



A Plain Man

Mary Ellis

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Bestselling author Mary Ellis offers an engaging new standalone Amish romance about a prodigal seeking to find his way home.

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Josie Yoder was just a girl when he left. All grown up now, she gives Caleb hope for the future. She soothes his frayed temper and is determined to remind him that while his faith may have wavered, God never left his side. Caleb is tempted to return Josie's feelings, but the choices he made while away are a heavy burden on his conscience. Will past mistakes end up destroying their fledgling romance? Or will she be able to break through the wall around his heart?

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A Plain Man Details

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Author : Mary Ellis

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From Reader Review A Plain Man for online ebook

Rhonda says

"Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace.....Caleb slouched down against a post. 'Plenty at first, when I had wheels and a good job. But money management didn't turn out to be my strong suit.' His friend's confusion only seemed to deepen. Caleb didn't know how much to reveal about his past. Could he admit he'd hung out in bars until closing time and bought drinks for people he'd never met before? Should he talk about sleeping with women who were little more than acquaintances? How about the fact that he'd attended church only once during his entire time in Cleveland?".....

Caleb turned to the Englisch world for several years but he has returned to his Amish family and desires nothing more than to live an upright life and marry Josie. His father doesn't trust that he won't return to the Englisch world. I have long believed that the Amish forgive and forget a person's sins if they have not joined the Amish church yet, but Caleb's father gives him a very hard time. This book is full of love and forgiveness. We all need a heavy dose of that in our lives. This is a 5 star work of Amish fiction. I have certainly had my share of mistakes and long for forgiveness for those mistakes. I could feel the emotional pain of the characters as I read. I was left with a feeling of hope and renewal when I read the last line of this book.

I was given a kindle version of this book from netgalley in exchange for my honest review.

Lyn says

Sweet & Wholesome

A wholesome love story that follows the path of an Amish family. Insightful into the tribulations all families face and how with God's help love and relationships can be restored. Well written with in-depth characters. Rocky challenges are faced and friendships are built while the romances blossom. Enjoy! NetGalley and Harvest House Publishers provided an advanced review copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Nanette Littlestone says

I was intrigued by the cover of A Plain Man by Mary Ellis. A straw hat and suspenders, a woman in a short white cap hanging clothes on a clothesline. These were not the makings of the world I know. And as I delved into the pages of the book, I was soon introduced to the Amish. The author paints a picture of Caleb Beachy, a man—not a boy—struggling to reconcile his past experiences with the rules and regulations of his Amish world, a world where he was raised and loved, a world he turned his back on for five years. Anyone who has left home, for whatever reason, knows how difficult it can be to patch the gaps. Caleb's reconciliation comes with turmoil and yearnings. In the midst of this daily strain fall the sibling rivalries of his sisters, the constant war to understand his father, the gentle love and encouragement of his mother, and the beginnings of romantic interest with an Amish woman, Josie Yoder.

Five years in the outside world has taught Caleb enough to be an insidious thorn to his father. Can Caleb let go of his past and embrace his Amish future? Will it be enough to resort to the simple ways of his birth and family? Can he love and respect an Amish woman and not yearn for the lavish, intoxicating ways of city

life? These questions form the focus of this book. I loved the author's use of German to paint the dichotomy between the Englisch and the Amish. The simple daed and mamm and fraa evoked such a presence that, mixed with the lovely descriptions of farming life, told me so much about this culture. That lifestyle, coupled with the ongoing tension of Caleb's unresolved dilemmas, made for a very enjoyable story.

This was first foray into Mary Ellis's writing. I look forward to reading many more of her books.

I received this book from the Goodreads contest in exchange for an honest review.

Tamera Lynn Kraft says

I feel I need to make a disclaimer. I've never read an Amish book before. I wasn't really interested because I like books with adventure, and I assumed an Amish novel wouldn't keep my attention. But when I was asked to read this Amish novel and I saw it was a retelling of the Prodigal Son, I decided to give it a try. I love stories that use the Prodigal Son theme of redemption. So I started reading it without high expectations.

I don't know if this is a typical Amish novel or if others would hold my attention as well. I only know that I could not put *A Plain Man* down. I loved the characters and gained a greater understanding of the Amish culture. My favorite parts were the underlying themes of redemption and forgiveness.

