



Unseen: The Gift of Being Hidden in a World That Loves to Be Noticed

Sara Hagerty, Jefferson and Alyssa Bethke (Foreword)

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Every heart longs to be seen and understood. Yet most of our lives is unwitnessed. We spend our days working, driving, parenting. We sometimes spend whole seasons feeling unnoticed and unappreciated. So how do we find contentment when we feel so hidden?

In *Unseen*, Sara Hagerty suggests that this is exactly what God intended. He is the only One who truly knows us. He is the only One who understands the value of the unseen in our lives. When this truth seeps into our souls, we realize that only when we hide ourselves in God can we give ourselves to others in true freedom—and know the joy of a deeper relationship with the God who sees us.

Our culture applauds what we can produce, what we can show, what we can upload to social media. Only when we give all of ourselves to God—unedited, abandoned, apparently wasteful in its lack of productivity—can we live out who God created us to be. As Hagerty writes, “Maybe my seemingly unproductive, looking-up-at-Him life produces awe among the angels.”

Through an eloquent exploration of both personal and biblical story, Hagerty calls us to offer every unseen minute of our lives to God. God is in the secret places of our lives that no one else witnesses. But we’ve not been relegated to these places. We’ve been invited.

We may be “wasting” ourselves in a hidden corner today: The cubicle on the fourth floor. The hospital bedside of an elderly parent. The laundry room. But these are the places God uses to meet us with a radical love. These are the places that produce the kind of unhinged love in us that gives everything at His feet, whether or not anyone else ever proclaims our name, whether or not anyone else ever sees.

God’s invitation is not just for a season or a day. It is the question of our lives: “When no one else applauds you, when it makes no sense, when you see no results—will you waste your love on Me?”

Unseen: The Gift of Being Hidden in a World That Loves to Be Noticed Details

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From Reader Review Unseen: The Gift of Being Hidden in a World That Loves to Be Noticed for online ebook

Christina DeVane says

This was a powerful book! So much truth in opening up my heart to listen only for God's voice. Seek Him in the quiet, mundane moments. Sit at His feet when no one else understands and I feel hidden, like I'm not impacting anyone around me. The heart can always grow regardless of circumstances. God wants to KNOW ME, and God wants to BE KNOWN. I will be reading this one again! ❤?

Sarah says

I can't stop thinking about "Unseen" by Sara Hagerty. This is a phenommal book! In a world where the focus is always centered on us, this book reminds us to find our focus and life on Him. It allows us to get back to find our way back to Him and that everything we do, He see's. A single moment in our life doesn't go unnoticed by our creator, which is pretty impressive to me. This book helps us a people to continue to realize that we don't long for a earthly home, but a heavenly home where we seek closeness and oneness with God, the way he created us for! Ultimately, I think this book is beautiful and reminds us of God's faithfulness, His promises and that He works everything together for His good! I want to thank Zondervan for providing me a complimentary copy. This book was amazing and I give it 5/5 stars. Unseen is another favorite book that I have read this summer!

Laurie says

We're drawn to where we come alive, to where our passion takes flight. To where we are known. We want to be with those who know us and remind us of what we like about ourselves. Those who invite us to consider our lives as much bigger than what our eyes can see.

Only the Lord can truly be that one who knows us and loves us that way.

Jessica Stone says

Wow! This book is one that is going to stick with me for a long while! At least I hope it will. Sara's last book, Every Bitter Thing Is Sweet, was a book that changed me. I have read it many times. This book has done the same and I'm pretty sure I will be starting over again very soon. Finding God in the hidden parts of your day, enjoying Him when no one is looking, asking Him what He thinks of me. So much goodness. God will definitely use this book to do great things in women's lives. Can't recommend it enough!

Ian says

This is one of those very special books that draw you closer to the Lord. As a result, you simply soak in every word as you read it slowly, pausing often to wonder and contemplate the glory of our King.

I've been reading Sara's words for a few years now and start each day with the adoration scriptures she curates for her peeps. Sara has this wonderful writing style that combines the everyday happenings of her world with the grace and love of Jesus that make this book captivating. Her words lead you to Jesus, to His wonder, love and glory. Sara invites us into her journey into the hiddenness of parenting 6 young kiddies, most of whom are adopted, where she finds Jesus in all she does and thinks. Sara's discovered how to "listen for His heart and His soft whisper in His Word" in the everyday unseen moments. She's found a friend. Who happens to be her Lord and Creator.

