



Daring to Hope: Finding God's Goodness in the Broken and the Beautiful

Katie Davis Majors , Katie J. Davis , Ann Voskamp (Foreword)

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**How do you hold on to hope
when you don't get the ending
you asked for?**

When Katie Davis Majors moved to Uganda, accidentally founded a booming organization, and later became the mother of thirteen girls through the miracle of adoption, she determined to weave her life together with the people she desired to serve. But joy often gave way to sorrow as she invested her heart fully in walking alongside people in the grip of poverty, addiction, desperation, and disease.

After unexpected tragedy shook her family, for the first time Katie began to wonder, *Is God really good? Does He really love us?* When she turned to Him with her questions, God spoke truth to her heart and drew her even deeper into relationship with Him.

Daring to Hope is an invitation to cling to the God of the impossible--the God who whispers His love to us in the quiet, in the mundane, when our prayers are not answered the way we want or the miracle doesn't come. It's about a mother discovering the extraordinary strength it takes to be ordinary. It's about choosing faith no matter the circumstance and about encountering God's goodness in the least expected places.

Though your heartaches and dreams may take a different shape, you will find your own questions echoed in these pages. You'll be reminded of the gifts of joy in the midst of sorrow. And you'll hear God's whisper: *Hold on to hope. I will meet you here.*

Daring to Hope: Finding God's Goodness in the Broken and the Beautiful Details

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From Reader Review Daring to Hope: Finding God's Goodness in the Broken and the Beautiful for online ebook

Megan says

Wow! That is the only word I could think as I slowly closed the last page of this book, sitting in a reverent silence. This book touched me in such a profound way. I don't feel a review will do it justice--you need to read it for yourself. I see why it has become a bestseller on so many lists!

"Daring to Hope: Finding God's Goodness in the Broken and the Beautiful" by Katie Davis Majors is at first glance just another biography. But it is so much more. The words are so beautiful, the messages and spiritual truths so profound and the stories Katie shares so moving. Katie wrote her first bestseller, "Kisses from Katie", in 2011. I did not read that book, but had heard so much about Katie and her story; how when she was eighteen years old she moved to Uganda, adopted 13 girls and founded a ministry. "Daring to Hope" is the continuation of that story.

Katie herself is an amazing writer. Her style is poetic and lyrical. She is very honest and shares deep truths. In "Daring to Hope", she tells her story of finding God in brokenness and suffering. She goes through some really hard times where she questions God. God doesn't always give her the answers or what she asks for, but He gives her Himself, which is the best and most satisfying gift.

This is a message that we as Americans especially need to hear. We often believe that the "American Dream" is a sign of God's blessing, but Katie points out so many instances of faithful believers in Uganda who are starving, dying or can't afford basic medical care. This does not mean they aren't blessed or aren't faithful.

I highlighted huge portions of this book. I came away with so many truths to help me, especially as I have been coming out of a hard season of my own life. I have had many of the same questions Katie has had, and the answers she provides and how she points one to God have been such a comfort to my heart. My faith has grown thanks to reading this book. I recommend this book to anyone who has been through suffering and wondered where God was, to anyone who is wrestling with God or even wondering if that is okay. If you want to be inspired or encouraged in your walk with God, this book is for you.

Content: I would give this book a PG rating, due to some content related to Katie's ministry. Katie's ministry is to people who go through some very hard things. As she describes her ministry, there is some more "graphic" content, like birth and treating wounds. There are alcoholics, addicts, murder and poisoning.

Rating: I give this book a solid 5 stars! It's a new favorite!

Genre: Christian non-fiction; Biography

I want to thank Katie Davis Majors, Multnomah Publishing and Blogging for Books for the complimentary copy of this book for review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I express in this review are my own. This is in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's CFR 16, Part 255.

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

MY BLOG: Melissa Martin's Reading List

Carrie Turansky says

Daring to Hope is a very inspiring book that has left an imprint on my heart! I loved Katie Davis Majors' first book, Kisses From Katie, and her new book is just as wonderful. Her honesty in sharing her struggles and what she has learned through hardship and blessings is very encouraging. I highly recommend this book!

Oak says

Katie Davis Major is the mother of 13 adopted daughters. She's also only 27 years old – and serves as a missionary in Jinja, Uganda. After falling in love with the people of Uganda during a high school mission trip, Katie permanently moved to Uganda following her graduation from high school, and she created the nonprofit organization Amazima Ministries International in 2008. Her organization runs a sponsorship program for Ugandan children, as well as a program that feeds children, a farming outreach program, a medical outreach program, and a program that sells jewelry locally created by Ugandans and purchased by Americans.