I loved how the author didn't make it easy for Caleb to return to the Amish society, but instead showed the difficulties he would have faced. He wrestled with guilt from his past as well as changing his mentality back to Amish way. His father dealt with fear of accepting his return because he was afraid his son might leave again. When Caleb had romance in his life, he dealt with trust since he violated trust so easily. There are so many subplots and nuances to the story.

I loved this novel. It's been awhile since a novel touched me the way this one did. Even for those resisting Amish fiction, I highly recommend it.

Pat says

Caleb Beachy has come back home after 5 years of trying to be English. Can he go back to being Amish? Will his father ever trust him again? Can he win back his first love?

Cheri Swalwell says

Any book I've read by Mary Ellis makes me stop and think while enjoying a wonderful storyline and feeling like I want to be friends with the characters she has created. *A Plain Man* surpassed the rest of her stories by drawing me in and I found I didn't want to leave as I turned the last page.

Not only was the storyline terrific but the subtle lessons she offered on grace and forgiveness left me

thinking deeply about not only my own life but how I can extend grace to others around me. I was especially moved by Elizabeth's speech to her husband - reminding him that even though he is the Bishop, he needs to think less about what others in the community will think about him and more about the very personal needs of his first-born son.

I love how Ms. Ellis has a gift of crafting four-dimensional people on a piece of paper. There are no cookie cutter characters in her books. She is able to write in such a way that you love each and every one of them for different reasons. They are all so unique and attractive in their own way. She makes them come alive on the page to where I imagine I can reach out and physically touch them. I can't tell you who I fell in love with more - Caleb with his soul searching, Josie for her love of life, Sarah for her kindness, Adam for his self-consciousness, or Elizabeth for her love of family and womanly wisdom. Ms. Ellis has a gift even with the characters who are harder to love, such as Eli, Rebekah, and John. She is able to show a blend of vulnerability and humanness despite the words that they spoke.

As I said before, I love all of Ms. Ellis' work but this book touched me deeply. She was able to accurately demonstrate the struggle I can only imagine an Amish man would feel when transitioning back into his culture after having been exposed to the English world, a position most Amish people would never put themselves in or can relate to.

I can't wait to read Ms. Ellis' next book. To have her gift of weaving a story with characters so real I want to be their friends is genuinely a blessing. I've already been spreading the word that this is a book for your must-read pile.

J.C. Morrows says

Recently I read Mary Ellis's Civil War romance "The Quaker and the Rebel" and was immediately hooked on Civil War romances!

If I were not already a fan of Amish fiction, "A Plain Man" would make me one. It's no wonder Mary Ellis is such a popular author!

WOW!

Mary Ellis is one of those authors that simply refuses to take the easy way – she refuses to steer clear of touchy subjects, instead meeting them head-on with wit and wisdom – showing us God's love in a world very much in need of it!

She refuses to write simple characters, instead presenting us with REAL people – with flaws and weaknesses and real, true emotion!

And she refuses to give us an easy course, instead showing that the way of life is not always easy. Sometimes we stumble, sometimes we fall – but God is always there to pick us back up!

AMAZING!

Now, of course, I'm determined to go hunt down every single book she's written so I can read and enjoy them all!

Some authors are content to tell a story – Mary Ellis will make you experience... **EVERYTHING!**

Don't miss this book! And don't miss her others either! Her Amish fiction is JUST as wonderful as her Civil War fiction! I know it seems a little backward that I would say it that way since she wrote Amish first... but to be fair, I started with the Civil War so...

I received this book free in exchange for an honest review.

Dora Hiers says

Let me preface this review by confessing that I don't typically choose to read Amish romances. If it weren't for the publisher mailing me a review copy, I would have skipped over *A Plain Man*. But receiving books through the mail is like opening a gift, meant to be savored and enjoyed. So that's what I did.

For me, the book started a bit slow because it took so long to meet the main characters, and I thought Caleb acted a bit immature through his father, Eli's, eyes, which was probably the author's intention. Eventually, I warmed to the characters and enjoyed the story: a man embarks on a journey to discover who he is emotionally and spiritually.

