



A Sister's Hope

Wanda E. Brunstetter

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Lose yourself in Holmes County, where romance, suspense, mystery, and faith-filled Amish ways rule the day! Martha Hostettler is concerned about the continuous attacks being made on her Amish family. With a definite motive and a myriad of methods, Luke Friesen looks like the culprit. Determined to clear his name, Martha decides to play detective. What will the search for truth cost her?

A Sister's Hope Details

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Victoria says

Martha is the sister I can relate to the most. She loves animals and has her own dog breeding company (Shelties are my favorite to own as she owns) and hopes to board and groom dogs one day if her dad will let her. She is a bit of a tomboy and has had a liking for Luke for a long time, her sister Ruth's ex-boyfriend. She'll never be able to be with Luke because he sees her as a friend and has been blamed for the attacks her family has endured for the past two years.

This story was good, but the whole "Who-done-it" that extended for three books without much being done to find out who the culprit of the attacks was, started to drive me crazy last book. Seriously, two full years of terrible events from a house burning down to someone being murdered and barely an investigation made over it drives me nutty. I guess it drove Martha nutty too, so she started to investigate things herself and Luke was out to clear his name. The two of them become Amish sleuths!

I will say that the whole time in reading this series, you might think you know who actually worked towards doing these crimes, but it wasn't until near the second half of this book that I started to question one person and thankfully I got it right, but I didn't know for sure if it would be that person anyway. It was and the ending is lovely.

Kristin says

"A Sister's Hope" is book number three in the Sisters of Holmes County series by Wanda E. Brunstetter. I am really glad I gave this series a chance. This book follows the storyline of the youngest sister - the very lively and spunky Martha.

Martha has fallen in love with Luke despite her father's dislike for the boy. She is determined to clear his name as her dad believes he is the one responsible for the attacks against their family that went as far as to take her older sister's husband from her in a tragic buggy accident.

I will be honest, I did find the attacks to drag on a bit too long. I began to get bored of the attacks and really wanted to skip ahead and just see who the attacker was. However, I did enjoy that the author never really gave away who the attacker was. Though I wasn't very surprised, I found that my own list of suspects was just as large as Martha's and I never could really pinpoint who it was.

All in all I was very pleased with the outcome. I enjoyed the faith and trust the characters found in the Lord and the lessons I could learn from that. I did enjoy the book, I just felt the story was dragged out too long. I will probably read books from this author again and would still recommend the books to those that love the Amish genre.

You can read my reviews of "A Sister's Secret" and "A Sisters Test" [here](#).

Susan says

Rather predictable, but ok. At least it had a happy ending, which is rather important to me in most cases. The dialog still seemed stiff and too full of planted information. For example, one of the bits right at the end, Martha thanks Luke for making her dog runs, etc, because now, not only can she breed her dogs, but she can groom and board dogs, too. Obviously, he would have already known what she would be able to do if he built the runs for her, especially since in the sentence before that, he mentions that he enjoys helping her with her business. The only purpose of that dialog is to feed the information to the reader that Martha has expanded her business to grooming and boarding, which she had wanted to do. But there are better ways to give that information than planting it in unnatural feeling dialog. She could have had someone making an appointment for grooming, or someone else ask how the boarding and grooming is going. Someone could tell her they recently heard she had expanded her business. There is no need for the forced dialog, but it happens over and over throughout the whole series. I could forgive an instance or two, but it happened so often that it really detracted from the story, which is a shame.

Overall, the series was a bit disappointing. I liked the plot, but I didn't like the writing. It was very repetitive and simple, almost to the point of being a children's book. It's much too long for a children's book, nor is it a story that would appeal to children, but I felt like I was being told a story by a kindergarten teacher. What I DID like is that it is clean. There is nothing dirty, no innuendos, no swearing, no sex, so if you are someone who likes romance, but not all the borderline pornographic scenes, this is a sweet story. If you can get past the style, or you are someone who LIKES having everything spelled out in a book, then this is a great fit for you.

