



# **Sense and Sensibility: An Amish Retelling of Jane Austen's Classic**

*Sarah Price*

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## **Sense and Sensibility: An Amish Retelling of Jane Austen's Classic** Sarah Price

Henry Detweiler dies unexpectedly, leaving his second wife and three daughters, Eleanor, Mary Ann, and Maggie, in the care of John, his oldest son from a previous marriage. John and his wife, Fanny, inherit the farm and, despite a deathbed promise to take care of their stepmother and half-sisters, John and Fanny make it obvious that Mrs. Detweiler and her daughters are not welcomed at the farm. When Edwin Fischer, Fanny's older brother, takes notice of Eleanor and begins to court her, much to the disapproval of his sister, Fanny makes life even more difficult for the Detweiler women.

In their new home, Eleanor wonders if Edwin will come calling while Mary Ann catches the attention of Christian Bechtler, an older bachelor in the church district, and John Willis, a younger man set to inherit a nearby farm. While Eleanor quietly pines for Edwin, Mary Ann does not hide her infatuation with John Willis. When the marriage proposal from John Willis does not materialize, Mary Ann is left grief-stricken and humiliated as the Amish community begins to gossip about their relationship. In the meantime, a broken-hearted Eleanor learns that Edwin is engaged to another woman.

Will admitting her affections for him result in the marriage proposal Eleanor has always desired?

## **Sense and Sensibility: An Amish Retelling of Jane Austen's Classic Details**

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Author : Sarah Price

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**Sarah Price**

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# **From Reader Review Sense and Sensibility: An Amish Retelling of Jane Austen's Classic for online ebook**

## **Teresa says**

This is the first book I've read by this author and it certainly won't be the last. I totally enjoyed this book. I loved the way she kept in line with the original Sense and Sensibility while writing it in the Amish tradition. If possible, Mary Ann, (Marianne), was even more selfish than the original. I really did want to shake her. Eleanor was much the same, stoic and proper. And Margaret lightened the mood as usual. I've read Amish novels before and I enjoy learning about their way of life. Though I suspect some of the miscreants were dealt with a bit more kindly than they normally would be. All in all, anyone who is an Austen fan will really enjoy this book. I already have Second Chances and am looking forward to reading it.

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## **Kelly Jean says**

I really enjoyed this retelling, the author did a great job! Highly recommend!!

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## **Chorlan Poniente says**

Sarah Price herself published on her blog my insights I've sent. Here are the links: (1) <http://sarahpriceauthor.com/complimen...>  
(2) [https://www.instagram.com/p/BXcD\\_LBgg...](https://www.instagram.com/p/BXcD_LBgg...)

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## **Barb Wagner says**

I read this book in two nights. I have never read a bad book that Sarah Price has written. I think not reading the original Sense and Sensibility was an advantage because I would have been comparing them. I enjoyed reading about the Detweiler family after their father passed away & their half-brother inheriting the farm after agreeing to take care of his stepmother & half-sisters.

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## **Christy says**

A most enjoyable Amish fiction read. A different approach to what family means without non-Amish influence; which is so hard to find in these types of books. This was a delicious book and the subtle and interesting approach to love was much appreciated. This read demonstrates the many nuances in a Amish community. Wonderful!!!

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## **Jen says**

This was easier and more enjoyable for me to read than an actual Austen novel. Yah, I know. I'm lame. But this was enjoyable, if not predictable, knowing how Austen stories go.

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## **Kristi says**

Full disclosure here: I have never read the original *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen. My review of Sarah Price's retelling is based solely on my enjoyment of her book on its own and not as a comparison of it to the original. Now for my review...

I really enjoyed this book. The story was so easy to get involved in, and I found myself hooked from page one. The character development was fantastic. My favorite character was Eleanor. I felt she was the easiest to relate to and was everything you would expect from a young, yet mature, Amish woman. I found Mary Ann to be a bit immature but enjoyed seeing her character grow and mature throughout the story. Widow Jennings reminded me of the jolly nun from the movie *Sister Act*, always chatty and laughing. Although after a bit one could see her true colors as a gossip and she didn't seem quite so nice to me. And then there was Fanny. Don't even get me started on her! It has been some time since I have wanted to smack a fictional character upside the head and give her a piece of my mind but that's just what I wanted to do with Fanny. This just shows Sarah's ability as an author to make the characters come to life and make you have feelings towards them.

