



# The Amethyst Heart

*Penelope J. Stokes*

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## **The Amethyst Heart** Penelope J. Stokes

When she discovers her son has designs to sell her home out from under her, Miss Amethyst-ninety-three years old and as sharp as ever-isn't about to let her legacy go. She pins her hopes on her granddaughter, Little Am, a good-natured child who has mutated in her teenage years into something else altogether. Whatever it takes, Little Am will know that the Noble family heritage is worth fighting for.

## **The Amethyst Heart Details**

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# From Reader Review The Amethyst Heart for online ebook

## Nancee says

I had heard numerous wonderful comments about this book, and decided to check it out for myself. It's a well told story of family history, slavery, romance, and the threads that hold all of these themes together. I enjoyed the approach the author used in telling the protagonist's story to her teen-aged great-granddaughter by relating her family history through imagery. Believable and relatable, the issues and time frame were well drawn out, descriptive and factual.

I recommend this book to young adults as well as older readers because of the nature of the relationships portrayed throughout this family history. Trust, forgiveness and compassion are well portrayed through this eloquent story. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

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## Brittany says

At the library the other day my three year old daughter pulled this book off the shelf and brought it to me. She said it was a princess book for me to read. (The cover shows a girl in a long dress in front of a plantation house.) I decided to give it a shot even though I had no idea what it was about and was very pleasantly surprised. This was a wonderful book! I was very quickly pulled in by Amethyst's story and frankly had a hard time putting it down. The characters were strong and developed continually throughout the story. I usually don't read books about slavery or the civil rights movement because it is so sad and full of horrifying acts. This book, while dealing with these issues, focused more on the spiritual strength and faith the people had to have to carry them through those times. I thought the author did a wonderful job. This book is completely out of my usual reading genre, I'm more of a sci-fi/fantasy girl, but I thoroughly enjoyed it and will be looking into what else this author has to offer. Maybe I should let my daughter pick my books more often!

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## Cricket Muse says

Although much was predictable concerning the plot and characters, The Amethyst Heart did provide a thoughtful perspective on slavery and Jim Crow times through the family of Amethyst Noble as it covered the different generations.

It would do well as a Hallmark movie, especially the ending, which, surprisingly had me holding back tears. For that reason, I rate it a 3.5.

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## Stacy says

I've read a couple of other books by this author before, so when I saw this one on the "bargain" shelf at my local Christian bookstore, I picked it up. I didn't really know what it was about or what to expect. You can check at Amazon and read the blurb about the book, but suffice it to say, I really really liked it! I'd probably give it 4.5 out of 5, but chose 4 stars here with their rating system.

Perhaps one reason I really enjoyed this book is that it's set in (fictional) Cambridge, Mississippi. Now, if you're from my part of the country, you'll get a big kick out of that. Cambridge is a college town, with a university there that also has a law school. Funny, but we have a town in my state called Oxford, Mississippi that meets that description. It always gave me a little giggle when they called the town by name.

The book opens with 93 year old Amethyst Noble learning that her only son is in financial trouble and wants to move her into a nursing home and sell the family home. Amethyst ends up taking her great granddaughter "hostage" (the girl gets a kick out of her grandma acting eccentric and agrees to stay) and tells her son that she has a shotgun and is not going to be removed from her home. The story goes from there as Amethyst relays the story of her family, the Noble family, back to pre-Civil War times. She tells the story of her grandparents, Silas and Pearl, her parents and her own life to her great-granddaughter. It is a wonderful story and really swept me into it. It's about race relations, our country's history, all bound up into one family's struggle in the rural South in the 1800 and 1900's. There's wonderful examples of faith, love, nobility, loyalty, grace and forgiveness in this book, and there's even a little Scripture thrown in for good measure. My kind of book :)

I thoroughly enjoyed it and would recommend it if you enjoy a blend of Christian fiction, historical fiction and an interest in the racial issues in our country throughout history.

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### **C. says**

Excellent novel filled with rich history and vivid detail. Very well developed characters which I grew to care for, deeply. There were times when I laughed out loud and others where my heart was almost breaking.

I've read a few books by this author and they all were great, but I think this is the best one, so far.

This story really helps to put value where it belongs.

I can't decide which was my favorite character because there were several that I truly enjoyed. At first, I wasn't sure about Little Am, but she grew on me with her remarks. Ü

Silas Noble was someone to respect and admire.

Silvie was so sweet and loyal to her family and lifelong friend.

Of course, Amethyst was full of spunk, which I loved about her. She was so much more than a lady, mother and a friend to many. Amethyst was a woman of courage and learned to trust in God to see her through.

I'm sure I will be thinking about this story for a long time to come.