Plot: Book 3 in the trilogy. The attacks on Martha's family are still happening and the sheriff doesn't seem to be doing much about it. Luke and Martha are growing closer, but Martha's father still believes Luke is the one attacking them. Luke and Martha can't possibly be together until Luke's name is cleared, so they set out to investigate each attack themselves. After the latest attack, Martha's mother is bordering on a nervous breakdown and it is decided that she should go stay with family in a neighboring county where she will be safe and not have to worry about being attacked again. Various people have plans to stake out what they believe will be empty property with the family gone, to see if they can catch the culprit red-handed. It's an ideal time for the perpetrator to attack, believing that everyone is gone for a few days, but everything comes to a head when no one is where they are supposed to be.

Margaret Chind says

I read an ARC version of this book. I just cannot really get excited to review this book, because I hate to be against it. This is the third book in a series, and really I feel that this is one of the worst series that I have ever read. It was really boring, no answers were given to questions raised until the third book, and the answer wasn't even a satisfying one given all the rest of the plot provided. It was a mystery, but it was just an irritating one that made me just more mad the more events that took place as I turned the next page.

The series descriptions on the individual books always says something about coming join and rest in the peaceful lives of the Amish, but this series is anything but peaceful. A character has a nervous breakdown for goodness sake, and I cannot say that I was not far behind with all of the bad coming and piling on top of it all. Reading all of this was like pulling teeth and I really rather enjoy the entire Biblical book of Job better than this. At least with Job, satisfaction follows.

Through this story in three books, there is about a thousand bad things to go wrong, and maybe three good things happen. This series was my first experience with Wanda Brunstetter, and I hope it won't be my last, I had heard such great things about her books before.

LaShunda says

I am still a fan of Wanda E. Brunstetter though this was NOT my favorite book. This is the only book I read in this series (I have no intention of reading the rest. The story dragged on and the characters seemed to continuously make decisions to force this to happen. I will not spoil the story for those who wish to read it and so I will end this review now

Kristi says

You don't find out "who did it" until almost the last page which drove me crazy. Overall, I liked the series and though it wasn't amazing, the story was captivating enough to keep me reading through all three books. It's a fun mix of family interactions, a little romance, and some mystery to keep you wondering who did it.

Samantha Randall says

I can not believe it was John the entire time!! Ahhh! I was reading as fast as I could towards the end of the so I could find out who it was. I was so happy when Martha and Luke were finally able to get married! Over all it was a very good book and a very good series.

Rachel says

Didn't enjoy it. This is the third and last in a series that involves an Amish family being vandalized multiple times over the course of a few years. This author's writing style already leaves much to be desired; it's even worse when she's trying to weave mystery and suspense into her story. I thought the ending was pretty lame and too abrupt (everything was wrapped up in the last 20 pages) especially considering that the whole story took place over three books.

Molly Cline says

I listened to the unabridged edition of this on CD; With a mixture of Ms Brunstetter's good writing and Ms Nielsen's good narration this book grabs your attention and you don't want to not listen to it until your done. BUT make sure you have the next book on hand because they do go from book to book finishing with book 3.

As you read-listen to this book you fall in love with and become a part of each character; and that will take you on a journey through all three books. This one the 'main' character was the last daughter of an Amish

family and then each of the other books lets each of the other daughters be 'main' characters. Although as I said even the 'minor' characters are major characters in these books. This book took you back to your 'friends' from the first book; you 'could' read this one as an independent book BUT I wouldn't recommend it. As it is a continuation from the first book and one of the mysteries is still unsolved and finished in this third book.

This was a Christian mystery-romance book. Having just enough reference to God and scripture that you are aware it's there and sweet reminders to things maybe you, yourself are encountering in your life as the characters are in their lives. But it's not a 'slap you in your face' Biblical scripture quoting overwhelming the storyline book. Book three has more reference to Biblical things than the other two but it was nice (in my opinion) but if you don't believe in God and prayer then you may take offense to this series. But in my opinion it's very nicely written and as a fan of Beverly Lewis Abram's Daughters series this series by Ms Brunstetter is just as nice! This series is written where you don't figure out 'who did it' until near the end of this book. I had a 'feeling' of three different people at the first book but didn't lean toward the 'right' one until it was revealed. This book did seem to stretch out quite a bit from time to time, but it was all worth it... you won't feel your time was lost by reading this series

Brenda says

This should be labeled suspenseful, this final book in the series focuses on Martha, while still telling the stories of Grace and Ruth. One thing I felt the book should have pointed out was that the Amish rarely seek police help, one reason is they don't believe in the law of the land, they believe in God's law. You will rarely hear of a Amish person being a criminal, for this exact reason. Now besides the romance between Martha and Luke, this story tells a vivid picture of how the Amish often end of victims of crimes.

