



Between You and Me

Susan Wiggs

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Deep within the peaceful heart of Amish country, a life-or-death emergency shatters a quiet world to its core. Number-one *New York Times* bestselling author Susan Wiggs delivers a riveting story that challenges our deepest-held beliefs.

Caught between two worlds, Caleb Stoltz is bound by a deathbed promise to raise his orphaned niece and nephew in Middle Grove, where life revolves around family, farm, faith—and long-held suspicions about outsiders. When disaster strikes, Caleb is thrust into an urban environment of high-tech medicine and the relentless rush of modern life.

Dr. Reese Powell is poised to join the medical dynasty of her wealthy, successful parents. Bold, assertive, and quick-thinking, she lives for the addictive rush of saving lives. When a shocking accident brings Caleb Stoltz into her life, Reese is forced to deal with a situation that challenges everything she thinks she knows—and ultimately emboldens her to question her most powerful beliefs.

Then one impulsive act brings about a clash of cultures in a tug-of-war that plays out in a courtroom, challenging the very nature of justice and reverberating through generations, straining the fragile threads of faith and family.

Deeply moving and unforgettable, *Between You and Me* is an emotionally complex story of love and loss, family and friendship, and the arduous road to discovering the heart's true path.

Between You and Me Details

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From Reader Review Between You and Me for online ebook

Sherri Thacker says

This is my 3rd book by Susan Wiggs and I've loved her other 2 books as well. It's a really nice story, getting me away from the psychological thrillers I've been drawn to lately. When reading this book, I kept thinking of all of the Amish books written by Linda Castillo. I do love her too! This a great feel good book by Susan Wiggs.

Amy says

4.5/5

Is anyone else fascinated by the Amish faith and their culture in general? There's something about their simplistic way of life and strong ties to family and their community that never fails to capture my attention. Naturally, I loved the premise for this, an Amish family forced to enter the English world when tragedy strikes and their encounter with a young doctor has the power to change all of them forever, doesn't that sound great?! Spoiler alert, it was amazing!

Wiggs has that uncanny ability to create characters that are so deeply developed that by the end of the book you're heartbroken to say goodbye to them. Both Reese and Caleb were highly complex and interesting, I was so invested in both of them and curious about how their relationship would evolve and grow. She's also an incredibly skilled writer, I got some serious Jodi Picoult vibes here, it had that same emotional intensity and caused me to question my own beliefs and values alongside the characters.

This book dealt with some heavy issues and Wiggs explores some hot button topics with a sensitivity and grace that's admirable. There were also some shocking twists along the way and some light romance, nothing too in your face though, more sweet and subtle than anything else. Fans of Wiggs will devour this and for readers looking for a new author to discover I can highly recommend this book!

Between You and Me in three words: Thought-provoking, Skilled and Deep.

Anna says

Caleb Stoltz had a taste of the "English" world, but was drawn back to the Amish community he was raised in when he made a death bed commitment to his brother after his brother and his wife were brutally murdered. He agreed to raise his niece, Hannah, and nephew, Jonah, in the Amish ways and has kept his promise faithfully. But when a tragic accident occurs and Jonah must be transported to a trauma hospital in Philadelphia, he is thrust into a modern world outside of the culture he is accustomed to. It is in this world he meets Dr. Reese Powell, who was on the trauma team that first cared for Jonah. Caleb remains with Jonah through his long recovery and soon develops a friendship with Reese, which blossoms into romance. Dr. Reese Powell comes from a family with high expectations, pushing her to follow in their footsteps. Both accomplished doctors in their field, the goal is for Reese to join their practice following residency. Yet as both Caleb and Reese question the expectations others have for their futures, desiring to make their own life

choices, they continue to find themselves drawn to each other.

The story has a bit of a Romeo and Juliet quality to it, but this time with a happy ending.

A wonderful story of family, loyalty, romance and finding one's purpose in life.

Susan says

Whoever wrote the book blurb should be fired, because the plot summary is very misleading. This is a solid contemporary romance between a Big City doctor-in-training and a Small Town not-quite-fully-Amish hunk who meet when the hunk's nephew is badly injured. Despite the impossibility of the relationship, they fall in love, dealing with strong cultural and family expectations on both sides. I had a hard time believing that a fourth year medical student could have so much free time to spend going on dates, but this is a romance after all.

There's a very late (the last 50 pages) plot twist that brings things to a head but seems awkwardly shoehorned in. And it's nothing like the blurb that promises a "clash of cultures in a tug-of-war that plays out in a tension-filled courtroom, challenging the very nature of justice and reverberating through generations, straining the fragile threads of faith and family." Whew! Melodramatic much?

If you are looking for a well-written love story, especially if you are an Amish romance fan, you will enjoy **Between You And Me**. If you are looking for the next Jodi Picoult novel, you've come to the wrong place.

steph says

[the niece getting pregnant, Reese taking over once she realized who left the baby in the safe box, the whole guardianship drama at the end, the death of Caleb's kind-of girlfriend who he proposed to AFTER sleeping with Reese, etc (hide spoiler)]

Donna Hines says

Fascinating inner dialogue on the Amish, beliefs, culture, value, and traditions.

