



Ella: An Amish Retelling of Cinderella

Sarah Price

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In Sarah Price's heartwarming Amish version of this best-loved fairytale, a hardworking, overlooked young woman is rewarded in unexpected ways . . .

"Be kind and have faith." Ella Troyer strives to abide by her mother's final words, although life in the small Amish town of Echo Creek isn't always easy. Her new stepmother, Linda, treats her coldly, and her two stepsisters, Drusilla and Anna, delight in gossip and laziness. After her father's death, Ella's stepsisters are free to attend youth singings while Ella stays at home to manage the household chores, rarely seeing another soul. Until one day, while running an errand, she has a chance meeting with a young Amish man from a nearby town.

Drusilla and Anna are full of admiration for charming, affluent newcomer Johannes Wagler, and Linda hopes to ensnare him as a husband for one of her girls—while keeping Ella out of the way. As for Hannes, he longs to catch another glimpse of the mysterious young woman who can sing so sweetly *and* bake the most delicious pie he's ever sampled. Now, with a little help from some unlikely sources, Ella dares to hope she might find her heart's dearest wishes—for love, family, and a home of her own—coming true at last . . .

Ella: An Amish Retelling of Cinderella Details

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Author : Sarah Price

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From Reader Review Ella: An Amish Retelling of Cinderella for online ebook

Jason Sandefur says

This was really good. I was hesitant to read another retelling of Cinderella but the author did it justice and it was wonderful!

Amanda Mahaffey says

This is the first book I have read of Sarah Price I enjoyed this book. I love fairy tales in general but I enjoyed her Amish writing of this classic. The story between Hannes and Ella was super exciting I enjoyed the twist through out the book. The way Elle loved the Lord and kept her promise to her mother amazed me. She definitely was more forgiving to her family then most would be.

Yvette (bookworlder) says

Ella is a fun, quick read that transports the reader into an Amish tale that incorporates all of the expected components and characters of the Cinderella fairytale, though not always in an expected way. Her stepmother is appropriately capriciously cruel and her step-sisters vain and lazy, and there just happen to be some mice in the cellar.

Ella herself is a lovely version of Cinderella, putting up with the demands of her stepmother and step-sisters as she keeps in mind her mother's dying words, that she be good and kind to all and that God has a plan for her. Though her wish to be helpful and kind is taken advantage of, she has her small rebellions (see mention of mice above) but remains respectful and hard working, which doesn't go unnoticed by a select few members of her community. And the introduction of Hannes, the "handsome prince" role of the piece, as a potential business partner for Ella's stepmother and object of her step-sisters' marital machinations, is quite fun. As he attempts to get to know Ella and assures her that everything is not always what it seems, Hannes is quite, well, charming.

But what, you might think, about the ball? I'll just say that I loved how the author turned this aspect, as well as how Ella gets to the event, into a believable and pivotal part of the story. I do think the discovery of a trunk was a missed opportunity, though there is no telling whether it will play into a future story. I was hopeful that a will would be discovered inside, but that would have moved the story in another direction and I quite like how everything worked together to give a satisfying ending in keeping with the fairytale.

I was unsure of what an Amish retelling of Cinderella would be like, but I was quickly pulled in to the story and I found myself happily reading it in one sitting. This is a delightful fairytale retelling that will lend itself to rereads, and the mentions of Ella's friends Belle (Beauty) and Sadie (Snow White) have me wanting to read the previous and upcoming books in this Amish Fairytale series.

Recommended for those who enjoy Amish novels, fairytale retellings with a faith element, or just a fun and enchanting read. 3.5 stars.

This review refers to an e-galley copy read courtesy of the publisher, through NetGalley. All opinions expressed are my own.

Carmen says

Please remember how downtrodden the original Cinderella was as this Ella is a doormat too! Sweet Amish retelling though

Sylvia says

I loved this book!! Great story!! Love this author's books!! Book reminded me of Cinderella!! The stepmother and step sisters were so mean!!

Lauren loves llamas says

I don't usually read Amish romances, but I love fairy tale retellings and I loved the Ellie's People books when I was a kid, so I decided to try this one out. I'm glad I did! While it's somewhat simplistic, it's also very sweet and fairy tale-like. Like most Amish romances, it's also very Christian, so if that's a deal-breaker for you, you probably won't like it. While this is the second in a series, I read it as a standalone.

“[S]he kept repeating the words her mother had told her just before she died: Be kind and good, no matter what happens, for God has a plan for you.”

After her father died suddenly, Ella's stepmother inherited the general store he founded and ran for years. Unfortunately, she's proved to be not very good at it, and Ella's stepsisters will basically do anything to get out of doing chores, preferring to go gossip with their friends.