The first book in this series, had a dedication to the sweet and innocent Amish children lost in 2006 to a school shooting. If everyone remembers that and I am sure they do, the one thing about the Amish that stood out to me was them forgiving the shooter and asking to be left alone to mourn the lives lost.

The first book of this series, focused on secrets and how they can hurt when kept from those who love us
The second book focuses on loss and finding God path again
This book focuses on truth, discovery and faith; faith in one's convictions, faith in a friend's innocence and faith in God

Sentina says

Didn't see that ending coming at all!

Marilyn says

Martha Hostettler is the youngest sister in Sisters of Holmes County series that had spunk and determination to breed dogs throughout the series. A Sister's Hope is Martha's story with some unexpected happenings and the mystery surrounding the Hostettler family continuing. The story did drag on some with the attacks happening only to the Hostettler's without any evidence or clues to who was doing the attacks against them. Martha's attraction to Luke, the young man her father had fired from his woodworking shop, only added

suspicion to him. Martha's character and wanting to be her own person did shine through with secretive times of speaking with Luke, despite being warn to stay away from him. This is one of Brustetter's earlier books that I had read when it first came out in 2008. I wanted to complete the series, but can say this is not my favorite series by this author.

Janne says

Finally, the last book in the series... still don't think they are really well written, but, I admit, I wanted to find out what happened to everyone and I was surprised by the "who done it." However, the story to get there just kind of dragged on too long...too many "attacks" of vandalism, the reactions of the people seemed less believable to me, as all this went on and on....and really the story of who did it and why, didn't really fit well, to me... I don't think someone that disturbed could have maintained the "normal" life for so long and been committing all the violence at the same time. I really feel as though this series could have been one nice family saga type book. The 'mystery' did keep me interested - it just dragged with three books. I did enjoy the family, their faith and their failings, the simple Amish lifestyle portrayed, (although they sure visit the Chiropractor alot and get rides, in cars - to a lot of places... not sure if that is accurate or not??) So, all in all, if you want a quick, easy read (I did go through them all in less than a week..) with a pretty decent story line and a little mystery thrown in - read away..

Stacey Downs Smith says

A Awesome Book!

I love Wanda's books!
I read this in one day, I couldn't put it down!
On to the next book.

Jessica says

Out of all the Sisters of Holmes County books A Sister's Hope (Sisters of Holmes County, Book 3) is my favorite. I enjoyed the youngest sister, Martha, probably more than either of the older sisters. Her spunk and determination to not simply sit back while her family continues to be attacked and receive threats, as well as her persistence to not just settle down and get married but pursue her own business set her apart from the other sisters.

The author, Wanda Brunstetter, never really tells the reader why Martha falls in love with Luke. She doesn't really have any interactions with him in the previous books and he's been painted as a "bad boy" up until this book. So, that aspect didn't really make sense. Although once they begin working together and seeing more of each other you can see how their relationship and affection develops.

Like I said, this was my favorite in the series but it still had its faults in my opinion. Grace was still whiny and a worry-wart although less so than in A Sister's Test (Book 2). The dialogue often feels unnatural, very scripted as if the characters (usually the more minor characters) were reading lines rather than being themselves. A few times the Martha's actions seemed a little too "wild," I guess is the way to put it, to be

Amish—but, hey, what do I know!

I did enjoy seeing Ruth's story develop and the resolution with the attacks on the family. In the final chapter where the attacks are resolved I felt there was some good depth to the characters and their conversation about God followed naturally, rather than feeling like an obligatory insert as is often the case in Christian fiction.

Overall, I enjoyed the series and recommend it if you're interested in Amish fiction and looking for a quick read.
