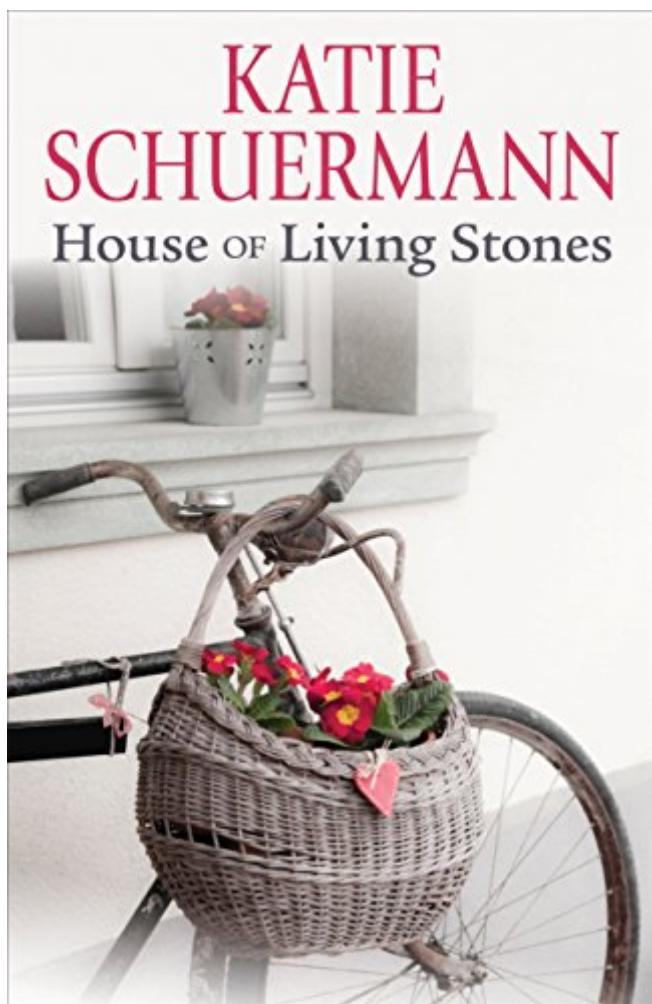


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# House Of Living Stones



## **Synopsis**

In the small Illinois town of Bradbury, change doesn't come often, and it certainly doesn't come easily. So when Pastor Fletcher hires Emily Duke as the new choir director at Zion Lutheran Church, he unknowingly sets in motion a chain of events that turns the life of his congregation upside down. The crusty church secretary, Mrs. Scheinberg, must learn to adjust her curmudgeonly ways. Zion's talented but pompous organist, Evan Ebner, must recognize his shortcomings. Emily must come to terms with her past. Even Pastor Fletcher must face reality when his world is shaken by the baggage Emily brings and by the handsome Zachary Brandt who pursues her. With its host of lovable and relatable characters, *House of Living Stones* will find a special place on your bookshelf and in your heart.

## **Book Information**

File Size: 1436 KB

Print Length: 352 pages

Publisher: Concordia Publishing House (October 13, 2014)

Publication Date: October 13, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00OGW5JYU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #153,249 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #4 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Music > Songbooks & Chorale Music #23 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects > Protestantism > Lutheran #48 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Religious & Inspirational Fiction > Christian > Classics & Allegories

## **Customer Reviews**

It is said that laughter is the only aerobic exercise your liver gets. My liver got a work-out today.

Katie Schuermann has written a Mitford-esque laugh-out-loud novel that kept me in stitches. She

doesn't just set out to write a funny book, other emotions enter into the plot as well: surprise, pain, friendship, and a tiny bit of romance. House of Living Stones had several deep biblical truths woven into the story as well. Protagonists Pastor Michael Fletcher and Dr. Emily Duke have quite a year ahead of them from the very first moment you open the book. When Emily wants to use Latin anthems in the service, the accompanist up and quits. When Arlene Scheinberg makes one too many typos in the bulletin, Geraldine wants to take over. When Candice Bradbury gets it into her mind that Emily is living a lie, she stops at nothing to reveal Emily's duplicity. When that backfires and Candice ends up with egg on her face, she decides Emily needs a suitor. Blind dates, forged love letters, and a myriad of underhanded tricks are just a few of the items in Candice's repertoire; and those tricks blaze a trail for Emily that just may lead her out of town. This is more than a small town tome, like Mitford... This is a family with all kinds of warts and blemishes that makes the readers feel good about their own families. Some of the more hysterical parts are the bulletin bloopers, definitely, but what had me holding my side, laughing out loud, was when Lois's husband, Don, came to choir practice and passed a bit of flatulence. The choir is immediately dismissed, but the choir members who stay behind start quipping with puns that leave the members howling with laughter: "Who sounded his pipes?" "His number 2 stop is stuck.

Witty. Charming. Real. That's what I want in a good fabulous book of fiction. I want the characters to be honest and people with whom I can identify. You'll find Pride and Prejudice and Anne of Green Gables on my bookshelves, along with other classics. It's getting harder and harder to find new fiction that fits the bill. Enter House of Living Stones by Katie Schuermann. From the first words to the last ones, Schuermann delivers. She not only tells you about each character, she really tells you WHO these characters are. The descriptions make them real and people that might truly be in your neighborhood and church. The character descriptions are spot-on. They are arrogant and humble, matchmakers and match-breakers, sinners and saints, and so much more. I felt like I really knew the characters. Having grown up as a pastor's kid, I was privy to lots of church activities. Schuermann hits the mark when writing about the choir and the dynamics of the group. The secretary becomes unforgettable, not only for her bulletin bloopers, but for her style and somewhat surprising compassion for her neighbor. Relationships are introduced, and the reader is eager to see what trials and triumphs await those involved. The story revolves around the church family, and one can identify the marks of the Church within the story. Word and Sacrament are evident in the book. Confession and Absolution are given. Sinners and saints abound. I think Schuermann's writing is so refreshing because it is open. People's true emotions are

revealed, and there is no glossing over the pain and sorrow that people endure. The reader is able to identify with the conflicts in the story, even if they are not always resolved in the way we would like.

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