Sara weaves Mary of Bethany's testimony of a wasted life throughout her own journey. It's brilliantly done. Jesus told us Mary's story would be forever re-told and here we see it again used so powerfully to display what being a friend of Jesus looks like.

I found I had to read this slowly, a chapter at a time to savour the thoughts and reflect on my own relationship with Jesus. There were 2 particularly excellent chapters that I enjoyed immensely. Chapter 8 where Sara provides insights into the daily habits that have helped her friendship with Jesus and then the final chapter where she encourages us to experience such a friendship.

I received a PDF copy of the book from the author, well her husband in fact, with no expectation of a favourable review. However, I noticed my pre-ordered copy has now shipped and I'm expectantly waiting it so I can mark it up as I read through it for a second time.

This is one of those books that will be passed on and recommended and not just for the girls but also for the blokes who will benefit from reading it.

Christy says

This is a stunningly written book. It took me longer to read it than most books because I felt the need to take it all in slowly, to digest the words, to really appreciate the beautiful writing and intricate phrases. Sara Hagerty has a gift! This message is one that I think we can all relate to. We have all felt cast aside, rejected, out of sorts, or unseen. Sara's purpose of writing is to help us make the most of these times, to really see God in the midst of these circumstances. To be "hidden" by God may feel to us like a punishment, but it is really a place for us to see and experience God more clearly.

Julius McCarter says

Sara Hagerty's *Unseen: The Gift of Being Hidden in a World that Loves to be Noticed* is one of those rare books I can't put down and continue returning to even after I do. Struggling through her own personal spiritual experiences, Hagerty painstakingly confronts a peculiar moral dilemma when she questions her faith as to whether God who loves her when she serves him in full-time ministry work, still loves her when she is unseen and does not do anything for him.

With a clarity and poignancy that makes *Unseen* a real spiritual gift, Hagerty explores how God still loves us -- even when we're unnoticed by the rest of the world. It's an insight and truth that can break open the Christian life -- that can break open every life -- to the reckless abandon of the joy and love found in living for others that doesn't need to be noticed in order to be loved.

As her own heart breaks open in the midst of doubts and struggles, we find Hagerty being beckoned back to God, pursued by God, in love. This is a treasured account of what friendship with God looks like, when we discover that our very existence is predicated upon the love and kindness of a God who care for us without the strings attached.

Learn to ignore all the clamoring for attention in our world, and discover the simple truth of the Gospel: "Maybe my seemingly unproductive, looking-up-at-Him life produces awe among the angels".

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from the publisher through the BookLook Bloggers book review bloggers program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Caitlin Allen says

Unseen: The Gift of Being Hidden in a World That Loves to be Noticed by Sara Hagerty 5/5?

Thank you to Zondervan and NetGalley for the free review copy of this novel. All opinions in this blog are my own.

I have had this book for a few months and pushed off reading it because life happens, specifically school. I decided to pick this book up last week, but first I did some research on the author. I found a free reading guide that goes with this book on her website. It was a fantastic extra to have and work through while reading this book.

This book came during the perfect season for me. Sometimes, I want to be noticed. I want attention. This book helped me discover new things about my faith. It's easy to get caught up in the desires of the flesh, and this book helped give me a smack in the face. I liked how this book focused on Mary featured in John 12 - she's the woman who anointed Jesus's feet with the perfume.

Through every chapter, the story of Mary was explained in depth by using examples from Hagerty's own life. I enjoyed how this book continually linked back to scripture. At the end of every chapter, there were verses to look up. I like how some of these verses were used in multiple chapters and how more verses were added into what had already been read. I found the repetition of these verses helped me memorize and tuck them away for when I need them.

If you've ever felt like God isn't seeing you in your day-to-day life, or if you feel like you need the world to

see you to be important, please pick up this book. I can't wait to revisit the book and highlighted sections. It was definitely what my soul needed. Also, if you're struggling to find the perfect Christmas present for a woman in your life, I would highly suggest this book.

Claire Johnson says

I just love her. I admire her intimacy with Jesus and her vulnerability. Both of her books have moved me to fall more in love with my savior.

Paula Vince says

This book has a beautiful cover, matched with one of my favourite themes, the blessedness of being unseen. Sara Hagerty helps us develop a new way to approach being un-applauded, unnoticed and unrecognised. Instead of regarding it as falling short of our potential, she invites us to see that being hidden from sight is often the best place to be.