Like I said previously, it's a bit simplistic, especially characterization-wise. The bad people – like the stepmother and stepsisters – are very, very bad. The stepsisters, especially, abuse Ella's tendency to put others' needs ahead of her own to get out of doing pretty much anything so they can go gossip with friends. I didn't like that immediately the step-sisters were described as overweight and “large boned” as a shorthand way of showing they're the bad guys. That kind of fat shaming, in my opinion, has no place in such an unabashedly Christian book. Hannes, on the other hand, is the epitome of perfect Amish husband material – “prudent with his words and even-tempered with his speech.” The story's version of the fairy godmother is, also, a vision of perfect Amish womanhood. I was delighted to see what the Amish equivalent to a prince was, and there were other little references to the fairy tale that were cute.

“I try to make good choices, to follow God's Word, and to be fair to others.” With a quick glance over his shoulder, he took a deep breath and sighed. “It's hard to watch other people who do not walk the same path.”

[...] She replied slowly, echoing his serious tone, "The choices we make, Hannes, are the one thing we truly own. If some people choose poorly, we can only pray for them, ja? We cannot be responsible for others' poor decisions."

My main issue with the book was that I disliked that Ella was such a doormat. Like I mentioned previously, she had a habit of volunteering to do the stepsisters' chores so they'd stop arguing over who would do them. Her step-family is ridiculously cruel to her, basically using her a servant and running the store into the ground, but she never attempts to bring the issues up with a church authority. While Ella is, eventually, gently reproached by a church elder for being so good and kind at her own expense, it felt a bit like too much too late. I think being good and kind in the face of trying circumstances (and people!) is a certainly a good thing, but Ella took it to an extreme. In some ways, being so self-sacrificial just worsened her step-sisters' and stepmother's tendency towards relying on her, meaning that they never felt the effects of their wrongdoing until Ella's "fairy godmother" stepped in. Basically, rather than allowing them the chance to correct their "sin," she aided them in continuing it. I'm pretty sure that this is a place where general mainstream Protestantism differs with the Amish, though, so I won't mark the book down for it.

Overall, though, I think it was a very enjoyable read, and I'm giving it four stars. If you love both Amish romances and fairy tale retellings, I'm sure you'd love this book!

I received this book for free from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Kav says

Sheer brilliance! I get giddy just thinking about this Amish fairy tale series. We've had Beauty and the Beast and now Cinderella and Snow White coming out in the fall. I truly hope that this series is as endless as the number of fairy tales out there! It's so much fun to spot the similarities to the original tales while marveling at the unique Amish twist Price brings to each story.

"Be kind and good, no matter what happens, for God has a plan for you." Ella has lived by the wise counsel of her dying mother in the midst of the most trying times. Clearly I am not as sweet natured as our plucky heroine, because I seethed in fury at the odious Linda's horrid behavior and loudly encouraged Ella to be anything but kind and good. Ha! I love getting riled at the villains in a fairy tale -- especially since I know justice will be served in the end. :-) And the way this familiar tale plays out is pure magic. This author is beyond clever and I want to say so much more but you really need to discover all the delightful nuances yourself. A truly sublime read that will make you happy.

Tina says

This is the second book of the Amish Fairytale series by Sarah Price and I have to say that I enjoyed just as much as Belle, the first book in the series if not more. We get to see Ella's life and the sweet romance she got to have with a young Amish businessman while dealing with her awful step-mother and step-sisters. They are truly horrible people and they deserved what they got at the end of the book. We also got to hear a little bit

more about Sadie Whitaker from the first book and I can't wait to read her story.
I recommend this book to anybody who enjoys a good Amish romance. It is truly a great and fast read.

*I received an advanced copy of this book from NetGalley. All opinions are my own.

Dawn Wells says

So cute, so well written, a fantasy, a reality and more. This was a great read it was warm, and full filling.
Very true to the Amish life and culture as told. The main characters were well developed and sincere.

Deanne Patterson says

This is the second book in the Amish Fairytale series. I've read and enjoyed both a lot. This is such a fun read. Amish book readers will get a kick out of how this story mirrors the fairytale Cinderella. Ella is a young woman still unmarried and living at home with her father. Her mother has passed away and her father wants the companionship of a new wife. Just like in the Cinderella story it's a disaster from the start but gets so much worse after her father's death. Evil stepmother and wicked stepsisters is what Ella has to put up with day in and day out. Even though they run her ragged by telling her to do all the farm work, inside chores, baking, cooking, sewing, etc Ella still treats her stepsisters and stepmother with kindness and respect as her mother told her to treat people. It's never reciprocated of course. Her stepsisters couldn't bake a pie if their life depended on it. An Amish woman is taught how to run a household and all that goes with it at an early age so who knows how the stepsisters will ever find a husband. When a handsome young man shows an interest in Ella the evil ones do all they can in their power to turn his eye toward them instead of her. The mother is no better as she claims something Ella did was done by her daughters. Unknown to the stepmother and stepdaughters the handsome young man sees through them and knows what they are really like. I loved the ending but no spoilers here. Let's just say they got what they deserved. Kindness pays off and deceit will do nothing but make you look bad and untrustworthy.

