



## Searching for You

*Jody Hedlund*

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Despite years on the run, Sophie Neumann is determined to care for two young children. She won't abandon them the way she thinks her older sisters abandoned her. But times are growing desperate, and when she falls in with the wrong crowd and witnesses a crime, she realizes fleeing 1850s New York is her only option.

Disappearing with her two young charges into a group of orphans heading west by train, Sophie hopes to find safety and a happy life. When the train stops in Illinois for the first placement of orphans, Sophie faces the most difficult choice of her life.

Reinhold Weiss has finally purchased his own small farm. With mounting debts, a harvest to bring in, and past scars that haunt him, he's in no position to give his heart away . . . but can he say no when his long-lost friend shows up on a nearby train pleading for his help?

## Searching for You Details

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Author : Jody Hedlund

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# From Reader Review Searching for You for online ebook

## Beth Erin says

Full review and favorite quotes on FaithfullyBookish.com

Searching for You is a gripping story of love, want, and need. Life's choices aren't always one way or another, the path is winding and the way difficult to discern without nurturing guidance. Despite her youthful naivete, I admire Sophie's gumption and determination to do what (she thinks) is best for them all. Reinhold is one of the good guys without a doubt. He's not perfect but he acknowledges that fact and then punishes himself for it, bless his heart.

Friends, family, and affection take center stage in this thrilling conclusion to the Orphan Train series. Hedlund brings this time period to life from the dark metropolitan alleys to the wide-open Midwestern farmlands. I highly recommend this book and its sisters and they are all at home on my all-time favorites shelf!

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher and was under no obligation to post a review. The opinions expressed are my own.

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## Staci says

Satisfying conclusion to the Orphan Train Series. Youngest Neumann sister Sophie has struggled for two years to take care of herself and the two young children she has cared for since their mother passed away.

There were many endearing characters in the novel: Euphemia Duff, Jakob and Reinhold Weiss to name a few. I loved the author's note at the end which shared why she included what she did in the series content.

Another wonderful series by the talented Jody Hedlund.

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## Lori says

I really enjoyed this book.

Jody is an exceptional writer. Her writing has a way of making you feel like you're in the story with the characters and feel what they are feeling.

I admire Sophie for trying to do right by Nicholas and Olivia.

Everyone has dirty laundry and Sophie is no different. She's stubborn and strong and always wants to everything all on her own! Wow! Watching her change was a real treat.

I really admired her for that reason alone because she finally did what was right.

Reinhold is a favorite too. He has demons from his past that he needed to deal with and I really admired him and also enjoyed watching him change.

I guess what im trying to say is that we can't do it alone.

I feel that without Jesus I am nothing! My life would certainly feel very empty. People need the Lord. I just wish they'd open their eyes and look to Him.

Grace is offered through Jesus.

Euphemia is certainly a blessing . I loved the way that the Lord was using her. She's definitely my favorite person. I wished my mom was more like her.

I will be looking forward to reading more from this author

I strongly recommend this book and I received a copy from Netgalley. All opinions are my own

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### **Beth says**

Finally getting to know Sophie in Searching for You was a delight. Forced to grow up much too soon, yet still lacking in a certain maturity, her character goes through tremendous growth throughout the story. Her previous decisions were those of a desperate girl and her change from that desperate girl to competent young adult is my favorite aspect of the novel. And, oh, Reinhold, how I just wanted good things for him. His character really tugged at my heart, and he deserved all of the good things that his hard work was beginning to give him. Despite his flaws, and probably because of them, he is an endearing character.

The plot line is entertaining and well-paced. Emotional upheaval as well as physical danger come into play, sometimes of the characters' own making – but isn't that just like us, to get ourselves into a predicament, then pray God will help us out of our self-made problem? Another thing I love about the story is how it displays so well allowing God to mold our life instead of trying to push it into a form that it was never meant to fit. For Sophie, and to an extent, Reinhold, things turn out much differently than what they had been fighting toward at the beginning of the story. Coming to terms with new paths and the loss that comes with are both poignant and propelling elements of the story. It was also lovely to see Elise and Marianne again at this story's end.