Hagerty starts off explaining how she was sucked into the trap of thinking the way society prompts us to. When a friend spotted her working in a gift shop, she felt embarrassed to be caught doing something with no scope for impact in her own opinion. Only when Hagerty stepped back to reconsider did she realise the hidden, personal growth she'd experienced in that place had been phenomenal. The quiet gift shop turned out to be the ideal hothouse to nurture her.

Our era reminds me of a garden in which every flower cranes forward for attention, notoriety and applause, and the fact that there are millions of them makes it seem crazy. Well, Hagerty reminds us that we feel this urge for light because God has made us with a desire to be seen and celebrated. We do like to hear our own names and enjoy the flush of satisfaction that follows a flash of attention. It reinforces that we matter in the grand scheme of things, so we needn't feel guilty. Trying to extinguish our desire for praise and recognition isn't the answer, because it isn't a bad thing. Where we err is most often in the direction we tend to look for praise and accolades.

Instead of craving the eyes, opinions and applause of other people, she suggests we simply remember to look to God instead, who knew us from the start, and His kind eye is always upon us. The switch of focus may be enough to relieve us instantly.

But to keep the garden analogy going, Hagerty's book makes it clear that we often tend the wrong plants. We carefully watch the growth of our reputations, success and achievements, and forget about nurturing a good heart - while this, in fact, is the only shoot that really matters. It's a great reminder that God doesn't look at things humans look at, and if we nurture loving hearts, well, that's all we really need to worry about.

Sara Hagerty offers frequent botanical analogies herself, urging us to shift our attention from our showy, leafy branches, where it's so easy to focus our attention, to our hidden roots instead. In other words, we could change the emphasis from our visible work for God to our secret, unseen life in Him. And she has a number of examples where this sort of thinking has played out in her own life, with her husband and several adopted children.

Overall, the book left me with the feeling that while some of us may be born to God's showpiece, others are born to be His secrets, and both are equally significant.

Thanks to Zondervan and NetGalley for my review copy.

For more book chat and reviews, visit my blog, <https://vincereview.blogspot.com.au/>

Monica says

In a world that is full of selfies and people clamoring to be both heard and seen, it is hard to feel like one who is noticed, let alone actually seen. In *Unseen* by Sara Hagerty, she shares how we are seen by God even when it feels like we are not seen by anyone else.

Unseen is Hagerty's intimate look at how God sees us and our productivity when we feel like we aren't doing anything valuable. We may feel we are wasting away somewhere but those may be the times we are reading His Word and drawing closer to Him. God wants to be our friend and to be friends we need to spend close time together. Weaving stories of her life and stories from Scripture, Hagerty shares how God sees us, how we can communicate with Him throughout the day, and how to hear His Voice more loudly among the sea of voices around us. Each chapter also invites readers to dig deeper into God's Word and read verses related to the chapter in a section called, *For Your Continued Pursuit*. I honestly felt encouraged to study more on my own and to continue to grow closer to the God who made me. In Hagerty's words, "I invite you to use these passages as starting points for hiding in God, for wasting time adoring Him, and for making His Word part of your everyday language." I especially liked this.

Unseen has touched me in some deep places. My weary soul has alternately sipped and gulped her words up. I could relate to so many of her feelings and stories even though my life is much different than hers. My word for this year is "Delight." *Unseen* reminded me that God delights in me and why I delight in Him. Hagerty refreshed my spirit that has been hidden in work and difficult challenges these past few years and I have soaked it all up. Hagerty's words to her daughter about Psalm 18:19 on pages 152-154 were also meant for me (and you) and I have read them and re-read them. Hagerty's gentle words, stories and sharing of Scripture felt like just the encouragement I needed but don't hear much right now. If you are looking to draw closer to God, be seen by Him and to hear His voice, I encourage you to read *Unseen*. Hagerty points us to Him throughout the book and helps the reader hunger for that *Unseen* time alone with God.

I received *Unseen* from the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review in exchange for this book.

Lori says

Really good! Definitely showed me a different lens on my relationship with God - more loving, more communion. I needed to hear this. I struggled a little that the examples and stories were so narrow (infertility, adoption, stay at home mom). I get that we write what we know, but it wasn't quite a memoir yet it didn't seem to make much of an effort to include others. Because of that, I would have a hard time recommending

this to a broad group of people, which is unfortunate since the message is widely applicable.

Julie Cannon says

I received this book as an advance reader copy and was so eager to dive in and get through it. Sara's last book, "Every Bitter Thing Is Sweet" has left an impact on me that few other books have. My goal was to get through it as fast as I could, but as I dove into the first chapter, it was evident that wouldn't be the case. This is not a book that I could devour and set aside. At the end of each chapter I was left challenged and with a heap of scripture that often leading me down a rabbit trail into the word of God.