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I received a complimentary copy of this book from Kensington Books through NetGalley. Thank you. All opinions expressed are my own.

Patti says

Sarah Price has a gift of recapturing old fairy tales and making them new! Her second book in this series is Ella-an Amish adaptation of Cinderella. It has all the elements of the original but told uniquely Amish. Ella is an Amish woman living with her Amish stepmother and stepsisters. She does all the work she is given with a humble heart and strives to follow God's plan for her life, whatever it might be. It is truly a wonderful retelling with a strong spiritual message. I loved it!

Kay Defreese says

When I read the last Amish retelling of a fairy tale by this author I knew I had to read all the books in the

series. When *Ella: An Amish Retelling of Cinderella* became available on Netgalley I immediately requested. I was able to read in two sessions and stayed up after midnight finishing this book. The author did an excellent job of converting the classic tale of Cinderella into an Amish novel. She did an excellent job of portraying the step-mother and step-sisters as abusive. The step-mother made Ella do all the work, never let her socialize and put her daughters before Ella. Ella was way too kind and were never say a word against them. They did everything they could to sabotage the friendship of Hannes and Ella. Linda the step-mother wanted her daughters to capture the attention of Hannes. Then there is the kindly Marian. She plays the part of the fairy godmother. I don't want to give too much of the storyline away but I guarantee you will enjoy it even if you don't enjoy Amish fiction. There is even a twist toward the end. The comeuppance that the step-family received was priceless.

I received this ebook thanks to Kensington Books and Netgalley. The opinions are all my own and I received no compensation for reviewing this book. This book is due to be released on May 29, 2018.

Jeanie says

But the words seemed to repeat themselves, over and over again. Be kind. And good. God has a plan.

These are the words Ella lived by since her mother's death when she was young. Now that her father is ready to remarry, the words become a test to her faith and the promise she made to her mother. Ella strongly believes that breaking a promise is paramount to lying. Linda her new step mother along with Linda's daughter's Drusilla and Anna, is testing her faith. Life is manageable while her father is the head of the house, however, when he dies and leaves all that he has, his Amish store and house to his wife, Ella is at the mercy of her step mother and sisters. However, with them there is no mercy. Ella receives her strength from knowing God does have a plan.

With the store in crisis since Linda has taken over, a young man Amish is in town that has taken notice of Ella. He is a mystery with a secret. Ella welcomes his kindness and begins to hope again for a future.

So what does an Amish Cinderella look like? There are mice and pumpkins, foolish step mother and self-centered step sisters. Instead of a ball, a pie contest and instead of fairy god mother a pastor's wife that sees the truth. Bring these all together, you have a picture of God's goodness in all circumstances. One biblical application that I appreciated was one of the father and son. The father sent his son to do his business, but they did not accept the son. It was a subtle picture of what God does thru his son Jesus and how we without knowing it reject the son.

Loved every minute of it.

A Special Thank You to Kensington Books and Netgalley for the ARC and the opportunity to post an honest review.

Joy says

I received this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Another modern day Cinderella tale with an Amish twist.

Sarah Price is one author that I'm going to read more of. For a person who usually stays away from anything resembling Amish, I find myself captivated by Price's writing. It is in no way boring.

This was a charming little tale of Ella, a girl who lives with her two stepsister and cruel stepmother and forced to do all the chores. But one day she meets her prince charming in the form of a businessman just as charming as he is handsome....with a cunning edge to him.

I'm sure you'll be as enchanted as I was of this book. I highly recommend it for everyone.

Miranda Atchley says

If I were to use only one word to describe this book, it would be sweet. While I'm still pretty new to the Amish fiction genre, I love fairytale retellings, so when I heard about this book, it really jumped out at me. This novel did not disappoint me. I was impressed with how the author used Amish customs in place of certain instances in the original fairytale in ways I would have never thought of. Price was able to take those traditions and work them into her novel in ways that clearly followed the original storyline while giving a fresh take on a beloved story. The book was full of characters with both good and bad traits that fit in seamlessly with the Cinderella story. Readers will love Ella and Hannes and root for them as they read the story.

Overall, Ella: An Amish Retelling of Cinderella is a sweet retelling of a beloved classic. Fans of Amish fiction will love the book and readers that love fairytale retellings will also want to give this one a try.

I give this book 4 out of 5 stars.

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