I'm a bit sad that this series has come to an end. It's been such a joy to anticipate and read each book in the series, and I don't know that I can pick a favorite between the three novels. However, I'm always eager to see what Jody Hedlund has for her readers next and already looking forward to her next release. Although I do think this story would be enjoyable as a standalone, personally, I recommend reading these in order, as the overall story build with each sister.

I received an advanced copy of this novel from the publisher, and a positive review was not required. This review is my honest opinion.

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### **Amy says**

This series has been as educational as it has been entertaining. I had never heard of the Orphan Trains or the huge amounts of Children that were relocated and placed with rural families in the 'west'. Jody Hedlund has done an amazing job with each of the 3 books (and the intro novella) - detailing every angle from the perspectives of all involved.

In this final book we get to see this from the eyes of those being placed, albeit from Sophie's situation, and she's not quite child. But we do get an eye opener into what had to be done to survive then - and we get to see the direction her life took after she disappeared from her sisters lives. Elise & Marianne are both settled, and perhaps a little unrealistically to wealthy men. How will Sophie react once she learns this information, she is harboring a lot of anxiety about seeing them, and perhaps the perceived judgement she thinks they will

put on her. This story brings us back again to ever constant Reinhold Weiss, who we've seen in both previous stories. He's finally making his own way in Illinois and desperate to bring his sisters to his home. As the orphan train arrives in Mayfield again he never would have guessed who it would bring and how it would change his life.

This story has a little more realistic feel to it - with us seeing life through those that had to work hard for what they had back then. The balance between the good and the bad, and as difficult as it was to read, I'm glad Hedlund had us deal with the issues of those who were not good foster parents. Poor judgement, bad treatment, abuse. Then there is the Duffs, what a lovely family. They made a great addition as important secondary characters. I'm normally not a fan of too much over analyzing of ones self and why you can't step out and do that which we all know would bring happiness, but I kind of felt this time that both Reinhold and Sophie's self reflections, were a good way to develop the pace of the relationship. The ending was a little rushed for me.

Beautiful series that I've started collecting in paperback, which means its a winner.

Thanks to Netgalley for the eARC. This is my honest review.

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### **Brittany says**

What a wonderful story and a beautiful wrap up to the Orphan Train series. I have read every book in this series, including the prequel novella, yet I believe that Searching for You could be read and enjoyed by someone who had not read the other books that precede it.

These two main characters were ones that I really connected with and longed for them to receive their happily-ever-afters. Sophie made some mistakes in judgment through the years, doing what she could to provide for two orphaned children that she loved as if she was their own mother. Her journey was quite a trying one.

I was so happy to see things begin to work out for Reinhold, and to watch him grow to understand that he was not the same as his father. He was actually a very kind man, who cared deeply. I loved the way Sophie and Reinhold ended up thrown together in this story and the way it all played out!

I received a complimentary copy of this book. All opinions are my own.

You can read this review on my blog:  
<https://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.c...>

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### **Trisha Robertson (Joy of Reading) says**

I have been looking forward to reading Sophie's story. It wasn't easy to wait, but oh so very worth it! Jody Hedlund takes readers on a heartfelt journey through the pages of this book. I felt like I was right in the story with the characters. My heart broke for Sophie and cheered for her breakthroughs and successes!

Even at her young age, Sophie had a mother's heart and a deep love for the two children, Nicholas and Olivia, that were left in her care. She made some very tough choices and sacrificed much to ensure that

Nicholas and Olivia were safe and that they had someone to love them. Sophie carried with her a big hurt and misunderstanding. She often blamed God for the hardships she has faced, and her feelings of being abandoned by God. Sophie grows a lot during this story and it was a beautiful thing to be a part of!

