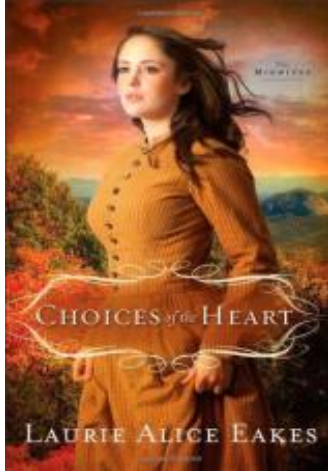


# Choices of the Heart: The Midwives, Book 3

by Laurie Alice Eakes

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## About the Book

Esther Cherrett comes from a proud line of midwives and was trained by her mother to take over the family calling. When a terrible scandal threatens all she holds dear, Esther flees, taking a position as a teacher in the wild western mountains of Virginia. But instead of the refuge she was seeking, Esther finds herself in the midst of a deadly family feud --- and courted by two men on opposite sides of the conflict. All she wants is to run away again.

In this gripping story of trust, deception and bittersweet loss, you'll discover the true meaning of choices of the heart.

## Discussion Guide

1. At the beginning of the story, Esther leaves home without telling her parents where she is going. How would you feel if your son or daughter took this drastic step?
2. Though Esther thinks her actions are justified, how do you think she might have managed her need to leave in a less harsh way?
3. Why do you think Bethann wants to convince Griff that Zach is the person who attacked him?
4. If Esther is trying to leave her past behind her, why does she reach out to Hannah and Bethann when they have medical needs? What would you have done in a similar situation?
5. How does Griff first break his vow to Zach about leaving Esther for Zach to court? What do you think of making vows and the consequences of doing so?

6. How can Esther reconcile her need to be a good example of feminine conduct with her desire to disguise her beauty?
7. What do you think Esther is truly running away from?
8. How could Griff have embraced his love for Esther and still honor his vow to keep peace between the two families? Do you think perhaps he would have had to either give up Esther or give up his vow? Which commitment do you think is most important, and why?
9. What do you think Griff could have done differently to keep his sister from taking the course of action that she chose for her life?
10. Who is the true villain of the story, and why? How could this person or these persons have been redeemed?

## Author Bio

Laurie Alice Eakes is the author of *LADY IN THE MIST*, *HEART'S SAFE PASSAGE*, *A NECESSARY DECEPTION*, *A FLIGHT OF FANCY* and several other novels. She won a National Readers Choice Award for Best Regency in 2007 for *FAMILY GUARDIAN*. Laurie Alice writes full-time from her home in Texas, where she lives with her husband and sundry dogs and cats.

## Critical Praise

?The gifted Laurie Alice Eakes has done it again with a page-turner romance straight out of the Hatfield and McCoy feud. The wonderful period detail sucked me into 1840s Appalachia, while the realistic characters and tender romance kept me reading late into the night.?

? Linda Goodnight, Carol and Rita Award-winning author

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