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### **Sandra says**

A wonderful story set in the Deep South, with several generations and their stories that Amethyst Noble tells as her ninety-nine years goes on. An arrogant son, and more interesting family members and towns people keep her on her toes as she remembers all the memories of the past that involves an amethyst brooch, several

of her grandmothers journals and the house she lives in. The story also is about slaves, plantations, and freedom. I really admire Amethyst and enjoyed reading this book.

From Amazon:

When she discovers her son has designs to sell her home out from under her, Miss Amethyst-ninety-three years old and as sharp as ever-isn't about to let her legacy go. She pins her hopes on her granddaughter, Little Am, a good-natured child who has mutated in her teenage years into something else altogether. Whatever it takes, Little Am will know that the Noble family heritage is worth fighting for.

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### **Diane Detweiler says**

Awesome story. Now I have a new author to follow!

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### **Sarah says**

I liked this book, a lot. I was just disappointed that it turned out to be a romance novel. (That is not the way that it was advertised). I think that there were six weddings in the book, but there may have been more. Over all I really liked the book. The majority of the book is set in the early 1900's in the deep south. Much of the book is about the fight for racial freedom. like I said, a good book, gripping story line, but more romance than I thought was necessary.

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### **Alisha says**

All-Time-Favorite!

Set in the 90s, an elderly woman sets out to save her home from her grandson. She ends up taking hostage her great-grand-daughter and begins to tell the story of when the house was first built by the elderly woman's great-grandfather. Jumping to the past, the story takes you through betrayal, unbreakable bonds, love that is beyond this world, and family both blood and not. The time is just before the civil war and travels through to the 90s.

I don't know how many times I have read this book, but it always amazes me the bonds that the characters have. The passion for life. I learned a great deal about my own life by reading about Amethyst's life.

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### **Megan says**

It's hard to write a novel covering 100 years of racism without inserting modern political correctness in it. And when it does slip in, the result is a book that is a bit too self righteous and preachy.

There were a few interesting characters in the book, but most of the characters were very unbelievable, one-dimensional, and not particularly likable.

I did enjoy the way that the generations of one family had rather "Forrest Gump" moments of being able to be acquainted with every important political leader from Abraham Lincoln to Martin Luther King.

Definitely fits in the genre of Christian fiction; very moral--similar in reading style and difficulty to a Nicholas Sparks novel.

I did find portions of the story captivating, and it kept me reading, but I've thought little about it since I finished it--it wasn't the kind of book that stuck with me.

I also had some questions about historical accuracy in the book. Would someone during slavery time really have said, "You've got my number" meaning, "you've figured me out?" When did that phrase come about? I assumed it had to do with phone numbers, or lotteries, neither of which would have helped coin the phrase before the civil war.

I don't want to dissuade others from reading the book. It's a fine, light read.

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### **Debra says**

I absolutely loved this book. Miss Amethyst is a 93 year old woman that owns an historic antebellum home that has been in her family for generations. Her son is trying to put her in an old folks home and sell it from under her to help cover his debts he has acquired through bad choices. She will have none of it, and she ends up taking her great-granddaughter "hostage" for a couple weeks. During this time she tells the story of her family over the generations.

The characters are so well developed, I felt as if I was part of the family. It's a beautiful story of love, faith, compassion and courage. I learned many lessons through reading this book, and it's one I would read again.

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### **Lisa says**

This book, by Penelope J Stokes, was apparently a "Crossing Book Club" entry at one time (per the book cover). (Is Crossings Book Club still in existence??) It was a quick read, entertaining, clean and very nicely God-focused without being "preachy". The story is about 5 generations of the Noble Family as told by 93 year old Amethyst Noble Wainwright Godwin to her great-granddaughter also named Amethyst and covers in a light weight manner history from slaves and the Emancipation Proclamation through the start of the Civil Rights era. I would definitely recommend this book!

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### **Rachel Piccorelli says**

I love historical fiction, and this book touches on some of the most major events in the past 100 years. Awesome read!

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### **Michelle says**

Miss Amethyst is 93, but still sharp as a tack. She figures out immediately that her son is up to something and wants to sell her house. On his return, she greets him with a polite refusal to let him back in and a gun. Her hopes lie with her great-granddaughter, who has come to stay and she begins to relay the family history to Little Am, who belies her punk-like look and is fascinated by hearing about the house and her family tree. We see the amethyst pin passed down and the variation in generations of the family, which seems to alternate between hard-working generations and those that struggle. In the meantime, her son decides to challenge her

mental fitness in court, but he may face a tougher battle than he expected.

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## **Leslie says**

Another wonderful book from Penelope Stokes. This one is mainly about a woman who lived to be almost 100, who loved and helped other people as best she could. She practiced the teachings of Jesus regardless of anyone's color and then later told her great-granddaughter about her life and instilled in her, her spiritual heritage.

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