In 2012, Katie published a book about her life entitled Kisses for Katie: A Story of Relentless Love and Redemption. Now, Katie is releasing a new book, Daring to Hope: Finding God's Goodness in the Broken and the Beautiful. Many readers of Kisses for Katie were curious to see Katie's next steps in life. When she wrote Kisses for Katie, she was a single girl. Now, Katie is married to Benji Majors – who also hails from her home state of Tennessee – and they have a biological son. Daring to Hope nicely chronicles the current chapter of Katie's life.

Many people in life will be missionaries in one way or another, but their mission work may look a lot different than Katie's. Their mission work may not extend beyond their own country – or they may help those from other countries from a distance, through charity programs that they start or participate in. The great thing about the book Daring to Hope is that it gives a message of hope and inspiration to all people, whether they want to serve as missionaries in Uganda, or in their own backyard.

I received this book for review

Jamie says

I cannot recommend this enough. Powerful, heart wrenching, yet beautiful and full of hope. I cannot wait for the rest of the world to read this come October.

Shantelle says

This book reached deep and touched my soul. I'm telling you, it was powerful. The concept of finding God's goodness in the broken and beautiful is a very raw and heartrending and hopeful and absolutely amazing thing to explore and see in the life of Katie Davis (Majors).

I loved reading of Katie's life again, after reading *Kisses From Katie* years ago. I feel she's grown and matured so much. And her sharing bits of her heart and soul, her relationship with Jesus Christ, and life and lessons she's learned is the most awesome thing. I cried. I smiled. I hoped with her. *Daring to Hope: Finding God's Goodness in the Broken and the Beautiful* infused my soul with *hope*, courage, and new life! It filled my heart with renewed passion and trust! **God is so good!** Oh, what a beautiful thing to surrender our lives and hopes and our loved ones into His hand and just follow Him with all that we are.

The pictures in this book are beautiful. The stories even more so. It was delightful hearing more about Katie's children, and how she met and married her husband! It was even more amazing to glimpse her real and deep relationship with God.

This woman and her stories, thoughts, and experiences continue to inspire me. I hope she continues to write books! *Daring to Hope* seriously is one of the most powerful true stories I've had the privilege of reading!

I very highly recommend this book to all!

Victoria says

This book really tore me apart. Like Katie says, Jesus wrecked my life and fixed it even better than before.

Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says

About this book:

"How do you hold on to hope when you don't get the ending you asked for? When Katie Davis Majors moved to Uganda, accidentally founded a booming organization, and later became the mother of thirteen girls through the miracle of adoption, she determined to weave her life together with the people she desired to serve. But joy often gave way to sorrow as she invested her heart fully in walking alongside people in the grip of poverty, addiction, desperation, and disease. After unexpected tragedy shook her family, for the first time Katie began to wonder, Is God really good? Does He really love us? When she turned to Him with her questions, God spoke truth to her heart and drew her even deeper into relationship with Him. Daring to Hope is an invitation to cling to the God of the impossible--the God who whispers His love to us in the quiet, in the mundane, when our prayers are not answered the way we want or the miracle doesn't come. It's about a mother discovering the extraordinary strength it takes to be ordinary. It's about choosing faith no matter the circumstance and about encountering God's goodness in the least expected places. Though your heartaches and dreams may take a different shape, you will find your own questions echoed in these pages. You'll be reminded of the gifts of joy in the midst of sorrow. And you'll hear God's whisper: Hold on to hope. I will meet you here."

Series: It is connected to “*Kisses from Katie*” by the same author.

Spiritual Content- **All** about God, Jesus, Katie's faith and her love for Jesus, having Hope, blessings, witnessing, praying, God's grace, His will, trusting God, & Him leading her; Tons of Scriptures are read, quoted, mentioned, talked about, & referenced; Many prayers; Tons of Talks about God, Jesus, praying, blessings, having Hope, & faiths; 'H's are capital when referring to God; **All** about talks about & mentions of those & events from the Bible; **All** about mentions of God, trusting Him, His will, having Hope, praying, blessings, & witnessing; Many mentions of prayers & praying; Many mentions of Bibles, Bible reading and studying, devotionals, & Bible studies; Many mentions of blessings & being blessed; Many mentions of Jesus' birth, the nativity, & Christmases; Mentions of thanking, praising, & worshiping God; Mentions of Christians, faiths, & love for the Lord; Mentions of churches, church going, & songs/hymns; Mentions of Heaven; Mentions of miracles; Mentions of sins; A couple mentions of missionaries;

*Note: A few mentions of the devil.

