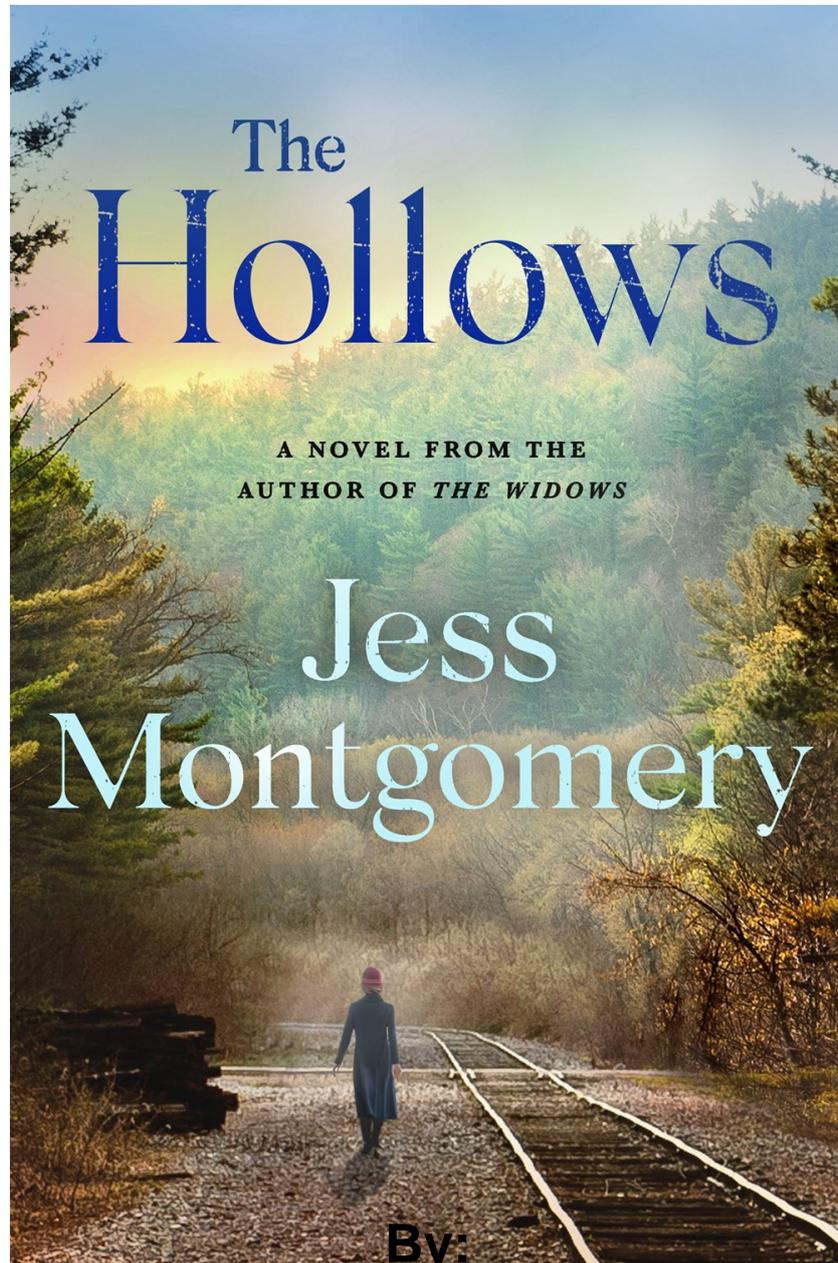


The Hollows Book PDF Download



By:
Jess Montgomery

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What people Say:

James

The Hollows is the 2nd book in the Kinship series by Jess Montgomery. I previously read the first book in this historical / mystery fiction series and enjoyed it a lot. I had to read the second one, and it definitely was equally as strong. The series revolves around Lily Ross, a woman who becomes the sheriff of a small Ohio county when her husband is murdered. In the last book, chapters alternate between Lily and Marvena, the former sheriff's girlfriend, who has become Lily's confidante and