At its core, this story takes a deep, soul-searching look at the inadequacies that we all feel in ourselves at one point or another. Through the eyes of the characters, we can learn that the inadequacies are lies. We need to know who we are in God and trust in His plan for our lives.

One of my favorite lines from this story reminds us that, "Sometimes God allows us to sink down in our own misery until we reach a low place where we're finally ready to look up and reach out for Him."

Searching for You is a story that you will want for your "keeper" shelf. A story that you will want to pull out and read again. There is so much to love about this story! Multifaceted characters, a deep, heart-warming plot, with page-turning delights. Start to finish, this story wove itself around my heart!

(I received a copy of this book from the author/publisher in exchange for my honest opinion. I am not required to write a positive review. My thoughts and opinions are my own.)

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## **Andi says**

Series books and I have a love/hate relationship. I love series because the story continues from one book to the next, and we get a more intimate look at each character. However, like with Searching for You, the series must come to an end, which this reader is not a fan of.

The more and more I review the harder and harder it is to put the emotions the story evokes into words.

I've been looking forward to Sophie's story since reading Together Forever, and Miss Hedlund does not disappoint with her final installment of this series.

This quote "Sometimes God allows us to sink down in our own misery until we reach a low place where we're finally ready to look up and reach out for Him." is the theme of the story.

Sophie struggles with her situation, lack of control, and her inability to fix the circumstances that both Nicholas and Olivia are in. Through these struggles Ms. Hedlund places the reader smack in the middle of all that is going on which makes them feel like they are experiencing everything the characters are.

The research that Ms. Hedlund puts into this story is evident with her care to the true story of orphan trains. Reinhold is a swoony hero. Not only is he handsome, he is a man of integrity, and his care, devotion, and concern for Sophie and the children is just what you want a hero to be. Sophie is a spitfire which is one of the many qualities I enjoy in a heroine.

Overall this is a great finale to a wonderful series. You can read this as a stand alone, however I recommend you read the entire series from beginning to end so you can enjoy the series more fully.

I highly recommend this book!

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book via the publisher as a member of a street team. I was not required to write a review. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

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## Dana Michael says

Reinhold Weiss!! Swoon!! He has to be one of the most awesome heroes I have read this year. He was a hard working young man who was so disciplined and dogmatic in his work but he was so gentle and loving too.. A man of integrity. And, oh so handsome. I am obviously in love with Reinhold, but I also loved kind hearted and devoted Sophie. She was determined to make a good life and help her two charges who were orphans. This book was a book with historical details of the orphan train. It gave the reader insights as to how it was back then for orphans. It was also about marriage of convenience. Which I happen to love. I highly recommend it. This was the third book in the series, but could be read as a stand alone. It would be best to read them in order though, in my opinion.

\*I was given a copy of this book by the publisher. This is my honest opinion.

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## Joleen says

*Searching for You* by **Jody Hedlund**

*Genre:* Christian Fiction/Romance

*Format:* Kindle

*Timeframe:* 1859

*Location:* Mayfield, IL

Main Characters:

*Sophie Neumann:* 18 year old runaway immigrant

*Reinhold Weiss:* Immigrant now farmer

*Jakob Weiss:* Reinhold's younger brother

*Barclay, Euphemia and five nearly grown boys:* Reinhold's good neighbors

*Olivia and Nicholas:* Two orphans Sophie took in as her own 2 years ago

*Anna:* Sophie's friend from New York, also orphan

A teenager and orphaned, Sophie ran away from her sisters two years ago, taking with her the two orphaned toddlers who were in her care, whom she loved as family. She learned to be a street kid, doing whatever she could to feed and shelter the children, Olivia and Nicholas.

Two years later Sophie and her friend Anna were in trouble because of a street gang they'd become a part of. Pretending to be sixteen they took the orphan train to the mid-west with the children to start a new life somewhere far enough away from New York.

