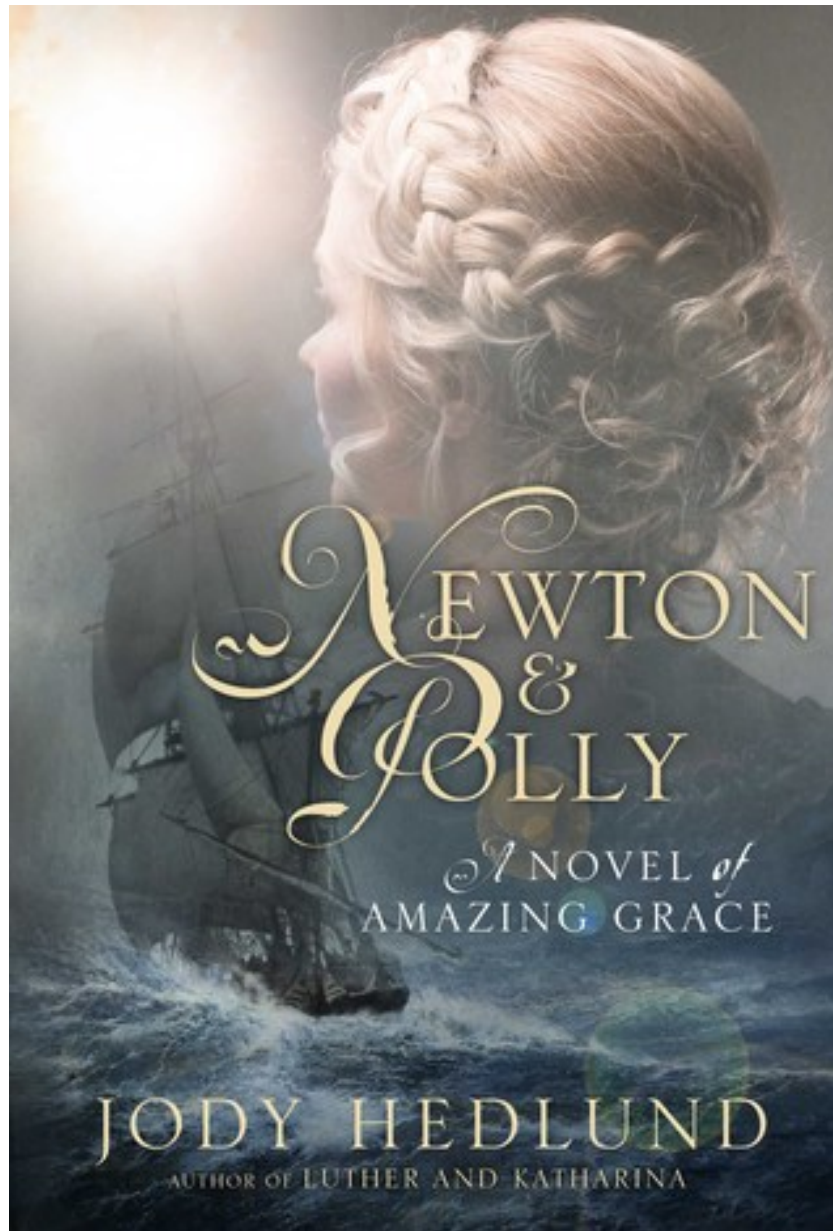


# Newton and Polly: A Novel of Amazing Grace Book PDF Download



**By:**  
**Jody Hedlund**

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## What people Say:

### Beth

Every time I hold a new Jody Hedlund novel in my hands, my reader heart is just alive with anticipation, and I admit, a bit of trepidation â€“ how, oh how could this new story possibly be as good as the one before? And every time even my tiniest worry is unfounded. Newton and Polly is an utterly absorbing story that captivated me with superb historical setting and details, as well as a love that came to life. The plot flows effortlessly, the characters endear themselves so quickly, and the emotion

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My favorite reading experience, particularly with historical fiction, is one that keeps me engrossed in the story, while also making me feel like Iâ€™m learning new information. I loved all of the details about the smuggling activities â€“ especially those who opposed it â€“ as well as Johnâ€™s time spent on ships. The details about sailing and what it took to for such large vessels to travel were fascinating to experience through Johnâ€™s story.

Johnâ€™s character transformation is one of the best of any character that Iâ€™ve read this year. In the beginning, readers only see his potential and feel the same disappointment as Polly at the decisions that he makes. Pollyâ€™s reeling emotions are keenly felt, as is the shock at the turn of events in Johnâ€™s life â€“ events that came about through no oneâ€™s fault but his own. Though doubt and despair soon take over Johnâ€™s life, the story is never without hope. Pollyâ€™s character â€“ much like I imagine how she was for John in real life â€“ is the beacon that carries hope throughout the story. Their romance is heartfelt, but never overpowers the plot or character arcs. John comes to realize that no womanâ€™s love can keep his despair at bay, nor provide the answers that he denies that he needs for so long. In a compelling journey of grace and mercy, Johnâ€™s perspective soon changes from self-seeking to seeking God â€“ Polly being the one who planted the seeds of Godâ€™s love and mercy in John's heart before that journey ever began.

