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Beth Wiseman , Amy Clipston , Kelly Long

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The Amish Kitchen is the Heart of the Home - and the Ideal Setting for Stories of Love and Hope.

Fall in Paradise, Pennsylvania, always brings a brisk change in the weather. This season also ushers in unexpected visitors, new love, and renewed hope for three women.

Fern has a green thumb for growing healing herbs, but longs for love to bloom in her life. Then the next-door neighbor's oldest son, Abram, comes running into Fern's kitchen seeking help for his little sister. The crisis soon leads to a promise of romance--until mistrust threatens to end the growing attraction.

Nearby, Hannah runs her parents' bed and breakfast, Paradise Inn--but her life feels nothing like Paradise. She longs for a man of integrity to enter her life, but never expected him to knock on the front door looking for a room. Will she be able trust Stephen with her future once she discovers his mysterious past?

When a storm blows a tree onto Eve's farmhouse, she has little choice but to temporarily move her family into her parents' home. Outside of cooking together in the kitchen, Eve and her mother can't agree on anything. But this may be just the recipe for hope in healing old wounds.

"Three Amish stories--each celebrating love, family, and faith--all taking place in a tight-knit community where the kitchen truly is the heart of the home."

Also Includes Reading Group Guide and 45 Old Order Amish Recipes

An Amish Kitchen Details

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From Reader Review An Amish Kitchen for online ebook

Kathryn says

This seems like the perfect book to brighten a winter day!

Elishia says

ARC provided by Netgalley - Thomas Nelson Publishers

I've been trying to find some Amish fiction to read lately as I find their way of living interesting so was happy when I came across this anthology.

Usually when I read an anthology not all of the stories are good but with this book they were. They are centred around one Amish community and based on different types of love with the help of a few family recipes. I was a bit worried when I saw the glossary at the beginning but I think this only added to the story and after a few pages I could work out what the words meant.

A Taste of Faith - This one was such a wunderbaar story ?, it was about Fern who is the local healer along with her grandmother, she think she is not going to find love as she is a bit curvy. Then there's her neighbour Abram who is bachelor and happy to stay that way. Due to a family emergency he is tasked with looking after his siblings while his family are away. There are so many circumstances that keep throwing them in to each others path (including Ferns Grandmother),this one had a lot of funny moments, misunderstandings as well as some sad parts which I think made the story more real.

A Spoonful of Love - This one was the only one where they directly dealt with the "English" as Hannah ran a b&b. I thought Hannah's mother was a bit hard on her sometimes and liked to meddle although you could tell she did love her. I felt sorry for Stephen who had left his own community due to an accident and was struggling a bit with his faith. They were both exactly what each other needed and brought each other out of themselves.

A Recipe for Hope - This one was about the relationship between a mother and a daughter but you soon learn there are reasons for the way the mother behaves as you find out about her own relationship with her mother and how this affects the way she lives her life now. There was also a side storyline with the younger sons of the family who also had to work on forgiveness. I needed a few tissues for this one, It was so good how they all worked to forgive each other for various things and ultimately realised they are family and love each other. I loved the idea of the recipe cards with the story's on and the final recipe " A recipe for hope".

I hadn't previously read anything by these authors but will definitely be checking them out in the future.

ANNETTE says

Loved all three stories . They were very heart-warming and easy to read.

Brandi says

I loved all three stories in this book. They were heart-warming and easy to read.

First, I really liked the character of Fern. I could relate to her in many ways.

Second, I liked the main characters in this one. I was happy about how things were going for Stephen in Paradise, though I was a bit troubled by him burning Lillian's letter. It almost felt like he was trying to block out that part of his life rather than truly coming to terms with it.

The third story was quite interesting. I love the interactions with Rosemary and George! I actually started laughing, something I do not do much while reading. Eve could be a bit irritating and seemed to have more modern appliances than I do. At times, she almost seemed non-Amish. She would go on about her mother criticizing her about the children, but it seemed like she was more critical of her mother for not using more modern appliances. Strangely enough, I think this made her a more likable character as she seemed more human.

I loved this book and look forward to reading more stories by all three of these authors.

ANITA MARIA says

What a cozy little book of 3 Amish tales that center around the kitchen.

Fern learns the healing properties of herbs from her grandmother, but when the 'boy from next door' returns home a strapping young man, she discovers love can cure plenty of things...including a broken heart.