There, against her better judgment, but with no choice in the matter, Olivia and Nicholas were separated from her by an adopting couple. Sophie was taken in by kind and generous Irish immigrants, Barclay and Euphemia Duff, who with 5 sons, needed household help from an "older" orphan girl.

Things didn't turn out the way Sophie had imagined. She had spent all this time avoiding her sisters who had new lives of their own. Now faces from the past came into her present. Reinhold and Jakob Weiss, who had been like brothers to her in New York, have their own farm not far from her host family. The last thing she wanted was for them to inform her sisters of her whereabouts.

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This was a great story, but had far too much sexual tension for my taste. On top of that, through all the emotional issues, prayer wasn't considered — just controlling and avoidance, kissing and pushing away, wanting and resistance. It was just a bit much. Without all that it would have been great - just the already good story, plus bringing God into it. There could still be tension, but without all the touching and manipulations. Near the end God became a consideration for the two main characters, but by then it just didn't seem organic.

Other than that it was good.

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### **Becca-Rae Weidel says**

The book fog is real y'all...WOW! I have loved this series right from the very beginning. Jody Hedlund knows how to suck a reader in deep! The heartache, the hope, the faith, the endurance, the ability to rise above from the broken pieces--this is a series that will stay with you long after you've turned the last page. As Jody shares a bit in her Author's Notes at the end of each piece, her research of the orphan trains and the Children's Aid Society is impeccable. She takes readers on a journey deep into the trenches of what life was like for orphans running the streets of NYC in the mid 1800's and how the orphan trains changed their lives--for better or worse.

It didn't take long in the story to see just how low Sophie's life had ended up. My heart quickly broke for her. Life had taught her that it was easier to expect the worst in life so that she wouldn't be disappointed in hoping for better. She had come to a point where even the concept of good things happening for her were unfathomable. Despite her love for little Olivia and Nicholas, her heart no longer believed she could be loved herself. She felt like she was a throw-away. This story didn't give her a quick and easy happy ending--it slowly provided opportunities for her heart to mend and grow. As a reader your emotions will rise and fall with each bump in the road she hits as well. Sophie is one character you won't soon forget.

Another character I quickly grew to love was Euphemia. Have you ever happened to run into just the right person to give you just the right wisdom and encouragement at a needed time in your life? This was Euphemia for Sophie. She loved Sophie when she felt unlovable. She spoke truth into her life where Satan had torn her down. She provided her with means to give her a jump start in life instead of complaining over her own losses. She shared her own story to inspire Sophie to hope for more. She was truly a remarkable woman.

A piece that was interesting to me in the story was the fact that Sophie and her friend Anna lied about their ages in order to be able to join the orphan train with Olivia and Nicholas. It wouldn't happen in today's world with all of the different forms of identity we carry, but it made me wonder how often things like that would occur. I myself am in my early thirties, but every now and then I still hear people ask if I'm still a teenager. I was 24 (yes, 24!) the last time I was asked if I wanted a kid's menu. As a young adult I was constantly met with people wondering "who I belonged to." Would young adults struggling to survive in the city pose as younger children to board the trains and hope for a better life? This thought honestly has me curious.

Although I love Reinhold's character, I have to admit this book felt a bit like "third time's the charm" for him. I love his character and his relationship with Sophie, but I wish there wasn't complicated history with her sisters. I loved that he was able to understand her better because of their childhood history together, and in a way he wrestled with the same feelings of inadequacy as Sophie did. Together they really were perfect for each other. I just wish he wasn't someone desired for her sisters in the other books.

This was truly an incredible series. I feel as if I'm in mourning over the fact that it has come to an end. I would highly recommend this series to historical fiction fans. Each of the books should be read in order as



they are all connected and I wouldn't consider them stand-alones. I highly suggest you take the time to read them-- you won't be disappointed!

\*I received a complimentary copy of this book from the author through NetGalley. Thoughts and opinions expressed are mine alone.