After living in the English world for five years, Caleb Beachy finally returned home to his Amish family. At twenty-four, he struggles with the restrictions of the Amish world and his overbearing father, who's also the district's bishop. With a floundering faith, he's unable to forgive himself for the worldly things he did while on rumschpinge. Even the budding relationship with sweet Josie Yoder does little to keep him from feeling suspended between two worlds, never quite belonging to either.

At least, he used to be spirited. Now he just seemed sad.

What was it like to not fit in anywhere? ~Josie, musing on Caleb.

A Plain Man is a story of finding oneself. It's about maintaining difficult relationships within our family and our community because we're all on this journey together. It's about forgiveness, and trusting that God's love is enough to cover the dark stains in our life, no matter how deep or how painful or how awful we think they are. When Caleb stopped focusing on himself and began to bless others, he discovered who he was and found his place in his community. I wouldn't pick up *A Plain Man* for the romance, but I would definitely read it again for the journey.

Disclaimer: Sending a big thank you to the author, Mary Ellis, and Harvest House Publishers, for providing me with a copy of *A Plain Man* in exchange for my fair and unbiased review. This opinion is my own, and I received no compensation.

Laura says

Title: **A PLAIN MAN**

Author: Mary Ellis

Publisher: Harvest House

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Genre: Amish

The prodigal comes home

Though Caleb Beachy lived in the Englisch world for some years, he is a Plain man at heart. When he decides to return to the Amish lifestyle, he moves back home and goes to work for his father. Soon these two strong-willed men find themselves at odds. Caleb discovers there's more to embracing his faith and reconnecting with the community than merely driving a horse and buggy and giving up Levis.

Josie Yoder was just a girl when he left. All grown up now, she gives Caleb hope for the future. She soothes his frayed temper and is determined to remind him that while his faith may have wavered, God never left his side. Caleb is tempted to return Josie's feelings, but the choices he made while away are a heavy burden on his conscience. Will past mistakes end up destroying their fledgling romance? Or will she be able to break through the wall around his heart?

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Bestselling author Mary Ellis offers an engaging new standalone Amish romance about a prodigal seeking to find his way home.

A PLAIN MAN is Ms. Ellis' most recent book. Caleb is returning to his Amish roots after five years away and he's struggling. He feels like a boy in a man's body when he's at home, he's angry and resentful at the way things turned out, and his daed seems to always be angry at him. Caleb has made some mistakes in the Englisch world, things that can't be erased so easily.

Josie's parents have forbidden her to get involved with Caleb—he's a bad boy and they no longer trust him. It's worst when some of his past sins come to light. Will the Amish community be able to forgive him for what he did during his rumspringe, or will he be forever treated with distrust?

I enjoyed reading about Caleb's and Josie's struggles as these two people discover each other. I hoped Caleb would get over his anger issues, stop treading his daed with disrespect, and that his daed would recognize that his belligerent son just needs love and acceptance. A good read for those who love Amish fiction.
\$13.99. 304 pages.

Jalynn Patterson says

About the Book:

Bestselling author Mary Ellis offers an engaging new standalone Amish romance about a prodigal seeking to find his way home.

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About the Author:

Mary Ellis grew up close to the Amish where she loved their peaceful agrarian lifestyle and strong sense of Christian community. She and her husband now live by the largest population of Old Order in the country where they take weekend trips to research her books. Mary enjoys reading, traveling, gardening, bicycling and swimming. Before "retiring" to write full-time, Mary taught Middle School and worked as a sales rep for Hershey Chocolate--a job with amazingly sweet fringe benefits.

My Review:

Mary Ellis, can always be counted on for her fresh outlook on Amish fiction, her latest, "A Plain Man" is no different. In this stand alone novel she introduces us to Caleb Beachy, a man returning to the Amish lifestyle trying to find out where he belongs in the world. He returns to work for his father only to learn that it won't be as easy an adjustment than anticipated, partly because he and his father don't quite see eye to eye.

Soon Caleb finds his heart entangled in feelings that he has for Josie Yoder, it makes him believe that he too, will find a forever romance that will lead to marriage. He is so worried that when she sees his past her feelings will flounder and he will lose her forever. But Josie reminds him that God has never left Him and doesn't plan to now.

Disclosure This book was sent to me free of charge for my honest review from the publisher.

D.J. says

Hold on to your hats...