Hannah has been hurt before and just like the walls of the B&B Paradise Inn, she protects her heart. When Stephen boards at her family's property, they both realize those walls built must come down in order to love again.

A tree crashes through the roof of Eve's home and forces her & her family to live with her parents until the necessary repairs are made. This unexpected visit sheds light on the love, loss, and changes of her mother as she battles Parkinson's.

This was the perfect book to wrap up the year.

Tima says

Three stories set in a close-knit Amish community. All three stories center around love and the heart of the home, the kitchen.

Story 1 - Fern heals with herbs, but doesn't have a remedy for the love she longs to share with a husband. But when a handsome man knocks on her door needing help she isn't quite sure what to do.

Story 2 - Hannah runs a bed and breakfast for her parents. A lifelong crush has recently shown an interest in her, but a tenant holds more appeal. Will she be able to choose wisely?

Story 3 - Eve's home is being repaired after a storm. Moving back in with her parents after years of marriage isn't exactly a picnic. But copying down her mother's recipes brings them closer than she had ever experienced.

All three stories were sweet and heartwarming. They all tie together in a very small way, but all three can stand alone. Several reviews mentioned predictable plots. Yes, like most novellas, the plot was easy to predict. But the stories were short and were nice to read in one sitting. There wasn't a lot of drama or conflict, just a small amount that goes into any typical novella.

At the end of the book there are discussion questions for each story, natural herbal remedies, and 45 Amish recipes from the stories.

I received this book free of charge from Booksneeze in exchange for my honest review.

Leah says

I liked each of the three stories in this collection. I would give each story 4 stars. I liked that each story was connected to the previous story. It was nice that each story involved food or cooking in some way. The stories were sweet, and each had a happy ending.

A Recipe for Hope was my least favorite story. I think it was the characters. I liked the MC, Eve, and her father, Joseph. The other characters were okay. The improved as the story progressed.

A Taste of Faith and *A Spoonful of Love* were more enjoyable. The characters were more likeable, especially Fern.

Brenda says

This book encompasses two of my favorite types of books Amish fiction and short stories. "An Amish Kitchen" is comprised of three short stories written by three of today's premiere Amish fiction authors.

The first story is a "Taste of Faith" written by Kelly Long. Twenty year old Deborah Zook has been living with her grandmother Esther Zook since the age of five when her parents died of the flu. She has a love for tending flowers and herbs and her grandmother has the wish to see her trained in healing herbs, but more than that she wishes that her granddaughter would find a man and marry, and truthfully Fern wishes for someone as well. At the age of twenty-three Abram Fisher is a dyed in the wool bachelor, who never paid any attention to Fern, but when he needs Fern's help after his sister Mary becomes sunburned he begins to look at Fern in a different light. Will fate bring these two together?

"A Spoonful of Love" by Amy Clipston is the story of Hannah King, who has been managing the Paradise Inn since her father had a stroke a year ago. When Stephen Esh comes to town looking for a place to stay he rents a room at the end. Could Stephen be the one Hannah has been hoping will come into her life? What about his past, why is he so far from home? Will he be able to let go of the past and embrace the future?

"A Recipe for Hope" by Beth Wiseman is the story of Eve Bender. At the age of thirty-eight Eve Bender finds herself moving back home with her parents after a tree crashes into her farmhouse. Not only is she moving back home but she her husband and three teen age boys who are going thru rumspringa also will be moving in as well. Eve and her mother often didn't see eye to eye on things will spending two months under her parents roof allow them to heal the hurts from the past?

I loved each of these stories, that gently remind of faith and family. My favorite story easily had to be "A Recipe for Hope." I enjoyed the fact that Eve was a bit older and her sons added an interesting layer to the story. Her oldest son Leroy is eighteen and Amos and Elias are her twin sixteen year old boys. Amos also has a Chinese Water Dragon that provided a few funny moments.

If you have never read Amish fiction this book is a delightful way to sample these three great authors. There is a glossary of "Amish" words included for newbie Amish fiction readers. The recipes which include some herbal treatments are just an added bonus. While each story is a tad predictable overall I enjoyed each of them, and would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a good clean read with a splash of romance and an Amish cast of characters.

Tarissa says

This makes a nice addition to my bookshelf. Not my favorite type of book, but it was sweet enough. The book features 3 stories (each written by a different author). Here are some quick thoughts on each story.

