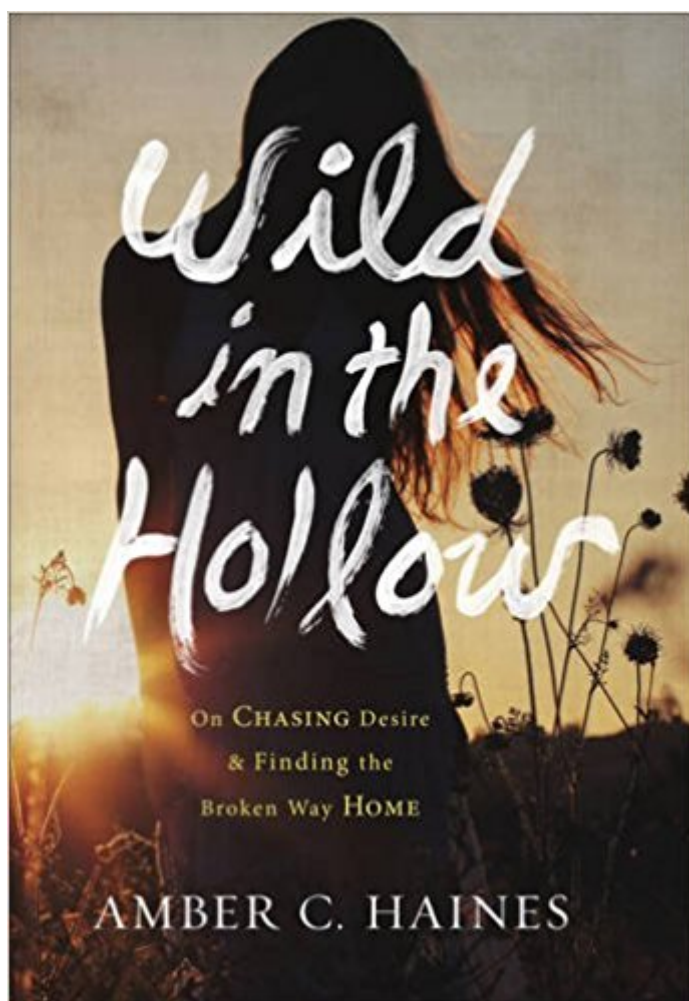


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Wild In The Hollow: On Chasing Desire And Finding The Broken Way Home



Synopsis

Amber Haines is a woman haunted by God. Like Eve in the Garden, she craved the fruit that she thought would lead her to freedom. But the whispers of temptation led her instead down a devastating path toward isolation, dissatisfaction, and life-altering choices. In her most broken moment, Amber met God waiting for her in the fallout, freely offering her grace and life. This is a story of the God who makes himself known in broken places. In prose that is at once lyrical and utterly honest, a brave new voice takes readers on a windswept journey down the path of brokenness to healing, satisfaction, and true intimacy with God. Amber calls readers to dispense with the pretty bows we use to dress up our stories and instead trust God to take our untidy, unfinished lives and make them free, authentic, and whole. Anyone who struggles with doubt or holds secrets, anyone who feels marginalized or like she is missing something, will find in Amber a sister and an inviting voice back home, into the heart of God.

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Customer Reviews

I always knew there was more than what my eyes could see. Maybe that's why it's easy for me to imagine Eden. I have my own version, the place where I clearly remember my early childhood experience as beautiful, wild, and protected. In prose that is at once lyrical and utterly honest, a brave new voice takes you on a windswept journey down the path of brokenness to healing, satisfaction, and true intimacy with God. Amber Haines calls us to dispense with the pretty bows we use to dress up our stories and instead trust God to take our untidy, unfinished lives and make them free, authentic, and whole. If you struggle with doubt or hold secrets, if you have ever felt marginalized or like you are missing something, you will find in Amber a sister and a voice inviting

you back home, to a place of acceptance, fulfillment, and identity--and into the heart of God. |Amber C. Haines is a soulful writer and a blogger at TheRunaMuck.com. She is curator, with her husband, Seth, of Mother Letters and is a contributor with many acclaimed writers and bloggers at DaySpring's (in)courage. She lives in Arkansas, has four wild sons, and finds community among the broken.

Amber Haines is a woman haunted by God. Like Eve in the Garden, she craved the fruit that she thought would lead her to freedom. But the whispers of temptation led her instead down a path of isolation, dissatisfaction, and life-altering choices. In her most broken moment, Amber met God waiting for her in the fallout, freely offering her grace and life. This is a story of the God who makes himself known in broken places. "Wild in the Hollow captivated me from the first page. Amber's brave story invites us to explore our own broken places as she beckons us to wholeness and healing."--Rebekah Lyons, author of Freefall to Fly and co-founder of Q Ideas "This book made me feel homesick and at home all at the same time. Only Amber could so beautifully and rightly write into the parts of our human experience that usually defy words."--Sarah Bessey, author of Jesus Feminist and Out of Sorts "Amber Haines is a once-in-a-generation voice. She moves us back to the place we all long to be--deeply intimate with and known by God. This book is a true gift, and I have more hope because of it."--Nish Weiseth, author of Speak: How Your Story Can Change the World "How can a woman with a story so different from my own be telling my story too? Amber Haines has found a way, and I am deeply grateful for her artistry, her honesty, and her courage. This captivating book has stunned me speechless."--Emily P. Freeman, author of Simply Tuesday and A Million Little Ways