Negative Content- Many mentions of diseases, illnesses, starvation/malnutrition, wounds/injuries, blood/bleeding, pain, & deaths (up to semi-detailed); Mentions of wars, fighting, & deaths; Mentions of a fire & injuries (up to semi-detailed); Mentions of alcohol, making alcohol, drinking, & alcoholics/drunks; Mentions of throwing up & vomit; A few mentions of drug addicts & rehab; A couple mentions of someone who was poisoned; A couple mentions of thieves & stealing; A couple mentions of lies; A couple mentions of jealousy; A couple mentions of swearing; A mention of murder; A mention of a women abused by many men; A mention of divorce; A mention of human waste.

Sexual Content- Mentions of dating, dates, & romantic relationships;

*Note: Mentions of labors, mothers dying in labor, mothers losing a lot of blood after labor, & cutting the cord (barely-above-not-detailed); A mention of a miscarriage; A couple mentions of prostitution; A mention of rape; A mention of someone's daughter that was assaulted.

-Katie Davis Majors

Non-Fiction

224 pages

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### Pre Teens- One Star

## New Teens- Two Stars

## Early High School Teens- Three Stars (and a half)

## Older High School Teens- Four Stars (and a half)

My personal Rating- Five Stars

{ Add ½ star for those interested in caring for orphans }

Ever since I first read *Kisses from Katie* when I was fourteen, Katie Davis has been one of my top role models.

To say that I was giddy about this new book by Katie Davis Majors, is a compete understatement. I was thrilled.

Another girl, who's also slightly older than me, that I look up to is Meredith Toering and she is constantly talking about hope, having hope, and sharing about Who gives Hope. When I found out that this new book was about Daring to Hope, it felt like both girls I look up to were sharing about the same thing and I loved that.

While part of me still enjoys *Kisses from Katie* the best (review of that wonderful book coming next month) because of all the adoption connections, I did really (obviously) love this book as much. Katie's faith is just as inspiring and makes me want a faith that's strong like her's just like when I read her first book for the first time.

One of my favorite quotes from this book would be: *"We hold on to our hope. There is always a ram in the thicket. Because there is always the Lamb on the Throne."*

Link to review:

<https://booksforchristiangirls.blogspot...>

\*BFCG may (Read the review to see) recommend this book by this author. It does not mean I recommend all the books by this author.

\*I received this book for free from the Publisher (Multnomah Books) for this honest review.

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### **Brooke — brooklynne reads says**

I have always found Katie's story to be amazing and inspirational. After reading, "Kisses from Katie", I thought that book may have been it and that there wouldn't be any subsequent books following her journey. When I heard that this second book was going to be published, I was looking forward to reading it immediately and anticipated the release date.

This second book continues to follow Katie and her family's journey. Interspersed with her own stories are the stories of others, friends of Katie whom she has met while living in Uganda. These stories are equally beautiful and heartbreaking. It's clear evidence of the difference between living in a developed country compared to living in Uganda. I cannot imagine seeing some of the things she has seen or the impact that has to have had on her.

I have to admit that although I did enjoy this book, I preferred "Kisses from Katie". My reasoning for this is because I found "Kisses from Katie" truly followed her journey and had a larger amount of personal stories and experiences that were being told. Although this book did have personal stories of her and others included, I felt that this book read more like a bible study tool. That is not a bad thing at all and I'm certain that some will love that particular aspect. However, that was not what I personally was looking for out of this book.

If you are looking for something that has a moderate amount of personal experiences with biblical scripture largely and frequently included, this may be the read for you. However, if you are expecting more of the memoir route with the vast amount of the book including her journey, you may be disappointed. I still would recommend this read because I think it's eye opening and the topics/circumstances that are mentioned are important.

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### **Coleen says**

This book continues Katie's journey which publicly began in her first book *Kisses from Kate*, which doesn't



have to be read first. In *Daring to Hope*, Katie is faced with a trial that tests her faith and puts her on a journey that draws her closer to God. The book has several stories about people she has ministered to and how through their suffering she grows spiritually. I think we can all relate to Katie as we all have doubts, or things don't turn out the way we have planned, or we are suffering, etc. This book is sure to encourage you and is a book I could read over and over.

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### **Hannah says**

*Daring to Hope* is in so many ways an incredibly beautiful book! I saw in a deeper way how we can trust God through suffering and how we can see his goodness even when life is hard and doesn't make sense. Katie's writing style is beautiful and I appreciated her being so real with her life. It makes me see how no one's life...even those who look like they have it all together...is truly perfect. They fail, they suffer, they hurt. So I loved many aspects of this book!