This story has all of the elements one would expect in Amish fiction. In fact, the story didn't seem like it was a retelling of a classic but just a well-written story about an Amish family facing changes and challenges in their lives. I found myself totally immersed in the Detweiler sisters story.

The story progresses nicely and there were enough twists and turns to make me wonder what was going to happen next and keep me reading "just to the end of this chapter" until I had read chapter after chapter and reached the end of the story.

I think I now want to read the original of this story to see how it compares to this one. Hopefully, I won't be disappointed!

I received a free copy of this book from the author for reviewing purposes. All opinions are mine and mine alone. I was in no way pressured or encouraged to leave a positive review.

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## **Brenda says**

While on his deathbed Henry Detweiler asks his son John to make him one promise that when he takes over the farm that he will continue to provide for his stepmother and three half sisters Eleanor, Mary-Ann and Maggie. He makes the promise, but within a few weeks of his father's death John and his wife Fanny along with their spoiled son take over the farm, and it doesn't take Fanny long to take over, and she makes it pretty clear that the family that her husband promised to take care of are nothing but a burden. When Fanny's brother Edwin comes to the farm to help out a relationship of sorts forms between him and the oldest daughter Eleanor, but when the Detweiler women decide to move to another relative's farm that is a good

distance away what will happen with Eleanor and Edwin? Meanwhile Mary-Ann blames Eleanor for not making her feelings clear where Edwin was concerned. When two men show an interest in Mary-Ann she overlooks one and begins openly dating the second, but when things don't work out as she anticipated she finds herself heartbroken. What is in store for these two Amish sisters?

I must admit I haven't read Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*, but I can't imagine that it could be any better than Sarah Price's Amish twist on the story. I found myself drawn in immediately and couldn't put this book down. The story was compelling. It was interesting to see the different way that Eleanor and Mary-Ann think about courtship. I really could commiserate with the Detweiler women, I could just imagine how it must have felt to have Fanny move in and take over, and then to act like they were a burden. I really kept hoping that John would get some backbone. I would love if the author would provide another book in order to see what happens with the youngest sister Maggie. I really feel like her story could be fantastic. Truly an enjoyable read that has me wanting to read Sarah Price's other books on the retelling of Jane Austen Amish style.

A complimentary copy of this book was provided for review.

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### **Courtney says**

Very interesting. I normally don't go for books like this, because if I couldn't get into the original then I wouldn't the remake; however, this one captured and held my attention.

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### **Maureen Timerman says**

Sarah Price does an amazing job with this story and unfortunately for me I had it all read in less than a day, I wanted more, and there was with the epilogue, which I loved.

When Henry's oldest son takes a vow on his deathbed to take care of his family, and John agrees, you could feel the sick man's sigh of relief. Of course, things are not about to be running smooth, when John's wife banishes the family to the dawdi house, and talks her husband out of giving them the money he was supposed to give them. I hated that she had Maggie's favorite climbing tree cut down, could really dislike Fanny.

Wait until you see what God has planned for Eleanor and Mary Ann, and will choose correctly? What a read you are about to experience, and once you start you won't be able to put it down.

We meet manipulators at their worse, and you want to shake them, but we can only hope that these girls will come to their senses and follow God's plan for their lives. We find that sometimes, the evil some people display does come back to haunt them, and then I felt sorry for them also.

Don't miss this great read you won't be disappointed!

I received this book through Net Galley and the Publisher Realms, and was not required to give a positive review.

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### **Brittany says**

I have truly enjoyed the Amish Classics Series by Sarah Price. *Sense and Sensibility* is another great addition

to this collection. The story was so enjoyable and really flowed as I read it. It is written from Eleanor's perspective and was quite a page turner for me.

