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The Lucky Few: Finding God's Best In The Most Unlikely Places



Synopsis

These are the faces that call me “mom,” the three children who made me a mother. When I started my journey into parenthood I never thought it would look like this. I never planned on having three adopted children, and I certainly never imagined that two of them would have Down syndrome. But like most of the things God does, once we stepped into the craziness and confusion of the unknown and unplanned, we quickly realized that we were indeed among the lucky few.

When my husband and I decided to grow our family ten years ago, we were surprised to find that getting pregnant was not as easy as we had thought it would be. And as we navigated the ups and downs of infertility, God led us down the path of adoption. Of course, we would adopt! Not what we had originally planned, but certainly a wonderful option. But just as we began to get a comfortable grasp on growing our family through adoption, God introduced us to Macyn Hope, a very sick little girl with Down syndrome who desperately needed a family. As we continued to follow God’s calling, first with Macyn, and later with Truly and then August, we found ourselves further and further from the comfortable paths we thought our lives would take, and instead moving down some very scary, and often painful roads.

Even though at times His plan seemed terrifying and even downright foolish, little could we have known how much goodness, blessing, and joy would flow out of loving these three little people He’s put into our lives. No, it’s not been easy: not the open-heart surgeries or the challenges of raising two children with Down syndrome or the complexities of dealing with birth-families or the struggles we’ve had with the public education system. But through it all, every new and uncomfortable situation has only proven to be another chance to see how very good God’s plan is for our lives and how downright lucky we are to be able to live it out.

It’s only the lucky few that recognize that the most beautiful things in this life are often found in the differences. What some would see as misfortune, I’ve learned to see as nothing more than pure luck.

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Customer Reviews

A page turner. A hope giver. A life changer. Lucky are those who read these pages---their hearts will explode with the joy that we all truly get to be the luckiest of all. (Ann Voskamp, author of the New York Times bestsellers *The Broken Way* and *One Thousand Gifts*) I absolutely love this book. I love Heather Avis dearly, and her warmth and passion and fierce love come through on every page. This is a story about adoption, about family, about special needs . . . and really, more than anything, it's a story about faith. I'm so incredibly inspired by the way Heather listens to God's voice, and as I put down this book, I prayed for more of that kind of faith in my own life. (Shauna Niequist, author of *Savor* and *Present Over Perfect*) If you've ever felt overwhelmed by the task before you, you will find a companion in this book. This book details the incredible adventure of the Avis family as they face some of life's greatest challenges and turn them into beautiful opportunities. It gives each of us hope in our own journey full of insurmountable odds. (Donald Miller, New York Times bestselling author of *Blue Like Jazz* and *Scary Close*) Heather is a modern-day superwoman goddess warrior with a heart that is brave and true. She doesn't pretend parenting is easy or that she hasn't faced darkness and been broken many times over. But she is honest. She chooses to risk every time. She chooses love every time, and even in the face of great struggle, she has said yes and jumped. Heather's face showed up for me the moment I was crumbling. I was scared for our daughter, and her words breathed hope right into my trembling soul. This book will make your heart and arms open wide. It may cause your family to grow in numbers or move you to hold close the babies you have---plus ugly cry. It may cause all these things. This book is a testament to the power of a mother's love. (Lisa Gungor, songwriter, musician, and other half of musical collective "Gungor") When I first met Heather Avis, I was drawn to her family's story because we share a love for foster care and adoption. But *The Lucky Few* is

about so much more. Heather shows us what it means to seek after the heart of God, and she inspires us to do the same. You'll want to buy this book for everyone you know. (Andy Stanley, communicator, author, and pastor) What started as a social hashtag has turned into a movement for the way we look at our lives. In *The Lucky Few*, Heather Avis shares a story that is honest, raw, hopeful, and deeply inspiring. May we all see the world---and its people---through this beautiful lens. (Rachel Hollis, author and lifestyle expert (TheChicSite.com)) Heather Avis is a guide for all of us "lucky few" walking in the wilderness. She reveals the exquisite beauty always hiding within the brokenness, the promise that in the darkness God is up to something bright and colorful. Joy is always waiting in the paths we would never choose for ourselves. As I read it, I felt like I was sitting with a good friend over coffee, letting her remind me all over again to notice God's grace right here in the middle of my own story. (Micha Boyett, author of *Found: A Story of Questions, Grace, and Everyday Prayer*) With profound honesty, Heather Avis describes the bold journey she and Josh took into the world of Down syndrome and adoption---a journey where "joy and sorrow are so perfectly interwoven." The *Lucky Few* is a story filled with metaphors of hope: beauty shaped from the shards of broken dreams, stars of light bursting through darkness, fragile heartbeats filling the lonely silence. But beneath the hopeful metaphors are the hard, daily choices to trust God with life-threatening surgeries, with unexpected birth families, with overwhelming feelings of inadequacy, with moments when bravery feels remarkably like "wanting to puke." I intended to scan this book quickly, but couldn't. I had to read slowly, in part because the story was so utterly captivating, but equally because God was using Heather's words to challenge me to be braver, to be more willing to step into the unknown, to be more prayerful and trusting. Thank you, Heather (and amazing husband, Josh!) for living and sharing *The Lucky Few*. (Lynne Hybels, advocate for global engagement, Willow Creek Community Church, and author of *Nice Girls Don't Change the World*) This is a beautiful and honest story about coming to grips with God's best for your life---especially when society's expectations clash with your reality. God's grace in finding perfect children for Heather and Josh Avis and growing in them the courage to become the parents these children need is witness to all of us looking for divine clarity in the midst of seemingly confusing and sometimes devastating circumstances. (Mark Reddy, president of The JUSTICE Conference) *The Lucky Few* is a book about the deep-into-deep kind of love we have as parents, a love with power over fear. Heather Avis's voice is a beaming light that infuses me with courage, not because she herself is braver than the rest of us, but because she shows us in this beautiful story that we must put down our expectations and ridiculous bootstrap mentalities, so we can open