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Montgomery has merged two of my favorite genres together in this series. The setting takes place in the late 1920s, and I enjoy immersing myself in a culture from nearly one-hundred years ago. In the prologue, an elderly woman runs through a wooded area and arrives at The Hollows, where a train is about to pass by. A few chapters later, we learn the woman's body is found on the side of the tracks after being hit by the train. Was she murdered? An accidental fall? Or suicide? Lily is called to the scene, but no one knows anything about her. She came from a nearby county, but because the death was in Lily's territory, she's responsible. As the case unfolds, connections to her own friends and family emerge... all the while, Lily's fighting to keep her seat as sheriff in the official county election.

What I love about these books is how the author quickly transports you to history. As I read along in my head, I have a rhythm which is different from when I read a cozy mystery, a thriller, or contemporary fiction. My inner voice acclimates to the writing style, slow and methodical, descriptive and gentle, almost simple and casual. I mean this fully as a compliment, as that was what life would've been like in this time period. Yes, people had it difficult and suffered tremendously, but the rush to get to work or respond to a phone call or meet someone to chat wasn't like today. When Lily wants to discuss the case with Marvena, it's several hours journey by horse and carriage to get to her part of town. But I adore the entire series of events to get there.

The mystery is strong. I liked seeing the connections to the women's version of the KKK during this period. I had no idea it existed, nonetheless in the 1920s. Prohibition apparently made it re-surge (or become more widely known). As much as women were prejudiced against, there were strong voices, and some of them were just as evil and nasty as the men of their time (in terms of their hatred of African Americans, Native Americans, etc.). I liked seeing the balance of how women were

portrayed because amidst the injustice, there were moments of power and strength. It wasn't just a sad story about lack of equal rights but one where readers could hear exactly what they tried to do to become more equal. This applies to any of the groups being victimized at the time, not just women. The author does an exquisite job of balancing all the necessary facts and truths of the period.

On a few occasions, I thought the book got a little too descriptive and/or left out some information I would've liked to know. As an example, the asylum was prominent for several chapters, but in a scene where someone researched patient care, it felt rushed. I didn't get to connect as much as I had in other areas of the book. All minor stuff, as it doesn't at all stop me from recommending this series. It's a great alternative to modern crime fiction or mysteries, and I definitely plan to keep this one in my rotation. I can't wait for the next book to come out.

Book Review

The perfect blend of history and Mystery this is the second book in Jess Montgomery's Kinship series based on The real first female sheriff of Ohio. While I thought this worked just fine as a standalone, I also would have liked a little more of the characters backstory that I am sure is given in the first book. 1926 Ohio Lily is called to the scene of an elderly woman having dropped onto the train tracks from above and then been hit by the oncoming train. No identification, no shoes, no idea if

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historical events such as the underground railroad and the WKKK something I had no previous knowledge of. An absorbing Mystery, captivating characters, enthralling history. This book checked all the boxes, and I am eager to see what is next in store for Lily.

This book in emojis. 🏠—• 🏠›⌘ 🏠☒²

*** Big thank you to Minotaur for my gifted copy of this book. All opinions are my own. ***

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DJ Sakata

Favorite Quotes:

Since her husband's death, Lily has found that the absences of ordinary, predictable sounds Daniel shaving in the washroom, Daniel humming, Daniel sitting on the edge of their bed to pull on his boots and then clunking his feet on the floor are more noticeable than the sounds themselves ever were.

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Marvena's hand shakes as she points to something on the floor. A hooded cape, sewn from rough white cotton. The pointed hood has buttonholes to attach a face covering, with slits cut for eyes. Lily recoils, more startled by this than by the snake from moments ago.

Lily's gaze hardens as she looks up at Abe, the tallest man she's ever met, and so slender it's hard to imagine he takes any joy in eating his exaggerated Adam's apple as still as a stone lodged in his throat, his chin and jawline shaved so smoothly as to suggest that even stubble is too scared to brush his face.

