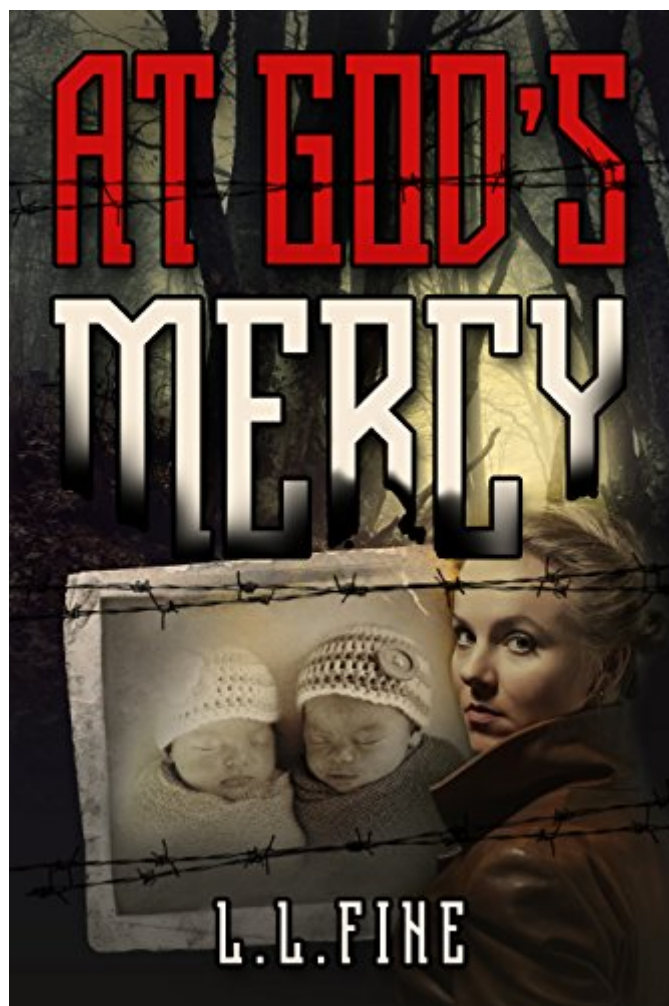


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# At God's Mercy



## Synopsis

Can she save her twins? Poland, World War II. A desperate young Jewish woman sacrifices her life to save her baby twins from the terrible death that awaits them. Decades later, the two brothers travel to Poland to find her. Page by page they uncover the terrible secret of their bloodcurdling heritage. A long-dormant Nazi evil is resurrected, and once again threatens to take the twins' lives. Will they survive the new storm? *At God's Mercy* is a captivating book that is hard to put down. It will take you deep behind the frontiers of human atrocity, where cruelty meets courage, and faith meets fate. Its chilling storyline bites hard at religious establishment and raises hard questions regarding Judaism, Christianity, human nature, faith and existence.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A blood-curdling, edge-of-your-seat tale that has the unique power to make readers ask questions, Liron Fine's *'At God's Mercy'* is one of those unforgettable books you rarely encounter. In the first few pages alone, the book grabs you and doesn't let go--and from there proceeds to build up a literary "arpeggio" that succeeds in pushing our "thrill" buttons as well as the deeper, higher

ones. Basically, 'At God's Mercy' is the story about two twins who, as fate would have it, end up adopted by two different families having two different religions: one Christian, the other Jewish. The separation is brought about by violence and murder of their mother during the tail-end of the Second World War. Many decades later, the twins would meet--and as anyone who wants answers to their gigantic questions--agree despite their differences to embark on a journey that will allow them to touch base with their roots and come full-circle to their dreadful past. Along the way, they discover so much more than they had expected--about their history and about themselves. Let me suffice it to say that 'At God's Mercy' is not one of those books that offer cheap thrills. Yes, it is a suspense thriller--but one with enough intellectual and emotional gravitas to make the book a worthwhile, haunting read. Liron is a confident writer at the height of his powers, and this book is a shining testament to that talent. Overall, I highly recommend this to anyone who not only wants to be enthralled and entertained, but also deeply moved as well. A solid five-star rating for this book.