ourselves to the intimate love God has for us. This book is a beacon for anyone who thinks she can't do the very thing she must. (Amber C. Haines, author of *Wild in the Hollow: On Chasing Desire and Finding the Broken Way Home*) Heather Avis is an inspiration as a mom and as a woman. If I didn't know her personally, I would wonder if the grace pouring through her words was authentic. But she is the real deal, and her story of love makes me want to be a better mother and a better person. (Laura Tremaine, writer and podcaster) Oftentimes we see people do courageous acts, like adopt children with special needs, and we assume they are fearless heroes. Heather shows us that courage is actually birthed out of fear and disappointment. You will see yourself in her story and will be inspired to move through your own fears and disappointments in order to live a more courageous life. (Jessica Honegger, founder of Noonday Collection) *The Lucky Few* is a beautiful and compelling story about the transformation of fear into hope. As you read about the Avis's journey, you'll be inspired to imitate their courageous surrender to the life-changing invitation of Jesus. (Mike Erre, host of the VOXPodcast and team leader at VOX Christian Community) Heather Avis's words and story exemplify one of the hardest but most beautiful truths in motherhood---that you cannot predict the path on which it will lead you, but if you show up wholeheartedly, willing to be stretched by love, the greatest joy you've ever known is guaranteed to light the way. I'm inspired to stir up more areas of "comfortable noes" in my life and see, as Heather has beautifully shown us, how life expands into more grace and joy with a simple yes. (Kelle Hampton, author of the New York Times bestselling memoir *Bloom*) *The Lucky Few* gives a glimpse into the remarkableness of one couple who choose a terrifying yes over an uncomfortable no---over and over again. It is an honest and vulnerable account of determination, not only to see God's promises come to pass, but also to seek his best for those whom society so often overlooks. Heather's story calls our attention to the image of God in every person and provides another lens through which to view the world and each person we encounter. By the end, you will see why the Avis family truly are the lucky few---and you just may end up wanting to join their crew as well! (Vickie Reddy, executive producer of The JUSTICE Conference)

Heather is the founder of the hit Instagram account @macymakesmyday, which is enjoyed by and inspires people from all walks of life from every corner of the world. Heather is a wife to her loving and supportive husband Josh, and mother to Macyn, Truly, and August. They live in Southern California.

This has really been a joy to read. A look inside the heart of a woman adopting children who are not perfect in the normal sense but were perfect for this family. Their faith in Christ helped them make choices that both drew them and terrified them. A very real look at a family that has learned love and growth in ways many of us would avoid if we could. Thank goodness for families like this! It would be interesting to see inside the husband's heart a little more.

At a time when our culture does not have any regard for life especially the poor helpless unborn this book comes at no better time. It focuses on the value of every little being, in spite of their defects. They are still God's creation with a soul and it is through the kindness of people like the Avises that inspires us and opens our hearts and lives to these beautiful children in any state of "being special" and race. It sends a clear and true message that we all have a purpose in this life and we are given opportunities everyday, in strange ways only God is capable of, to do good. We just have to be sensitive and pay attention. Thank you for this book, Heather, and sharing your extraordinary life with these beautiful children. God bless you and your husband. Continue to be the best parents...you are so lucky, indeed.

I read this book because my daughter bought it on Kindle and asked me to. I was engrossed from the first chapter. This book will stretch you and challenge you, but also give you hope. I love the way she lives life keeping her eyes on Jesus and praising and thanking Him along the way.

I started reading this last night. Oh. My. Goodness. So far I cannot put it down. So full of truth, vulnerability, love. Although I am not finished with the book yet, Heather's words have already blessed my life! Definitely a tear jerker for me, too! So so good. 5 star!

Such a touching and challenging story! I couldn't put this book down. Loved the perspective Heather has toward those with Down syndrome--THEY are blessings, and SHE is lucky to have adopted two babies with DS. Wow--I hope and pray this perspective catches on as more and more people read her story. You will absolutely fall in love with her sweet family. I follow them on Instagram and all her kids are so talented, funny, adorable, wonderful. Thank you for writing this!

This book is an amazing and *real* glimpse into one perspective of adopting. Such a heart warming and yet vulnerable and honest stopped off one couple's journey to a family. As an in-process adoptive parent (even though our adoption is international), I thoroughly enjoyed this book! Couldn't

put it down!

An amazing journey told through Heather's graceful words. This book is for anyone...young, old, single, married, parents, friends, grandparents. It will help you to understand the world around you.

I have always had a heart for adoption and have planned on it since before I was even married. I love how raw Heather is with the truth about adoption, the negative and positive. Especially when adopting a child with Down Syndrome. It has helped prepare me when my husband and I take the next step to grow our family. Looking forward to that joy..and Lord willing, part of the lucky few! :)

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