"A Taste of Faith" by Kelly Long

The story of Fern Zook, a young woman who lives with her grandmother, who teaches her about medicinal, herbal remedies. It is a charming enough story of the romance that buds between Fern and one of the young men in her Amish community.

"A Spoonful of Love" by Amy Clipston

My favorite selection of the 3 in this book. It's about Hannah King, a woman who is not searching for love, but finds it anyway, right on the doorstep of her bed-and-breakfast inn.

"A Recipe for Hope" by Beth Wiseman

A story of forgiveness, between a middle-aged woman and her mother, learning to love each other again. And that is in the midst of raising three teenage boys, all in 'rumschprunge' at once.

Overall, these were sweet stories for adult readers to enjoy. I love how the characters were tied together between the 3 stories (the women featured in each story know each other because they all live in the same community). For anyone who really enjoys Amish fiction, this book would probably be a treat.

Rhonda Gayle says

wow! not one, not two, but three of my favorite Amish authors get together and create a wonderful set of novellas centered around the Amish kitchen, indeed the "heart of the home". I was enthralled as I read "A Taste of Faith", "A Spoonful of Love", and "A Recipe for Hope", I was transformed and found myself sitting in the warm Amish kitchens. I was rooting for Fern, the healer who uses her herbs to help the community, to find love. I was anxiously hoping for Eve and her mamm, Rosemary, to make peace with each other and for Rosemary to agree to see an Englisch doctor for her Parkinson's. I was hoping fiercely that Hannah and Stephen would see their love and that Stephen would be able to forgive himself to find his way to Hannah. Amy Clipston, Beth Wiseman, and Kelly Long are so descriptive in their images that readers will feel the sting of the cold, snow-filled night, the heat from the woodstoves, the scent of the apple pies, soft pretzels, and herbal teas, as if they are truly experiencing the events as the characters in the novellas do. I could also

imagine the discomfort of the backless wooden benches in the three-hour long Amish church service. I could feel the thrill as Hannah sneaked a peek across the church at Stephen. I love that the recipes mentioned in the novellas are featured at the end of the book and can not wait to try some of them in my own kitchen.

Andrea says

I honestly don't know why I read these things. I think it's the covers. They all look so sunshiney and wholesome, and I'm like, yes, I want to read a book where everyone lives in a simple fantasy land and the conflict is barely there and they all live happily ever after. They always appeal to me most strongly when I'm at a low point, emotionally speaking; blame this one on Trump. And of course then I get into it and I remember the weird evangelical slant they somehow manage to impart to the Amish, and the fucked-up "lessons" that always crop up, and by that time I'm too far in and it's like a train wreck; I just can't stop.

None of the stories here were particularly outrageous. In fact, they were all pretty bland and unremarkable, which for me is good in this category; usually if I remember a work of inspirational fiction at all, it's because it was exceptionally bad/racist/misogynist, and none of these were extraordinarily so (though the third story did have some pretty damn problematic relationship dynamics going on). Mediocre writing throughout, but apart from some laughably bad dialogue in story #3, nothing too ridiculous. The stories were all quite predictable, but that's part of the appeal with this genre. They're comfort reads. If you're looking for that sort of thing, you could do a lot worse than this.

I do have to say, though, I'm a little amused by the recipes section. Don't get me wrong; carbs drowning in white sauce and cheese make my little heart go pitter-pat just as much as the next Midwesterner. But I am a little skeptical of "traditional" Amish recipes that call for things like Velveeta, Campbell's soup, or instant ramen. I'm not saying the Amish DON'T eat those things - I'm sure some of them might. But I'm guessing those are not the traditional recipes handed down from the Amish ancestors of yesteryear.

Cecily Wolfe says

The Clipston story spoke to me the most - as it would any reader who has had a family member suffer a stroke, and the aftermath. The other stories were good - not saying they weren't - but this one stood out for me.

Paula says

Three stories of romance that take place in the Amish community.

The first one is a young woman who is the healer for the community. A single male neighbor has been single to this point and not looking for love when he falls for her.

The 2nd is a young girl running a bed and breakfast. A troubled man comes from a neighboring town looking for work and they fall in love.

The 3rd is a woman and her husband and family who move in with her parents after a tree falls on their

house.

Pretty good stories but somewhat preachy.

Katie says

All 3 stories in this book were very good. Each one took a little to get going but once they did it was hard to put down.

Sara says

First story was good. Second was meh. Third had good points, but the writing/story was obvious, so boring go me.