Susan Wiggs develops a situation about a young man who becomes an amputee after a terrible farming accident while facing the Amish Ordnung and everything it incorporates.

Caleb Stoltz our main character is a strong armed and determined individual taking on so much after the death of his family members in raising his niece and nephew to the best of his ability.

What readers don't know is that is a 'partial truth' as someone else is actually been legally provided that title but that person is abusive, demeaning, and insulting (not quite a parental figure).

While tending to the medical issues a romance ensues and captivates audiences yet brings to head the issue of religion, faith, values, morals, and tradition while embracing love and family.

Will Middle Grove the place it all began come around to the notion of faith, work, family held together by devotion and more.

Lancaster county is near my current location so I'm quite familiar with the Amish and with their medical concerns having volunteered at the local hospitals.

Processing some heavy issues, adding some shocking twists, revealing some fascinating realities you'll be soaking this up like a sponge faster than you can read.

(Tori-Smexybooks) smexys_sidekick says

A charming story that speaks of love, loss, hope, and the family.

Grade: B+

Susan Wiggs celebrates the love, loss, hope, and family in her newest release of a man and women who meet under terrible circumstances and through that forge a bond that strengthens while eventually forcing them apart. Emotionally honest and poignant with a delightful thread of humor running through it, Between you and Me introduces us to Caleb Stolz and Dr. Reese Strauss. Told in alternating POVs, Wiggs builds a sweet and witty romance around a experience with them the ups and downs of falling in love as religion, lifestyles, and family try to pull them apart.

Caleb turned his back on his Amish upbringing until his brother's death brought him home to raise his niece and nephew. The victim of an abusive home and still keeping one foot in the English world, when Caleb's nephew is hurt badly in a farming accident, Caleb has no qualms with taking him to the hospital for care. Reese is a resident whose uber famous parents have all but decided her career path though lately, she has been wishing for something more. Meeting Caleb opens her eyes to a whole new world and she fully embraces the opportunity to learn more about the Amish and him. The closer Reese and Caleb grow, the harder it is to keep their boundaries in place. And when one of them goes too far, the price for redemption may be to much to pay.

Myrna says

This is the first book that I have read by Susan Wiggs. She wrote an entertaining story with romance, a bit of suspense, and secrets. It was predictable, but a fun, quick read. An enjoyable read for vacations and beaches. 3.5★s!

katwiththehat says

This was a sweet romance about an Amish man whose nephew is injured in a terrible accident and needs extensive medical treatment, and the doctor he meets at the hospital. Caleb and Reese were great characters, both people who'd never quite fit in with their communities. I really enjoyed the development of the relationships with the side characters as well. It was a well-fleshed out world.

Please excuse typos/name misspellings. Entered on screen reader.

Susan Peterson says

This book is brimming with emotions...love, faith, dreams, disappointments, hope. From the very first page

of the prologue I was enraptured by this story. Reece and Caleb are two people whose paths were never likely to cross, until a tragic accident brings Caleb from his Amish community to Reece's modern, fast-paced world. I loved watching their relationship develop, first as friends, and then slowly into something deeper and wonderful....but how do they overcome their differences and the intrusions of living life and remaining true to themselves? Their journey was a story of discovery, their feelings deep and often conflicted, as they test whether their differences are too much to overcome. What struck me the most was how, despite their outward and obvious differences, they were both struggling with the expectations of others, wanting to do their best not only for themselves, but also for each other and for their families. This book is a wonderfully warm-hearted and tender book.

Asheley says

4.5/5

Between You and Me by Susan Wiggs has been my most anticipated book release for this summer season. I just couldn't wait for it because I love Susan Wiggs' books so completely and I also tend to really love stories about the Amish community and interesting Amish characters. I feel like the collective Amish community is sort of its own character here, and completely fascinating, but this story really features Caleb and Reece, the unlikely intersection of their very different lives, and how it changes them both in the process.

Caleb Stoltz is raising Jonah and Hannah, his nephew and niece, after their parents were murdered. He promised his brother that he would raise the children Amish even though that meant giving up on his plans for his own life. When 11-year-old Jonah has a horrific farm accident requiring surgical intervention at a large trauma center far from home, what Jonah thinks is best for the boy is in direct opposition to the more traditional ways of the Amish community.

Reese Powell meets Jonah when he arrives at the hospital for emergency treatment, which is also how she comes to know Caleb. Reese is finishing out her final year of medical school and making plans for where she will begin her residency and start her career. For her entire life, Reece's parents have mapped her future for her, and her future is very bright. But Reese does not love the plan her parents made. As she spends more time with Jonah and Caleb, she realizes that she can have both a slower-paced, more meaningful life like she desires while also having a wonderful career in the medical field. However, if she changes the plan that is already in progress, it will go against everything that her parents want for her.