In this book, Sara puts words to something that many, if not all of us are feeling, especially in the world where it is so easy to base our worth on likes and views and followers. What she is calling us to is a so much more, and most often times counterintuitive to our do and tell human nature and certainly to today's culture. She is suggesting where we may come to resent the unnoticed and misunderstood areas of our lives are the exact places where we can hide ourselves in Christ, and only then can experience true freedom. It is an invitation to dive so much deeper than the surface, to look so much farther than what our eyes can see, to really begin to find our worth in the One who created us. It is a journey that I believe will be deeply personal to each person, yet a place where we all have common ground.

What I love perhaps most about her writing is that she is a true co traveler. So much of what and how she writes comes from the deep parts of her soul and are born out of the experiences of her life, which as many of can relate, hasn't always works out just as we had planned. You can tell she writes words that she is living and it almost feels as if you are having a conversation over coffee. Her writing is poetic in many ways, yet still easy to consume, and it's a gift to the reader. In many ways, I don't feel my words review can do justice to the content of the book, so my urge is to grab yourself a copy and maybe even one for a friend or two. I certainly have and it will be one I give regularly. In a world where we have so many choices on how we spend our time, I assure you, this will not be wasted time!

Sarah Poling says

This book is a gift and treasure. It inspired me to live a life that is deeper in relationship with God. It's practical, engaging, full of scripture, and yet a book that draws you to stop, think, digest, and process the ideas given. I will re-read this book to soak in the ideas and even to remember how Sara Hagerty shares her poetic words of how she adores God til she knows it's true in her life!

Sara Hagerty shares her personal stories and connects the story of Mary's extravagant love poured out vulnerably at Jesus feet, to a lifestyle of seeking Him in all seasons, but especially in the hidden aspects of life.

Authors often become kindred spirits or mentors to the reader, and Sara Hagerty, is that for me. I adored her first book, Every Bitter Thing is Sweet when I discovered it several years ago, I love how she ends each chapter with scriptures for further review. And I'm half way through writing out the scriptures from Unseen in my journal, and processing small steps to see God more intimately and to fall in love more deeply with Him.

I can't wait for the Bible Study to be released that goes along side this book, and it will be free on the website www.sarahagerty.net/unseen. I'm going to need a whole series on my blog to share all the aspects of the book with the world, as it's a gem with so much richness, I'm inspired, encouraged, and learning how to have a fuller, hidden life with God, where I use the white space in my life to seek Him.

I'm blessed to be on the launch team for this book, inspired by the emphasis on praying for the book release, and the readers whose hands it will be placed in, that they would find God and fall more in love with Him this fall (or in the future). I certainly have, and I've preordered several copies as gifts for several friends who will find inspiration.

I'll end with a list of a few things I believe are possible for the readers of this book:

- *re-frame your life in God and before others by asking questions like: What does God think of this? and What does God think of me?
- *see a fresh revelation of the story of Mary at Bethany sitting at Jesus feet.
- *create a wonder hour to look at God more purposefully.
- *find your own rhythm to adore and pray more intimately with God (and it's done without guilt!)
- *love the Word of God more.
- *look at Who God is.
- *recognize how to practice God's love.
- *lean in to Him.
- *recognize you are seen by God alone (Psalm 139- woven together intimately).
- *develop deeper intimacy with God.
- *find that you can embrace living a life hidden before God, out of the limelight, but ever present to Him.

Miriam Jacob says

In her spiritually uplifting and deeply enlightening book, "Unseen", Sara Hagerty eloquently writes about the extraordinary gift of being unseen in a very noticeable world. Sara's heart longed to be seen and understood. Yet, sometimes she felt unwitnessed, unnoticed and unappreciated. Struggling through her own personal spiritual experiences, Sara painstakingly confronts a peculiar moral dilemma when she questions her faith as to whether God who loves her when she serves Him in full-time ministry work, still loves her when she is unseen and does not do anything for Him.

How can we find contentment when we are unseen and unknown, hidden away from the glaring eyes of the world? Sara patiently explains that God is the only One who truly knows us and understands the priceless value of the unseen in our lives. As this insightful truth seeps into our hearts and souls, we realize that being hidden away in God imbues us with true freedom, inspiring us to help others in joyous abandon. Only when we give ourselves wholeheartedly and unreservedly to God can we live out what God intended and who He created us to be. As Sara beautifully writes with the heart of a scribe, "Maybe my seemingly unproductive, looking-up-at-Him life produces awe among the angels."