I read this book in one sitting, in one afternoon. I could not put the book down. Absolutely refreshing. Beautiful. Poetic. Raw. Honest. A story of intense and painful, yet glorious growth. A magnificent, redemptive, loving God. Amber Haines bears her soul in an unusually vulnerable way, revealing the poignant story of her relationship with a God who rescues her over and over again with a lavish, unending love. Amber is the epitome of bravery by publishing to a potentially closed-hearted audience such an frank assessment of her life coupled with a honest view into the way she thought and felt along the way. See, this is not your story of "bad girl finds Jesus and turns good overnight." This is the story of a woman who sincerely loves Jesus but, like every single one of us, falls and falls again. Sometimes the falls are because of her own choices. Sometimes the falls are because of others' choices. Sometimes the falls are

unexplained and are connected, somehow, to the brokenness of life. Pushing the envelope in a breathtaking and marvelous way, she brings to the surface that which often remains unspoken in church communities. Amber writes of very real experiences that cause very real pain that occur in the lives of countless very real Jesus followers. Amber brings the reader into her own journey where the reader comes away feeling as if she is the dearest of friends. And once she has made her way into your heart, she allows the reader to see what she herself has seen – the loveliest of stories emerging as she finds God’s redemptive presence in the most painful and the most beautiful corners of her life. She will give you, if you engage with this book honestly, the confidence that you can find hope, redemption, beauty and the lavish love of God as she herself has found. God’s extravagant love is so palpable, standing out in stark contrast against the gut-wrenching rawness of her own life experiences. God is in this book. Oh, yes, God is in this book. Come to this book prepared to have the author be brutally honest with you about her own story. Come to this book prepared to be brutally honest with your own story. Come to this book prepared to be comforted that you are not the only Jesus follower who has bumps and bruises and heartbreak and longing and regrets in this life. Come to this book to see God and His redemptive love in a beautiful new light.

The best stories are always the ones that swallow me whole. Always. And Amber Haines does not disappoint. She pours out her life with her beautiful poetic storytelling prose, and God turns it straight into gospel. She exquisitely shares all her secrets parts, inviting you right in and there is a freedom in her words. It’s been weeks since I read it and the words are still sinking and settling in, finding their way into my broken places. *Wild in the Hollow* is a pure and honest and raw telling of life and gospel and redemption. A must read.

Amber is a gifted writer with such an important message. If you would not normally be drawn to a mom-blogger with a special fondness for poetry, I hope you will reconsider. This is not a how-to manual or a theological exegesis, and you should not expect it as such. What it is in an honest roadmap to a story that many need to hear. I believe that for every person who might say "Not for me..." or "Can't relate..." there are probably a dozen who can identify with some part of her story and who have struggled in significant ways with entanglements of shame, belonging, and desire. These people are within your churches and hurting, I assure you. I have been a part of the church and walking with Christ, healing from significant hurts for over half of my life. I've shared my stories and heard many others. God has been so faithful to gently and steadily uproot the painful and sinful

places so I was truly shocked at how Amber's story telling, which on the whole drips with the hope of the gospel message, shone a light on some places that were still tripping me up in significant ways. We are most of us an over-connected, lonely people group right now. We are depressed and anxious and ashamed and have unlimited access to distractions and diversions that help numb us to that reality. The church is not less susceptible, but possibly even more, because we struggle silently. I personally think we can do with less "how-to" and more "Really, you too?" There is something powerful and effective about simply being brave enough to share our stories and point each other back to Christ. Thank you Amber, for leading the way towards the practice of confession, inviting others in, and pointedly reminding us of the hope that we have in a Savior who has already freed us from our shame and sin. I say well done. I will share this book with many who need it.

This was an okay read for me, I actually found myself struggling to finish. The style of writing seems similar to that of a journal, and oftentimes I found myself having to reread a section because the author's descriptions seemed choppy or ill-defined. She did address her anxiety and depression and how that affected her relationship with the Church; I enjoyed those parts of the book.

When the introduction to a book brings you to tears, because it hits you in such a raw place, you know the book is going to stretch you, challenge you, and expose you. And, that is exactly what it did to me. I am a military spouse that has followed my husband around the globe for 13 years, all the while adding kids to our family, and never finding my own niche anywhere. I am homesick, but for where, I don't know! I love the adventure of living in new places, yet, I long for the home of my youth in the foothills of Appalachia. I pray that I find my home, as Amber and her family did in the last chapter. I felt like Amber was telling my own story, which is quite amazing, since we had very different teen and young adult experiences. Even though we outwardly reacted in different ways, inwardly, we have the same struggles. She touches on so much that hits my core: the American church, never being enough with fashion, wanting sugar to mask the facade, and on and on. Two of the last three chapters really helped rip open my band-aids to what was truly underneath. I have read and reread them, and I will read again. Thank you, Amber, for writing *Wild in the Hollow*. Seriously, thank you.

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