There were some things I didn't like about this book though. I was uncomfortable how in the forward and in the book it was mentioned about having "a love affair with Jesus". There was also some other wording that I felt...just wasn't right. I also expected the book to be a story. Like her last book. It is definitely not mostly a story. She does share quite a few stories in it, but talks mostly about seeing God's goodness through each story she shared...so it wasn't what I was expecting. I also felt like she dragged on and on many times. The things she was saying were good and beautiful, but it felt like she repeated herself over and over which made me sometimes struggle to keep my interest.

Overall, I enjoyed this book a lot and I think I would recommend it to someone going through a tragedy or suffering. There were definitely things I didn't like, but there were a lot of beautiful things shared that I'll remember and reflect on again!

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### **Chelsea Galbraith says**

I got the joy of being on the launch team for this book that will release in October and I highly recommend it for everyone. Katie shares her heart and experiences and wrestles with questions many of us believers in Christ have wrestled with but do not talk about--suffering, pain, loss, and God's goodness in the midst of it. Through it all though she shares how God is still close and loving in the hard times and how we must "dare to hope". It's a very easy read that will suck you in and you won't want to put the book down! I loved it and I can't wait to reread it and buy this book for my friends and family!

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### **Jessica says**

The title of this book is now "*Daring to Hope*", FYI.

One of the most gut-wrenching, spiritually compelling and inspiring books I've ever read. Completely blown away by what Katie Davis Majors shares. I was lucky enough to read this early manuscript in the office, and I cannot recommend it highly enough -- y'all need to pre-order and have this show up on your doorstep on October 3 .

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## Michael Eubank says

### Why Guys Need to Read This Book

I loved this book as I was reading it, and now as I reflect on it, I love it even more. I had the privilege of being on the launch team. Membership was overwhelmingly female. Because of this, I thought it might be beneficial if I shared a few reasons why guys in particular should read *Daring to Hope*:

1. Your wife or girlfriend is reading it (trust me). This book provides a glimpse of Katie's marriage and an introduction to her husband. It will inspire you towards being a servant-hearted leader of your family. It will provide fertile ground for many conversations with your spouse for a long time to come. If you take the initiative and suggest that you and your helpmate read this book together and set aside time to discuss it, I can guarantee that you will gain respect in her eyes. If you're single like me, *Daring To Hope* can help you gain a more Godly perspective on those you are serving. As I read, I could picture my sister taking elderly friends to doctor appointments and caring for disabled cats, just like Katie's kids. This book helped me to appreciate my sister's compassionate heart even more.
2. We all face suffering and disappointment. The value of such pain is beautifully unveiled in this book through the stories of those who enter and exit Katie's life. It is the means by which God shows us Himself as our very great reward. Like you, I crave whatever helps me value Jesus.
3. In a world where godliness is presented as a means to financial gain, we desperately need more books like this. That Jesus reveals Himself and draws us near to Himself through suffering is opposite to our normal way of thinking, something we need to be reminded of frequently.
4. We need a good theology of suffering before it comes our way so that we can embrace it rather than avoid it; so we can help others walk through it; and to keep us from the disillusionment that results from thinking we are called to alleviate all pain.
5. Katie helps us to understand Scripture by interweaving passages and experiences from her own life. As I read each paragraph, I found my heart agreeing with her again and again, quietly shouting "Yes! That's it!" Hearing of her disappointments and gut-wrenching pains and flaws, as well as her moments of joy, helped me appreciate how similar we are, and that was reassuring.
6. Reading books such as this one can help us better appreciate Scripture. Katie's explanation of Faithfulness in chapter 13 was an "Aha!" moment. Also, my understanding of Romans 8:32 was clarified through the book. Somehow, when I used to recite to myself "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?", I always thought that it meant that I first had to figure out what I wanted, then ask Him for it. But this passage allows us to look at all of those unrequested circumstances as being graciously given to us as well.
7. Each chapter will provide you ample material to meditate on throughout your day. What does it mean to be a prisoner of hope? Why give your time and strength to a hopeless situation? There are many thought provoking questions that are not only posed, but answered.

There are many, many more things I could share in my praise of this book. Was there anything I didn't agree with? There were a couple of things, which I hesitate to mention because I have so much respect for Katie and I fear I might be reading too much into them. But, for the sake of others who may be wrestling with the same things, I will throw them out there for consideration.