One thing I have come to adore about Jodyâ€™s writing is how she highlights women of history who may otherwise be overlooked or overshadowed by the famous men they loved. In this story, Polly Catlettâ€™s life as a young woman is brought into focus, and although itâ€™s fiction, Jody is respectful of the true events in history. Few liberties were taken with these details, and I appreciate

Jody's effort to stay accurate to what is known about Polly Catlett and John Newton. She also stays true to the unsavory details of the time, of which there were many, and I'm so glad that she chooses not to change or sugarcoat anything for the sake of making things more comfortable or easy for her characters. Jody creates a plausible, realistic story for them, keeping many important details of the beginning of their relationship for authenticity. Through Jody's story, I can entirely see how the travails of his life before he found God to provide the impetus for penning a song with as much power and emotion as "Amazing Grace."

Fans of Jody will no doubt be captivated with Newton and Polly, and readers new to her books will find a gem of a story. Highly recommended for readers of historical, romantic, sweeping stories.

I received a complimentary copy from the publisher. This review is my honest opinion.

## Jamie

Internet. Let me tell you. I mean this when I say, this is Jody Hedlund's best. With such a powerful and incredible story of redemption, you can't help but be changed by this story. "All there are so many truths I was reminded of while reading this; that God is always at work, that He can make the seemingly impossible happen and that He is faithful. And as a bonus? It's an incredible true love story. I never knew about John Newton's wife and I agree when Jody said, this is a story people need

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First internet, you need to know that Jody knows how to research and research well. On top of that, she is able to weave said research into a novel without becoming a history text book (although, history nerd here would still read it ;). I learned so much!

I also thought the balance of describing the depths of depravity John experienced and took part in

were done without overwhelming the reader. Details of the slave trade and John's actions are important for the reader to know, but it wasn't to a point where the reader would have to put the book down.

With that, the story of John's redemption is even more powerful. It reminded me that no one, no matter what they have done, is beyond the redemptive and powerful hand of Jesus. Stories of the prodigal get me every time and after reading this, I'm encouraged not to give up the fight on praying for those who have turned away or have yet to experience the saving grace of Jesus. If the Lord can change someone like Newton, He can change the people I'm longing for to experience Jesus.

I love a story that draws you in and captivates your heart. I wonder what Mr. Newton and Polly would think, that hundreds of years later, their story was still impacting people's lives? I don't know if they would be so shocked though "not after all they experienced with God working in their lives!

What's one of your favorite hymns?

Also, there's a really encouraging campaign for people to share their Amazing Grace Moments. If you'd like to join, you can find all the details here!

(I received a copy of the book in exchange for my honest review)

Originally posted at:

## **Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower)**

My heart is so full right now. So full, in fact, some of it is spilling out of my eyes in the form of tears even as I sit here and try to figure out how I can possibly write a review worthy of the beauty of Newton & Polly. The truth is, I simply won't be able to do it justice.

Captivating. Emotional. Beautiful. Poignant. Redemptive. Romantic.

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Captivating. Emotional. Beautiful. Poignant. Redemptive. Romantic.

Hedlund has a gift for bringing history to life on the pages of a novel, and in my opinion Newton & Polly is the best example yet. This is a story to savor, to linger over, to fully absorb. Yet, at the same time I found myself unable to put it down unless out of dire necessity and then only briefly. John Newton and Polly Catlett both leaped off the page at me right from the beginning, and I experienced the story through their eyes and emotions. I winced when Newton was beaten (the first timeâ€ the tenth time), and I felt my heart pitter-patter along with Pollyâ€™s as she fell in love. I laughed with them. I cried with them â€ and for them. And I must confess to â€ing with a big grin over one kiss in particular.

Bottom Line: Rich with history and romance, even richer with grace, Newton & Polly is not to be missed! You will laugh and smile and swoon, to be sure, but you will also find your throat thick with tears more than once â€ sometimes at the tragedies that sin bestows, other times at the exquisite beauty of such amazing grace. One thing I know for sure: You will never again sing Newtonâ€™s most familiar hymn without feeling a surge of thankfulness for Godâ€™s redemption of an undeserving wretch and for the way He used Polly Catlett to introduce Newton to the sweet sound of grace.

(I received a copy of this book in exchange for only my honest review.)

See my full review at

## Staci

What a beautiful story of true love, patience and character change.

In typical fashion, I didn't read the book summary and had no knowledge of John Newton's story prior to beginning the novel. I was rather shocked by John's behavior at points in the novel. Fortunately, beneath all that rough and tumble and poor decision making was a man in love with one woman and willing to do anything to win her favor. Even more importantly is that John ultimately gave himself over to God (surely this is no spo

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one woman and willing to do anything to win her favor. Even more importantly is that John ultimately gave himself over to God (surely this is no spoiler folks - the man wrote Amazing Grace).

The best part of the novel was the final 25-30 pages. Simply delightful conclusion.

As always, I enjoyed Jody's author notes at the end. She is so good at sharing what in her novels are factual and what is fabricated.

I am fully loving her "historical" novels and hope she will continue writing them. While Newton and Polly has not surpassed my favorite Hedlund novel, Luther and Katharina, it is my second favorite. It's a beautiful novel full of lessons and history to be learned. I highly recommend it for fans of historical fiction.

## Brittany

History came to life for me in this deeply moving novel based on the story of John Newton and his true love, Polly Catlett! It was hard to watch as John made so many decisions that caused emotional pain to himself, to Polly, and even to his father. However, at the end of the book, it was clear to see how God was working through this man's life to turn him into someone who would honor both God and Polly.

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Newton and Polly's romance was magnetic and captivating! I could definitely understand why John was so hesitant to leave Polly for voyages that would take years to return from. It was also interesting to see how both of them had to grow, not only in how they loved each other, but also in understanding about who God is and what grace he provides for us.



Newton and Polly was such a joy to read and I highly recommend it.

I received a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

You can read this review on my blog at: