



The Amish Bride

Mindy Starns Clark, Leslie Gould

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Bestselling authors Mindy Starns Clark and Leslie Gould offer readers *The Amish Bride*, Book 3 in the Women of Lancaster County series, which tells the stories of young Plain women as they explore their roots, connect with family, and discover true love.

Ella Bayer and Ezra Gundy are in love and hope to marry someday, but she is a young Mennonite woman while he is an Amish man. Though both Plain, one of them will have to forsake what they believe to embrace another way of life.

Hoping some distance will cool the relationship, Ezra's family sends him to work at an Amish dairy farm in Indiana. But Ella disregards what her family wants and follows Ezra. In short order she finds a place to live, a job in a bakery, and an unexpected but budding friendship with a handsome Amish farmhand, Luke. When a family tragedy forces Ella back to Pennsylvania, she must face all she's been running away from. And once she has made peace with those around her, she has an important decision to make: Whose Amish bride will she become-Ezra's or Luke's?

The Amish Bride Details

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Author : Mindy Starns Clark , Leslie Gould

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From Reader Review The Amish Bride for online ebook

Lindsay says

I enjoyed this book and received though net gallery. I am review. I truly enjoyed reading this. I could connect though the Characters of this book. The book starts out with Ella reviving a book from her grandmother. The book is from her Great Grandmother Sarah. There a mystery or code that Ella is asked to break in her great grandmothers book.

Her mother and grandmother and the Grandys want their relationship with Ella and Ezra to change. They Ezra is to go to a farm but Ella decides to go with him. She get a job and a place to live. She forms a friendship with an Amish farmhand named Luke while in Indiana.

There a tragically back at home, with her brother Zed. She goes back home and has to face her past from what she was running way from. I really like this book. The mystery is pulled though out the whole book. It come to lite and helps another family in the process. The mystery is revealed at the end of the book.

So does Ella choose Luke or Ezra to Marry? What is the Mystery in the book that Ella must break the code? To find out these answers I suggest you read the book. I would Recommend it too.

Megann Zeigler says

Another Leslie Gold that is marvelous and should be read.

Dorkmissile says

Story started at a fast pace and keep going. The build up to the ending was subtle and you hoped it was going to end with her happiness. I haven't read any other books in the series but I didn't feel like I was missing anything by starting with this one.

Edward Arrington says

People dream and plan out their lives. It matters not whether they are Mennonite, Amish, or some other persuasion. The natural tendency for Christ-followers is to make plans and then ask, or even demand, that God bless their plans. Ella had laid out her recipe for life, including who she would marry, the steps to get to that point, and what would follow that. Have you ever gotten that specific with your plans for your life? How did it work out for you? Did God apply His heavenly stamp of approval on your plans and bid you to proceed with all due haste? Or did He withhold approval and put enough roadblocks in your way that you had to either leave the planning to Him and obey Him or disobey Him and go your own way? If you did the latter, how did that work out for you? Ella was still young with her life ahead of her. What plans did God have for her? What was necessary for her to see those plans materialize? Some of us may be somewhere in the middle, maybe having a few plans but just floating along waiting to see what comes next. I love that the

authors did not write that kind of story. Instead I saw a progression as the story moved forward with them sharing solid truth and teaching clothed in a beautiful story of love, pain, secrets, grace, forgiveness, learning, growing, and more. The time reading this story was well-spent. I received a copy of this book from the author. This is my honest review. All opinions are strictly my own.

Ibjoy1953 Hannabass says

This is the third book in the series. This book was just an ok read for me. If you enjoy Amish stories and are calmly written, you would enjoy this one.

Michele says

I really liked this story. Strong minded Ella thinks she knows what is best, but when she starts to listen to others her world turns upside down, but for the better!

cindy massey says

Excellent series! I am hooked on this author. Each book is great

Rachel Brand says

GENRE: AMISH ROMANCE

PUBLISHER: HARVEST HOUSE

PUBLICATION DATE: AUGUST 01, 2012

RATING: 4 OUT OF 5 – VERY GOOD

PROS: Ella's character growth is realistic and endears her to the reader; great spiritual lessons about forgiveness and trusting God; good message about marriage

CONS: Wouldn't recommend this to be read as a standalone novel; Ella's immaturity may make her unsympathetic initially

Ella Bayer was raised Mennonite, but since she began dating Ezra Gundy she's become convinced that she will one day join the Amish church so that she can marry Ezra. She thinks she has her entire future planned out – she will get a job, attend baking school, open her own bakery in Lancaster County, then be baptised in the Amish church and marry Ezra. But Ezra's parents interfere with Ella's plans when they announce that they want Ezra to purchase a local dairy farm, and decide that he needs to train in the trade at a dairy outside of Pennsylvania. Ella is convinced that they're scheming to keep her away from Ezra, out of fear that she's a bad influence on their already wild teenage son. But Ella can't help but wish she were leaving Lancaster County herself, since her long absent father has returned and wants to reconcile with her. Not yet ready to forgive the man who deserted her family fifteen years previously, Ella conspires to get herself and Ezra to Indiana, where there is a dairy farm beside her grandmother's old family home. Her grandmother wants her

to decode an old family diary and thinks that visiting the family home might help Ella, which fits in perfectly with the Gundy's desire to get Ezra out of Lancaster County. But Ella's carefully constructed plans fall to pieces almost as soon as she and Ezra arrive in Nappanee, Indiana. The family who own the diary farm think that Ezra will be a bad influence on their teenage daughter, with his motorcycle and Mennonite girlfriend, and their fears are confirmed when it becomes apparent that Ella left Pennsylvania without telling anyone of her intentions. Soon Ella finds herself alone in Nappanee, with no job or friends. She had been so certain that it was God's will for her to become Amish and marry Ezra, but is it possible that he sent her to Indiana for an entirely different reason?

I've loved Mindy and Leslie's Women of Lancaster County series since I read the first book, *The Amish Midwife*, with my book group last year. I hadn't been terribly familiar with either author before this series, but I quickly became a fan of their writing. While the titles and covers of these books might suggest that they're standard Amish romances, the content is so much more than that. Not only do Mindy and Leslie show that the Amish are flawed human beings, who like ourselves, make mistakes and don't always get on with their family and community, but both authors bring a wealth of information about Anabaptist and Amish history into their writing. The combination of family secrets and historical detail contained in the Women of Lancaster County books is what makes them so refreshing and original.

Ella Bayer has been a memorable character right from the start of the series, so I was glad that she finally got a novel of her own. Being significantly younger than the previous two protagonists – Lexie and Ada – it took a bit of adjusting to settle into reading a novel about a nearly eighteen-year-old with such particular opinions about the way her future would pan out. *The Amish Bride* reminded me a little of Dianne Christner's *Something Old*, which also had a relatively immature protagonist. I was a little worried that Ella's stubbornness and naiveté was going to make it hard for me to sympathise with her, but it actually endeared me to her in a lot of ways. I could recall the all-consuming desire to just settle down with a husband and family, which sometimes causes young women to overlook the flaws in a man who is truly not suitable for them. While I imagine that some more mature readers may struggle with Ella's rebellious nature and stubborn belief that she knows what is best for herself, I hope that most will be able to remember what it was like to be a romantic eighteen-year-old and appreciate Ella, flaws and all.

I truly did enjoy witnessing the growth of Ella's character, especially when she learned to let go of her carefully constructed plans for the future and trust that God had control of her life. The spiritual messages in this book weren't heavy-handed, but were obvious enough that they made me dwell on whether I trusted God enough with my future. I'm sure this is something all of us struggle with and can relate to. By the end of the book, I still felt that Ella had a lot of growing to do, but I was pleased with how far she'd come over the course of the novel. The scenes in which she finally confronts her father and Ezra made me quite proud of her and how far she'd come.

The mystery/historical aspect of the novel wasn't as prominent or as complex as it had been in the previous two books in the series, but it was enough to grab my attention and make me care about whether or not Ella did manage to translate the code in her great-grandmother's diary. The storyline that revolves around the diary and the reason for Ella's trip to Indiana ties into the family details from the previous two novels a fair amount. While the authors try to do a lot of summing up of the family secrets that had been discovered earlier in the series, I would still recommend starting with *The Amish Midwife* and moving through the series chronologically. To be honest, even I felt confused reading the sections of the book that attempted to get new readers up to speed with Ella's family history. This book is best appreciated if you're already invested in the lives of the characters.

Unlike the previous two novels, *The Amish Bride* doesn't delve too much into the Anabaptist history of the

family and what brought them to the United States, which is good news for the non-history fans out there, but instead focuses on the lives of Ella's great-grandmother and grandmother and their experiences as wives and mothers. The scene in which Ella finally translates the diary and learns about her ancestors ended up being a lot deeper than I expected, which was a pleasant surprise.

While I would probably class *The Amish Bride* as a romance novel, it is far more focused on Ella's character development than her finding her future husband. That said, there is a happy, romantic ending, and I liked the way in which the romance was woven into the story. Instead of focusing on courtship rituals or falling in love, as other Amish novels do, *The Amish Bride* brought attention to the factors you need to consider before choosing a mate, and how you know who is right for you. This novel wasn't so much focused on Ella choosing between two men (although I did appreciate the two love interests, and it took me a while to figure out who Ella would end up with) as it was on Ella figuring out the reasons why she wanted to get married and what was important to her about marriage. This isn't a topic that's approached very often in Amish fiction, so it was quite refreshing to read about.