I loved how the novel was true to the original book, yet the Amish twists really fit. I felt anger with Fanny, and the way she treated the Detweiler family. I felt frustration with Mary Ann as she plunged headlong into the relationship with John Willis. I felt despair for Eleanor as she had to listen to Lydia's secret confessions. Even though I knew that these things had to happen to remain true to the book, it did not lessen my reaction to them one bit. I loved this story from start to finish and definitely recommend it to fans of Amish fiction, as well as Jane Austen enthusiasts.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for my honest review.

You can read this review on my blog at:  
<https://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.c...>

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## **Meredith (Austen-esque Reviews) says**

A Wunderbar Homage to Jane Austen!

Rating: 4.5 out of 5 stars

Sarah Price, best-selling and popular author of over 30 novels, has just released her latest novel in The Amish Classics Series – a series that comprises of Amish retellings of Jane Austen's novels (and possibly others). The previous books in this series include:

- First Impressions: An Amish Retelling of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice (2014)
- Matchmaker: An Amish Retelling of Jane Austen's Emma (2015)
- Second Chances: An Amish Retelling of Jane Austen's Persuasion (2015)

In her fourth book of The Amish Classics Series, Sarah Price retells the story of Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility in a present-day Amish community. With sons inheriting farms, strict courtships practices, and an emphasis on a rural and simple lifestyle, it is easy to see how much is in common between the Amish culture and Jane Austen's time. In this retelling, readers meet the Detweiler sisters who must leave their home farm after their father's death and adjust to life in a smaller cottage in a new community. While making some new acquaintances, both Eleanor and Mary Anne fall in love, but one does so quietly and privately while the other does it openly and unreservedly...

This is my first book by Sarah Price and my first Amish romance period. That's right, I'm totally new to Amish fiction and I couldn't be happier that my first experience in this sub-genre is a Jane Austen retelling of Sense and Sensibility by Sarah Price! I was greatly impressed with how faithful the story was to Jane Austen's classic. The parallels were clearly drawn and the characters and events of the story seemed true, not only to Jane Austen, but to the Amish way of life. These representations of Jane Austen's characters and stories felt very authentic in such a setting. I think Sarah Price is very skilled at illustrating how well Jane Austen's world can translate to Amish culture in her stories.

One thing I appreciated most about this retelling was the emotional development depicted for both Eleanor and Mary Anne. Reading of Eleanor's heartache and torture made me feel her pain anew right alongside her.

But I mostly enjoyed witnessing how Mary Anne came to fall in love (SPOILER ALERT!!) after having her heart broken. I have often seen readers express discontent about Jane Austen's Marianne and Colonel Brandon – that their closure and HEA felt rushed, unlikely, and just plain unsatisfying. This most definitely wasn't the case with this story! I loved seeing Mary Anne become aware of what the reader and all her family already knew – that there was this compassionate and honorable man watching her and loving her in silence all along. And I greatly enjoyed seeing how that awareness changes her before our very eyes. Well done, Ms. Price!

As someone who is brand-new to Amish fiction I was fascinated by all I learned about the lifestyle and practices of the Amish community. And I am definitely interested in learning more as some aspects of Amish life are still a little unclear for me, such as kneeling vows, rumschprunge, and shunning. However, I think readers who have some prior understanding of Amish customs will pick up on these practices much quicker than I did. I look forward to reading more novels in this series – and I'm glad to see that Sarah Price will be adding another novel to it real soon! It looks like *Mount Hope: An Amish Retelling of Jane Austen's Mansfield Park* is scheduled to release in August of this year!

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### **Cayla says**

I liked it, but I can't say that I'm in love with it. I felt that some parts lost my interest, while other parts kept me interested.

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### **Diana says**

An Amish Classic!

What transpires when you blend Jane Austen's memorable characters with Sarah Price's unique Amish voice? A classic retelling of *Sense and Sensibility* is born—a truly captivating tale of two sisters who must learn the hard way that the road to love is sometimes incredibly rocky—and appearances can often be painfully deceptive!