This novel sucks you in with its very first page and doesn't let you go until the last. There is no segue into the action - it hits you in the face and keeps you on a roller coaster ride throughout the entire book. The book tells the story of two twins - Jeremiah and Isaiah, whose mother sacrificed her life for theirs during World War II. In a strange twist of fate, one twin becomes a rabbi and one becomes a priest, and when they find each other decades later, they join together to put together the pieces of what happened to their mother and to them so many years prior. These characters are very well-developed, and the story is compelling. There are a lot of interesting plot twists, and the ending is unexpected. This is a book that goes beyond the story contained within the pages and tells a story of larger issues in the world around us. It's a great read!

AT GOD'S MERCY begins during the waning days of World War II as Helena, a Jewish woman in Poland, tried to flee the Nazi who was trying to kill her. Following a chase through the woods while carrying a basket holding her twin sons, the pursuer agreed to not kill them. She left the basket at the side of the road hoping babies would be rescued, then turned back to face her destiny. Fifty years later, Jeremiah, a rabbi in the US, received a letter informing him that he had a twin brother. He got his name and went to find him. The brother, Isaiah, who lived nearby, also did not know that he was a twin, an identical one at that. Both boys had been adopted in the US but by different families. Isaiah was a priest. The two men get to know each other while Isaiah meets the family he didn't know he had: Jeremiah's wife and four of his five daughters. Jeremiah does not want any contact with his eldest daughter, Eva, because she left the religious

life, joined the military, and plans to marry a Christian. The brothers decided to travel to Poland to learn what they could about their parents. Their search opens windows long closed as they get closer to the truth. What they find is a stone wall as the people in the village deny that any Jews ever lived there. They also find anti-Semitism is still alive and well, partly for a surprising reason. There are some interesting observations: In one early discussion between the brothers, Isaiah states, "We're both far too comfortable solving other people's problems." Jeremiah responds, "Well, why not. It's much easier than just solving your own problems." When one of his younger daughters questions her parents about Isaiah being a priest, Jeremiah says, "Christian, Muslim, Buddhist...what does it matter, he's my twin! He's your uncle." There are two phrases I particularly liked, referring to their first Shabbat evening dinner together, was "It was a fascinating meal seasoned with witty questions..." and he wondered if there were any original "lives" since the days of the Bible. Everything humans do in life is to repeat the paths life already written, and perhaps provide nuances in its version or any other way. [sic] The plot moves quickly and generally is logical. Dreams and flashbacks play important roles. There are several interesting twists. There are also some minor parts that do not follow the Orthodox Jewish custom which Jeremiah follows. For example, I was confused early on because Jeremiah goes home after work and has a dinner of cholent. In most households, that is the main dish for Shabbat afternoon so I thought the story began on a Friday night with a meal that would not have been eaten at that time. Jeremiah says that Isaiah is "his only remaining blood relative." He seems to have forgotten his five daughters. Jeremiah is said to be reading the Bible at one point and refers to Genesis, the Song of Songs, Ruth, Kings, and Jeremiah. Only Genesis is in the Hebrew Bible. The others, particularly Ruth, are in supplementary books. I can't believe that Isaiah would have been unaware of the deaths of 6,000,000 Jews during the Holocaust. There is a description of an "imitation nurse" which unnecessarily focuses on her weight. She wondered why two religious men would come to the nursing home since no one had died. Don't clergy visit residents who are alive? On the whole, the book braided several stories into one mostly cohesive whole. This book was a Free Books download.

For those readers who wish to read a book to escape into fantasy and/or fluffy nothings - this book is not it. This book is dark probably because it deals with one of the darkest times in world's history. Twins separated at birth find one another much later in life on 'separate sides of the streets' One a priest and the other an orthodox rabbi with wife and family. There are many questions to be

answered that they feel can only be found in a town in Poland so they journey to that town and find so much more than they anticipated. To all the critics of how priests/Catholics should be portrayed and the 'narrowness' of the rabbi was overdone - well This is how some priests do act and this is also how some rabbis and their families interact. It is not a pretty scene but it is real as is the portrayal of Poland and its citizens. This is not meant to be a scathing condemnation of Polish people but if you read carefully a criticism of a time that produced such horror and such people. This book touches so many issues and so much we wished never was. The ending shook me to the core that there is still so much ugliness in this world but there is also the love the brothers found for each other through this ugliness. If you open yourself to the book it will hurt you in many ways but like the brothers help you find a way to see the good as well.

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