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## **Susan says**

Ah! Wonderful end to this series.

Jody Hedlund has given us a wonderful series about the women and children that were part of the orphan train emigration in 1859. Her research is impeccable, laying a solid foundation as she masterfully crafts the final heart-stirring story in this series. Each book can be read as a stand-alone, as it follows three sisters in the 1850's, each sister having her own story. What I liked about this book is that it told the story from the perspective of the orphans that were placed in the homes in the Midwest at this time. Hedlund shows both positive and negative results from these placements.

Separated from her sisters by a series of unfortunate circumstances and misunderstandings, Sophie has been on the run for two years. In *Sophie*, Ms. Hedlund has given the reader a spunky heroine. We find that she has survived much hardship, willing to sacrifice for the two young orphan children she has grown to love. I think I liked Sophie's story the best. She was the youngest of the three sisters. Some of the decisions she made initially were decisions of a young girl, not an adult, who had to survive. As she matures, she is filled with the burden of guilt, thinking herself unworthy. Reinhold Weiss is a fabulous hero. In *Reinhold and Sophie*, Hedlund gives us flawed characters that are searching for hope. They realize that God can create something beautiful out of their brokenness. Hedlund is a master at weaving a spiritual thread effortlessly throughout her stories.

A couple of my favorite quotes:

"No matter how lost you feel at times, always keep His light burning inside you."

"He never treats us as our sin deserves."

"Sometimes God allows us to sink down in our own misery until we reach a low place where we're finally ready to look up and reach out for Him."

"We're human. We break things. It's what we do with the brokenness that counts."

I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book which I received from the author/publisher. I was not required to write a review. All opinions expressed are my own.

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## **Dawn says**

I loved this conclusion to the Orphan Train series! I loved seeing how Sophie struggled and how she overcame her obstacles.

This series has probably been one of my favorite series that Jody Hedlund has written. Her books always have depth to them.

I received a copy from the publisher in order to help promote it. My thoughts and opinions are my own.

Rating - 5 stars.

Recommended to fans of Jody Hedlund, Karen Witemeyer, orphan trains

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### **Clara says**

Perfect end to the series <3

Reinhold's happy ending has been long coming and well deserved. Not to mention Sophie's and all the mystery surrounding her.

Both need healing, but, most of all, to come to a stand of surrender. To embrace the new life despite any past mistake, rooted in grace and love through which life flourishes.

Something that I have absolutely loved in this series is how Jody Hedlund creates space for growth. Though not uncommon during their time period, the characters have to make some decisions quite young. I loved how the author was able to show the maturity with which they take up these responsibilities while also allowing insecurity and naive mistakes to be shown and worked on.

I was sad to say goodbye to these characters, though very excited to see that Jody has next :)

\*many thanks to the publisher for providing a review copy; this is my honest review.

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### **Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says**

While it took me a bit to get used to Sophie grown up, the concluding story of the Orphan Train series sucked me in just like the previous novels and immersed me in the period. I loved how protective Sophie is of Olivia and Nicholas and devoted to keeping them together. She doesn't have many choices or resources, but she's scrappy and has made a life for them, however destitute. I've always been fascinated by the history of the orphan trains, and this book was different than the others in the series since Sophie plays the role of an orphan and also sacrifices for Olivia and Nicholas the way a mother would. I loved seeing Reinhold get the farm he worked so hard for and the relationship he built with his neighbors. He and Sophie are drawn to each other not only because of their past history as family friends, but the powerful attraction that springs up and fills the book with romantic tension. I loved their chemistry and the way they cared for each other! The plans they make to try and get Olivia and Nicholas back bring them even closer together, but also brings a vulnerability into their relationship dynamic. The themes of abandonment, guilt, and forgiveness brought depth and I was glued to the pages as I read, and loved the way the characters and story came to life.

(I received a complimentary copy of the book; all opinions in this review are my own)

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