While on his deathbed, Henry Detweiler exacts a promise from his eldest son from a previous marriage, John, to take care of his second wife and daughters—Eleanor, Mary Ann, and Maggie. However, when John's wife, Fanny, moves to their farm she makes no bones about her feelings for Mrs. Detweiler and her daughters, and proceeds to make life miserable for them. Edwin Fisher, Fanny's brother, is not at all like his sister and Eleanor begins to fall for him despite the fact that he has shown her nothing but friendship. When a relative makes a way for the Detweilers to move into a small cottage in the Amish community of Quarryville, they jump at the chance.

While Eleanor quietly pines for Edwin and wonders if he will visit, her impetuous sister, Mary Ann, welcomes the attentions of the very handsome and charming John Willis, falling head over heels in love after only knowing him for a short while. Will these two sisters with very dissimilar temperaments and different approaches to love receive the proposals they long for...or will both be left heartbroken and alone?

I absolutely loved this delightful novel and finished it in two short evenings! In my opinion, Sarah Price has truly shown her phenomenal writing skills in this novel as never before! Although I have always enjoyed her

books this one has to go down as my favorite. You'll find yourself reaching for the tissues as the Detweiler sisters have to suffer pain and heartache to learn humility and gain maturity...especially the impulsive Mary Ann. Sarah Price has splendidly brought my best-loved Jane Austen tale to life—a modern day masterpiece for "sure and certain" (as the Amish would say!)  
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## **Sophia says**

I saw this blend of Amish Romance and a Classical story retelling and I just had to read it as I love both. It was fascinating and a very strong story when all is said and done.

A mother and three sisters are forced out of their family home by the son, John of the first wife and his greedy wife, Fanny. Only a distant cousin's generosity allows them a chance to start fresh if a little on the precarious side financially. Oldest daughter, Eleanor, is calm, steady, thoughtful and practical. She carries a secret love for Fanny's brother, quiet Edward Fischer who is promised to another. And the opposite of her older sister is Mary Ann who is emotional, impulsive, and wears her heart on her sleeve while falling for a bold, dashing man living in the neighborhood and spurning the quiet, mature man who remains steadfast, but inobtrusive. Through heartache, difficulties, and starting a new life, Eleanor, Mary Ann and their family grow and learn in faith and character.

Alright, so this tale of two sisters and their love lives was pretty close to the original as far as description of characters and events. I loved how the Amish background meshed so well with the classical style and elements so that even though this is a modern retelling of Austen's *Sense & Sensibility*, it fit well into the Amish world where some of the cultural moors of Jane Austen's day were a lot like those of the Amish.

The story is told from Eleanor's observant and level-headed perspective. She was practically a saint as at first she tried to keep the peace between her mother and sisters and with her older half-brother and his wife while the family was still on the farm and then later she held it together when Mary Ann was pretty cruel as Eleanor tried to get her to be more circumspect and cautious. And then Eleanor had to endure the cruelty of Edward's fiancée taking particularly delight in making Eleanor her confidant.

Mary Ann, the secondary heroine, needed a thumping. First she ran wild and then she went all dramatic. She was mean to her sister when Eleanor was trying to save her from the sorrow that did eventually come. Now, Mary Ann takes a hard knock or two and it finally sets her on a good path so she redeemed herself and became a loving sister and gets her own chance of happiness.

I really adored Christian who was quietly in love with Mary Ann even when she wouldn't give him the time of day and was running around with the rakish John who had a reputation. This man was selfless and showed true heroism. Eleanor's love interest, Edward, well, I respect him a little for keeping his word, but he didn't get much page time until the end. When the truth came out, I felt badly for him and then happy for how it ended for him and Eleanor.

The setting of the Amish community was well drawn. It felt authentic. I had a good time with how even without all the modern conveniences and a devout faith, the gossip vine and the tight-knit community of folks all up in each other's business was still present.

To summarize, this was a delightful story. I will definitely go back for more of the author's Amish Classics

series and her other books. There is a strong inspirational theme without preachiness. I would recommend this to those who enjoy Amish romance, but also those who enjoy classic retellings.

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

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