Caleb Beachy has finally returned - after five long years - to the Amish community!

But does he find it easy? Nope.

...especially with a sister like Rebekah! Oh boy, what a stinker(someone needs a smack).

His dat is the bishop, and he's not about to make things easy on Caleb, especially since he thinks his son will give up and return to his *Englisch* life.

A Plain Man is a story of forgiveness... Caleb's dat needs to forgive him for leaving, but Caleb also needs to forgive himself for all the mistakes he made while on his *rumspringe* - and that's the hardest thing he's found to do.

I admit, I felt he was being silly for the way he goes about it... and his dat isn't pleased either - he thinks Caleb is holding on too tightly to his *Englisch* ways. But in many ways, I could identify... because the hardest person for me to forgive - is me.

Will Caleb be able to forgive himself and find the peace he's looking for?

I have to mention how much I loved being continually reminded of a favorite hymn, "Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace..."

Mary Ellis surpasses everything I expected in this book - the way Caleb thinks and acts, as well as his family and friends; it all seems much more than just believable - it's amazing!

A most excellent book! I hope you have an opportunity to read it.

Deevena Jemima says

It was nice.

Sunnie says

A Plain Man is a great story of forgiving oneself, even though God and others have already forgiven you. This story struck a chord with me, because I myself know, that the hardest person for me to forgive, is also my own self.

Caleb Beachy went on his Rumspringa years and pretty much fell away from his safe Amish background. His sister, Sarah, somehow manages to convince him to return to the fold. He finds it hard to fit in to his old Amish ways and the adjustment isn't as easy or natural as he would have thought.

He reconnects with Josie Yoder, but the sins of his past haunt him and he doesn't know how she will respond to the truth and should he tell her all? With his father serving as the Bishop of their Amish congregation, this adds to his difficulties as to how to again assimilate into his old lifestyle.

Will he be able to forgive himself and will he find the peace he is looking for in his life as he carries a permanent reminder of his past on his arm.

I felt there were many feelings that were well thought through and probably something that returning Amish would truly have to deal with. Feelings of guilt and impurity as their culture would expect of them.

Will he find a way to restore himself in the good graces of God, family and himself or will he not be able to find the pathway home?

An excellent book which I hope you will all have an opportunity to read. Mary Ellis captures the feelings of many prodigal children, I am certain!

Connie Lynch says

Not a Plain Read! Mary Ellis is a new Author to my collection. This book is written from a different prospective. Normally Amish fiction is written from an Amish young lady or Frau's point of view. Mary chose to travel a different path and follow our hero Caleb's life choices. Caleb was/is Amish who went on an extended Rumspringa and had to find himself in his own way and time. Caleb has to decide English or Amish, Sweet Josie the Amish sweetheart or the Englisher Kristen, follow Amish rules when working or convenience of English technology, and then there is honoring the parents. Caleb's life choices and guilt takes him on a rollercoaster of emotions and keeps you reading and rooting for him and the love of his life. Don't miss this wonderful book of Faith's journey with Caleb and the Beachy family. Thanks Mary Ellis.

Sandra says

Okay, I have a confession. This is the first time I've ever read an Amish novel. I still can't claim to be a fan of Amish fiction, although, I enjoyed reading about Caleb's struggle---one that most young people deal with no matter the background.

This isn't a typical Christian romance. In fact, the romance really doesn't begin until quite a bit into the book, and then it's secondary. Even though Caleb's love interest plays an important role in helping him discover where he stands with God, his family, and his past, this is a story about a young man (he's 24) who goes astray, then must convince himself and a whole community that he's changed. It's really a story about growing up and fitting in. It's a family story.

While I assumed which world he would eventually choose, the author did a good job of keeping that grain of doubt rubbing against my confidence. Would he remain Amish or go back to his Englisch life a changed and better man? And would Josie agree to live with that horrible tattoo?

Even if you're not a reader of Amish fiction, I'm sure you'll find something to relate to in this novel about finding God's grace and forgiveness, whether you're Englisch or A Plain Man.

Disclosure of Material Connection: This book came to me free from the author, Mary Ellis, and the publisher, Harvest House, with the hope that I would mention it on this blog. There was no requirement for me to write a positive review and the opinions I have expressed above are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.