The Amish Bride was a satisfying conclusion to the *Women of Lancaster County* series, and although Ella was a very different heroine from those in the previous books, I came to sympathise and connect with her over the course of the novel. I appreciated the blend of romance, mystery, family secrets and character growth that *The Amish Bride* contained and hope that this will not be the last novel that these two authors work on together. Mindy Starns Clark and Leslie Gould definitely provide a new angle on the Amish fiction genre that would be sorely missed if this were to be the last book they penned together.

Review title provided by Harvest House.

ruth says

Too much going on

I've already read the other books in the *Women of Lancaster County* series, both before and after this one, but I finally gave up on this one because I got tired of trying to remember all the characters and who they belong to and why and who did what to who and for what reason and whether it happened in this book or one of the others in the series. The title is *The Amish Bride*, but the author brought in a lot of Mennonites, some who were formerly Amish and some who are thinking about going Amish. I don't remember if this is the series that includes the Beachy Amish, but that's another way to go, and then there are Old Order Amish and Old Order Mennonites too. They have much in common except where they are different and they are different in a lot of ways. I live in Amish country, not far from Nappanee, Indiana, so I'm not unfamiliar with the Amish and the Mennonites. It would be even more disconcerting if the reader had no working knowledge of them. I rather like the Amish books by various authors, but this book has too much going on.

Mandolin says

Ella Bayer has a recipe for her life: go to baking school, open her own bakery, join the Amish church and marry her longtime love, Ezra Gundy. God may be in the picture somewhere, but He's only peripheral to her plans. Headstrong and feisty, Ella has no doubt that her recipe will lead to a bright, happy future. Heaven has other ideas for Ella, though, and throws some surprising ingredients into her life, stirring up events in ways

that Ella could never have imagined.

Ella was certain that her family's secrets had all been unveiled when her cousins, Lexie and Ada, finally forced the truth about their parentage from the older generation. Her Mammi's revelation that deeper secrets remain and are tied to an old, encrypted journal kept by her great-grandmother intrigues Ella and sends her on a search for clues to decipher the journal and learn more about the fascinating woman whose personality seems so similar to her own. Though her curiosity is aroused, Ella is reluctant to trace the book back to her maternal grandmother's Indiana origins, for it would mean leaving behind Ezra and her family. The arrival of her absentee father and the Gundy's plans to send Ezra away, keeping him away from the marriage with Ella that they starkly oppose, provide her with the incentive to follow him to Indiana and use her time there to search for clues, attend baking school and work to gain the knowledge she'll need to open her own store. Things don't work out quite as she'd envisioned them, however, and Ella is bereft when Ezra is forced to return to Lancaster County while she remains behind in Indiana. Their separation leads her to rely on others for support, including a young Amish neighbor named Luke and her cousin Rosalee. Driven by loneliness, desperation and curiosity, Ella delves further into her family's secrets and learns a lot more about herself in the process. Ella undergoes a gradual transformation, changing from a willful, resentful girl to a young woman of faith with a heart open to forgiveness.

The Amish Bride is an uplifting read that, though not as good as the previous two books in the series, certainly rates an excellent review. The plot is well-paced with equal parts mystery, romance and inspiration. Unlike other Amish fiction novels that I've read recently, its focus is broad and not restricted to a love story that ends in a predictable conclusion. It touches on controversial topics including abuse and betrayal in honest and thoughtful ways. Ella's character is three-dimensional and full of flaws. She jumps to conclusions, acts impulsively and feels as if the world owes her everything that is good and perfect. Though it takes time, she learns how wrong she is and her journey of growth and change, though full of many wrong turns, inspires the reader to look into her own heart for a similar need for change. The supporting cast of characters are also realistically portrayed, but their personalities remain a bit flat which is one of the very few negative aspects of the book. Overall, I found the book both entertaining and insightful and give it a fully deserved five-star recommendation!

Theresa says

sawed story. interesting to deaf about the different cultures

judy never says

Emotional Story

This was full of emotion and I found myself feeling that Ella was being so selfish about her dad, but I think it just took her longer to grow up than some of the other characters in the story.

Cecily says

Quick easy read with interesting little twists.

Natalie says

Wow! This is good. I could hardly put it down,. I love the characters. The plot and dialogue are also good. Highly recommended.

Larissa Langsather says

I was really surprised by this book.