1. When one of Katie's beloved friends passed away, Katie says in chapter eight that she found no consolation when people said to her, "God is sovereign." What did comfort her however, was one person whispering to her, "God is gracious". I know that different aspects of God's character minister to us at different times. I'm pretty sure that's what's going on here. We just need to be careful not to pit one aspect of

God's character against another. They are in unity. Because there is a Lamb on the throne (God's sovereignty), there is always a Ram in the thicket (God's grace). As Habakkuk said, the sovereign Lord is our strength. It is His sovereignty and His graciousness that bring about the circumstances that increase our capacity for Him. I have found comfort in both of these in embracing my lifelong disability.

2. Katie mentioned that her wedding party shared communion during her marriage ceremony. I've heard a couple of pastors point out that communion was meant to be, not a spectator event, but something for the entire church body to participate in. So, if you approach your pastor with this request, don't be offended if he declines.

I've done lots of reading in my 56 year lifetime. This one I will read again. I can honestly say that *Daring to Hope* is one of my favorites. I have already ordered copies for friends and I'm sure I'll be giving this book to numerous others in the years to come. I highly recommend it to you, my brothers in Christ.

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## **Callie says**

If you haven't heard of Katie Davis Majors, she is a young missionary who went to Uganda when she was 18, ended up staying and starting a ministry, and adopted 13 girls. I remember reading her first book way back when I was first married. I don't remember that much about it, but I remember flying through it and being inspired by Katie's devotion to serving the Lord. So I obviously wanted to pick up her second book that came out this year.

I had mixed feelings about this one. There were things I liked, and things I didn't.

### **Things I Liked**

First, let me just say, it took me forever to finish this book because for the first half, nearly every chapter left me in a puddle of tears. Katie picks up the book by telling of her life in a house with her 13 adopted daughters, and how they came to open up their home to people who were injured, dying, or just trying to get on their feet. The rest of the book is her story of her own struggle to trust in God's goodness while living and personally witnessing so much suffering under her own roof. It took a lot of vulnerability for her to discuss her doubts in a book like this, and she always comes back to the right conclusions - that God is sovereign, He is good, and even when people are not healed and there are no happy endings, He is working all of it out for the good of those who love Him, and for His own glory. I think this book could certainly be encouraging to anyone who is struggling with similar suffering or doubts. It was inspiring to read Katie's thoughts on this subject.

### **What I Didn't Love**

Throughout this book Katie not only shares stories from her life, but she delves into different Bible accounts and relates them back to her own life, and she almost seems to allegorize the biblical accounts in the process. I'm just not sure I like that - sometimes it worked, and sometimes it sat wrong. She takes certain biblical passages that were meant for a certain people group at a certain time, and applies them to herself, so the hermeneutics here are questionable. It also bothered me that her writing in this book is similar to Voskamp's (who also wrote the foreword) in that it sometimes sacrifices clarity for poetry.

Another thing she does frequently is speak about Jesus as if He were standing next to her, whispering in her ear, and she uses phrases like "I heard God say..." followed by a quote. I don't like it when Christian authors

do this. 1) Even if you are intending to use this in a non-literal sense, when you say you heard God speak...well, it sounds like you are saying you heard Him audibly speak those exact words to you. I assumed Katie was speaking metaphorically, but I think it's a serious thing to claim to be speaking for God (which is what you are doing when you "quote" Him extra biblically), and I think Christians in general should take this a little more seriously. 2) The thing is, God HAS spoken to us, through Scripture, which should be sufficient for us. I don't like to see authors putting words in God's mouth.

Finally, there were a few cringe-y moments for me when Katie said things like "In the darkest night, I was having a love affair with Jesus" (pg. 121), "I had all but given up on any notion of romantic love in my life outside of my relationship with Jesus" (pg. 164). I've said it before, and I'll say it again, Jesus is God, the all-powerful Creator and Sustainer of the Universe - JESUS IS NOT YOUR BOYFRIEND. Yes, we are the COLLECTIVE, figurative bride of Christ, but to reduce His love for us individually to romantic terms is to diminish the greatness of the fact that God Himself chose to love us and die for us. His love is so much bigger and grander than the "Jesus is my boyfriend" love that Christian women authors often portray. It's just weird, and I wish Christian women would stop doing it.

There were a couple other little things, but I'll just stop there.

## Conclusion

Overall, I liked reading a little more of Katie's story, but her story was definitely buried beneath her own analyzing of biblical accounts and musings on her struggles. I think reading about her struggles and conclusions could be encouraging for a lot of Christians, so there is value in that. However, I'd just say to read with your discernment antenna up. This book is mostly grounded in her personal experiences, which like anyone's experiences, are fallible.

Note: I received a copy of this book for free from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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