You're sad, Lily. It's been more than a year, the length of time people give for mourning, but there's no clock running on sorrow.

My Review:

Mackenzie - PhDiva Books

I remember when Jess Montgomery's first book in this series *The Widows* came out and the book world was abuzz with praise for it. I missed out when it was first published, but that led me to the amazing opportunity to read not only *The Widows*, but the sequel which was just published this month, *The Hollows* back-to-back. All of the pain of waiting for more from the series was washed away, and I pretty much dropped everything to read them.

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I have to say the praise was well-earned! Jess Montgomery writes a mystery that had my mind so engaged, trying to work through the pieces. With a slight edge of myth and lore, *The Hollows* is already primed to be a favorite book of mine in 2020, and it's only January!

The appeal of *The Hollows* (and its predecessor *The Widows*) is the complexity of the story and the characters. In every way that thrillers can feel larger than life, this book shines in how subtle and authentic the mystery felt. In fact, I could have imagined this to be based on a true story (and in part, it is, I learned after reading it!). The books in the Kinship, Ohio series are based on the real first female sheriff from the 1920s in Appalachia, Ohio.

Lily Ross is a widow and mother to two young children when she was appointed to fill the role of

sheriff after her husband (the current sheriff) died. When Lily later goes on to be officially elected as sheriff based on her own merit, history was made. But Lily is a character who shows all of the authenticity, vulnerability, and even strength that a woman (or even a person) in her position would face. She's doing her best to hold her life together for her town and for her two small children.

When an elderly woman dies in a fall near the railroad tracks, Lily quickly finds that they town wants her to declare the death accidental. Lily isn't so sure though. It doesn't quite add up, the notion that a woman could vanish and no one would know they were missing. But as she looks into the death, she discovers a troubling link to the Ku Klux Klan in a house the woman had been in the night that she died.

When Lily discovers the identity of the woman and that she had escaped from the Hollows Asylum for the Insane, as well as discovering her past ties to the murder of her own father and her testimony that helped convict an escaped slave for committing the crime, she realizes this case is much more complicated than it seems.

The historical setting of small town Ohio combined with the town's roots in racial tension and conflict was such a rich context for this mystery. I loved the town lore, and the talk of ghost stories. The way the town searched for mystical explanations to explain away the troubling truth of the rotten core that threatened their community. These all led to an atmospheric quality to the story that I couldn't quite dismiss. Do I believe in ghosts? Let's just say I don't NOT believe in them!

There's almost a delicateness to this series that is hard to explain. The themes of racism and a community threatening to boil over if disrupted are powerful, but the writing itself and the story is so carefully woven, it felt like an entirely different reading experience than the typical mystery. The women were powerful in this town, as evidenced by the incredible things Lily has done and has yet to accomplish. But there is an evil to some of the town and some of the history of the community that even the strongest among them feel diminished by.

Nursebookie

The Hollows is the second book of the Kinship Historical Mystery Series and great as a standalone book. This is my first Jess Montgomery book and she has quickly become one of my favorite authors.

The series is based on real life events and focused on a 1920s female sheriff in Appalachia. As the sheriff, Lily Ross is called to investigate the mysterious death of an elderly woman in the remote district called Moonvale Tunnel. Lily is assisted by her deputy sheriffs Hildy and Marvena, as their

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As a fan of Historical Fiction reads, I found this to be an amazing well researched story. Montgomery's writing is vivid, that will take you back with her writing style that captures the rich details of the life and people of the Appalachians in the 1920's.

The book besides being a great mystery novel is more than that; it also covered some of our country's dark and blemished history, addressing issues of racism with the feature of the women's KKK, the sexism that occurs being a female in power, the coal mines, as well as, the prohibition.

I enjoyed reading about the believable characters and the immersive experience I felt reading this book. I highly recommend this book for an unforgettable read.