Through a passionate exploration of her own personal life and the Holy Scriptures, Sara gives a crystal clear clarion call to us to offer all our unseen moments to God, in all the secret places of our lives, where God meets us with a radical love, the kind of unhinged love that surrenders everything at His feet. Unseen and hidden away in all our secret places, God invites us to share His life with this arresting question: "When no one else applauds you, when it makes no sense, when you see no results—will you waste your love on Me?"

As Sara struggles to come to terms with her doubts and fears, Christ weeps unseen for her and for a lost world that neither recognizes His presence nor cares about Him. As we lift up our faces to Him, dazzled by the radiance emanating from that most beautiful of countenances, He reaches out to us, smiling that most wondrous of smiles. Sara Hagerty heard His tender whisper, gently calling her to Him, through all the pain and loneliness of being unseen in a very noticeable world.

Each time Sara's desperate heart broke in despair with the agony of being unseen in a world she did not feel she belonged to, Christ sought her, reaching out to her lovingly and engulfed her in His warm embrace. Through pain and perplexity, Sara found intimacy with Jesus. When life stopped for her, God met her at her greatest point of need. His Word and His whisper took on new meaning to her in the darkness of despair. Sara found God in the most unlikely places.

In the hustle, bustle and shuffle of life, Sara's writings invitingly beckon us to God, who sees us, as we find our way back to Him. When we feel unnoticed and invisible, our hearts restlessly seeking to live in the fullness of life with Jesus, we feel His tender gaze upon us, the only one worth vying for. Sara's exquisite writing leads us to the heart of Christ. Her poignant vulnerability assures us that there is a divine purpose in everything we do. Absolutely nothing ever goes unnoticed by God who loves us and delights in us.

Sara gives us treasured glimpses into her precious friendship with God. She makes us want to spend time with Him; to find our ultimate sense of fulfilment in His approval, and be content in His presence alone. Through Sara's words, we hear His voice and see Him work His miracle of grace in our hearts. Sara's life points us to Him. 'Unseen' inspires our hearts with the sterling knowledge that the most fruitful and fulfilling service to God is well off the beaten path, right in the heart of his will. There is divine conviction and confirmation in this true-to-the-gospel book. Let it revive your faith in the most eternally beautiful way.

With profound wisdom and humble sincerity, Sara urges us to turn away from the noise of the world and delightfully waste time with God, pampering Him with our love. She gives us a priceless gift in "Unseen", inviting us to realize the very purpose of our existence, created and redeemed to become fully alive in God. With profound wisdom and humble sincerity, Sara urges us to turn away from the noise of the world and delightfully waste time with God, pampering Him with our love. "Unseen" gives us a priceless gift, inviting us to realize the very purpose of our existence, created and redeemed to become fully alive in God. Unseen is just the compass we need to chart us into safe waters. Sara reveals the hidden beauty of abiding in the unseen. In a world that is programmed to be seen, we come alive in the unseen. As the heart journeys into hiddenness, we are ushered into new-found identity and intimacy with God.

In "Unseen", Sara Hagerty reveals herself so vulnerably with a rare, winsome transparency. She teaches us to desire the praise of God and not the fleeting praise of man. As we are faithful to Jesus in all the hidden, secret places, Sara's inspiring words give us God's perspective and clarity of vision on the unseen worth of our daily lives. "Unseen" inspires us to be faithful, to see beauty around us and to rest in God's sweet love each new day.

Reaching deep down into our hearts, Sara inspires us to ignore the clamoring world and surge into the sacred space of His sanctuary, to hear His voice alone, in quietness and confidence. We are safe and secure in the palm of His hand, hidden in His gaze. In this exquisite book, Sara skillfully combines the art of storytelling with the Gospel. Jesus wants us to live life with Him, not just for Him. When we enjoy the affection of Christ, we do not crave the applause of man.

Hidden away, unseen by the world, Sara gazed into the father-heart of God, who loves her more than life itself. Sara glimpsed His glory and felt His unconditional love for her flowing freely into her heart. Who was

God when she was alone, unseen and had nothing to give Him? This ultimate, soul-searching question guided Sara to a quiet place where she met God and tasted His goodness. This book will set the world on fire for God. I recommend it to every person who wishes to know the unseen beauty of a life hidden in God.