By this time, I feel like I trust Susan Wiggs completely. I trust her to give me a fully developed group of characters that I have deep feelings for, one way or another, and I trust her to walk me through some pretty major parts of their lives as if I'm right there with them. I loved that I was able to look at this particular Amish community through Caleb's eyes in particular, as he has his own thoughts and feelings about living there. Trust me when I say that just because he is a part of the community doesn't mean that he is all in it, heart and soul. He has baggage there plus he is under a lot of pressure with his farm, taking care of the two kids, and raising them Amish while also not stifling who they are as individuals. I've read stories with Amish characters that carry baggage but also fully embrace their traditions, but Caleb takes a different approach. I loved this.

I also love the way Caleb and Reece both struggle with outside forces trying to exert control over their lives. In this way, the two are able to understand one another even though their backgrounds are so completely different. Ms. Wiggs does a great job of showing that people from all types of communities and backgrounds

can experience similar feelings sometimes, and we can certainly empathize with and feel for one another, learning about our differences as we go.

Watching Caleb, Jonah, and Hannah learn about the neat things in the modern “English” world was really fun for me. Hannah (Jonah’s sister) was mesmerized by the ease of taking a simple shower and Jonah lost himself in books that were never available to him previously, like Harry Potter and To Kill A Mockingbird. I loved these little details.

I had mixed emotions when I got to the end of the book. I loved the time I spent with the characters, but I was sad when there was no more story. I’m not one to wish that every book could be made into a series, but if Ms. Wiggs decides to continue with this story in any way, I would be first in line for the next installment.

I received this book for free from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review. Thank you so much, William Morrow Books!

Find this review and more like it on my blog, Into the Hall of Books!

Sharlene says

Absolutely one of the best books I have ever read. All the feels and the characters are amazing. I did not want this one to end and tears of joy at the ending. Many 5 stars for it.

Charlotte says

This is a GoodReads giveaway win.

This book is just beautiful and inspirational and sad. Caleb lives in a small, strict Amish community in Middle Grove. He lives with his father, Hannah, his niece and Jonah, his nephew. The author often has Caleb tell about some great tragedy in the first several chapters and that keep me reading. Asa, Caleb's father was abusive. Caleb's mom left when him and his brother, John were very young. His brother and sister-in-law died, which is why Hannah and Jonah live with him and what brought him back to the Amish. Caleb left the Amish and never intended to return. That is this basics, but so much more unravels as you read this story. The author weaves a story of an abuse father using his devout faith to cover his actions. Somehow that terrible man ended up with someone like Caleb who seems to give up everything he's ever wanted to make sure his brother's dying wish is fulfilled. Then bring in a young girl who feels guilt and shame over something that could and has happened to many. A refusal to ride a helicopter even to save a young boy's life because it goes against the religion. A doctor who just steps in whenever needed. This book is a wonderful story and is beautifully written. It tells some of the clashes between Amish and English societies. It has a good plotline and a great ending.

Debra says

Susan Wiggs writes about family, community, love, and tackles real life issues in the process.

Caleb Stoltz vowed to take care of his dying brother's two children. This meant he had to return to his Amish roots and raise them within the Amish community in Middle Grove, Pennsylvania. Years earlier, Caleb had left the Amish way of life to attend community college and chase his dreams. He works hard on his farm and enjoys life with his niece and nephew and seldom thinks about his life outside of the Amish community. When tragedy strikes, and he makes the decision to have his nephew airlifted to a hospital for medical care, he is thrust back into urban life. At the same time, he faces disapproval from his father, Asa, for placing the injured boy on a helicopter.

Dr. Reese Powell is working at the hospital when Caleb's nephew Jonah is brought in. Her parents are successful doctors and hope that one day she will join their medical dynasty. She is intrigued to see someone from the Amish community in the hospital. She answers his questions tries her best to make him comfortable.

When the danger appears to be over for his nephew, Caleb finds that he is also intrigued by Reese and enjoys answering her many questions. Coming from two different backgrounds, they form a friendship. Reese does not know much about the Amish way of life and as Caleb educates her, the reader is educated as well. Reese also gets to meet Caleb's niece, Hannah, who is hiding a secret.

Two different worlds collide in this book and I enjoyed reading about the Amish community. This book dealt with issues such as abuse, shunning, physical rehabilitation, acceptance, following your dreams and your heart. Her characters are faced with cultural/religious issues such as respecting someone's wishes against receiving medical treatment when it goes against his/her beliefs. The reader also witnesses what can occur when someone does something that goes against their community's rules. As in her other books, Wiggs stresses the importance of family and friendship. She also addresses what it means to have a duty to your community, keeping your word, and observing traditions.

I enjoy Susan Wiggs books. Her characters feel as if they are real life people and are faced with real situations. Her books are well written and prove to be fast reads for me. I enjoy books that not only entertain me but educated me. This book did both.

Wiggs books are also light on the romance. There are no graphic sex scenes or language. You know if her characters have sex, but she doesn't go into much detail. I know some enjoy her lighter touch to romance.

Overall, an enjoyable read!

I received a copy of this book from Edelweiss and William Morrow in exchange for an honest review.

See more of my reviews at www.openbookpost.com

Jamie Rosenblit says

Fascinating story about the Amish community and the impact of interacting with outside society. Audio version was well done.
