and the outside world. (It does involve a great deal of baking, with Linda always seeming to pop this or that goodie into the oven as a response to most any crisis.) A subplot even raises the possibility that one of her five sons might be gay, though this is left for resolution in perhaps a sequel. So the world Harrison creates is vivid and the characters often compelling. But as a mystery, "The Bishop's Wife" falls far short. Either Harrison needs to bone up on her "Father Brown" or perhaps segue into a straightforward novel that doesn't need the trappings of genre to compel. -- Michael Giltz

[Less](#)

What Others Say

Praise for The Bishop's Wife

ABA IndieNext Selection for January, 2015

An ABA IndieBound Bestseller

PLA LibraryReads Selection for January, 2015

A Publishers Weekly Most Anticipated Book of Fall 2014

"The Bishop's Wife has good reason to draw a large readership. It places heavy emphasis on domestic abuse and on the question of how dangerous fire-breathing extremists really are. The man who inveighs against women as whores and sinners may or may not be anything worse than a crank. The man who speaks sanctimoniously of them may be much worse... That's why Ms. Harrison's Linda is such a welcome character: In her role as Sister Wallheim, she encourages women to speak freely, at least to her, and to escape the shame that has burdened some of them since childhood."

—Janet Maslin, *The New York Times*

"Excellent... Watching Linda Wallheim take on the church and its entitled male members as she unravels the mystery of Carrie's and Helena's disappearances is one of the chief pleasures of this richly detailed debut."

—*The Los Angeles Times*

"Eye-opening... A novel so far..."