



What the Bishop Saw

Vannetta Chapman

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Somewhere in the Embers Lies the Truth

A fire blazes out of control in the San Luis Valley of Colorado, leaving an elderly Amish bachelor dead. Bishop Henry Lapp rushes to the scene, and he learns the fire was no accident. Someone intended to kill Vernon Frey. But who would want to kill Vernon? Well, practically everyone—Amish and *Englisch* alike.

When the police point the finger at a suspect Henry knows is innocent, the bishop must decide whether or not to use his mysterious, God-given gift—one he's tried desperately to ignore all these years—to try and set the record straight. His close friend and neighbor, Emma, encourages Henry to follow God's leading.

Could the clue to solving the case be locked somewhere deep in his memory? Will Henry find the courage to move forward in faith and put the right person behind bars? Is his friendship with Emma becoming something more?

What the Bishop Saw is a story of extraordinary talents, the bonds of love and friendship, and the unfailing grace of God.

What the Bishop Saw Details

Date : Published April 25th 2017 by Harvest House Publishers

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Author : Vannetta Chapman

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From Reader Review What the Bishop Saw for online ebook

Carol says

What the Bishop saw is an amazing Amish novel and yes I did say novel not just a plain ole story. Ms. Chapman outdid herself in this novel. This is about Bishop Henry who guides the close knit Amish community. He is a very kind, wise, compassionate man. He does run things with a strong hand but everyone from the very young to the very old love him and turn to him for guidance, so when there is a string of arson in the Amish community (targeting them) he of course gets involved. A longtime friend Emma is the one who Henry turns to (she is also a widower like Henry). Henry has a gift for noticing the most minuscule things and remembering them, that's why he is so good at solving mysteries, but will he solve this one? This one has a murder on it, and they are blaming the wrong person. This is absolutely full of faith - AMEN - there is deceit, a kaleidoscope of feelings and GOD's intervention by giving Henry his gift for solving mysteries. I received a copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. If you would like to read more of my Christian book reviews go to christianlybookreviewers.blogspot.com

Jen. says

A mix of mystery, suspense, romance and faith. Great characters! Short chapters. Easy to read. Very enjoyable and I cannot wait for more!

Nancee says

Amish Bishop, Henry Lapp, has a incredible gift that has been useful in investigating an arsonist in their community. As a member of the community is suspect for setting these fires, Bishop Lapp is not convinced of his guilt.

Action packed and at times disheartening, the fires continue. Characterization is very well defined, as well as visual portrayals of this Colorado community.

Consumed by the events in this creative novel, I am once again impressed by the author's talent to bring her characters to life. I'm looking forward to the sequels in this series. Vannetta Chapman never disappoints!

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book as a gift, and was not expected to post a positive review. All expressed opinions are my own.

Lisa Johnson says

Title: What the Bishop Saw (The Amish Bishop Mysteries #1)

Author: Vannetta Chapman

Pages: 348

Year: 2017

Publisher: Harvest House Publishers

My rating is 5 out of 5 stars.

Henry Lapp is a widower in his mid-sixties who is the Bishop of a small Amish community in Colorado. When he was a boy of 12, he was hit in the head with a baseball. After being in a coma for a while, he had the ability to draw from memory a picture-perfect drawing of a scene he had encountered. He used this talent once as a boy with harsh results. He hasn't used the talent for a long time, but soon he will be left with no choice but to put his God-given gift to work. Henry is unsure if it is a gift or a curse. An unlikeable, older, Amish man is killed in a house fire that is discovered to have been deliberately set. An arson investigator is called in to solve the case, but dealing with Amish people who like to keep to themselves proves to be a challenge for her.

As the case comes to a standstill, Henry's drawing talent is put to use. His picture provides a lead, but that turns out to be a dead end. Henry and the arson investigator continue to ask questions, but can't seem to discover who the arsonist is. Another building is set on fire, then another with no suspect in custody. Some Amish families begin to think about moving to other communities as they no longer feel safe. Henry confides in Emma, his close friend since childhood and she helps him work through things. Emma is a widow and lives with her son and his family. Henry is very close to this family as his wife died twenty years ago and they had no children. As the danger mounts, Henry feels the tension in his families that he shepherds. He also begins to realize he feels more for Emma than friendship, but is unsure if she feels the same spark.

Now that is how a community should live together! They came together when someone needed help with shelter, food, emotional or spiritual support and much more. This small, tightknit, Amish community was deeply spiritual in their lifestyle, showing Christ in their actions. However, their Bishop was also the first to point out that they were human as well and not above sinful actions, addictions, reactions, negative emotions, etc. Henry Lapp was a humble, but admirable leader of his small band of fellow Amish. I don't believe in or agree with everything their Ordnung says, but in this story the actions of some these Amish people were fine examples of Christian living. I think this is a good start to what I hope will be a fine series of Amish mysteries!

Kav says

Woohoo -- a stellar new Amish mystery series and I'm late to the gate because I believe book two has just released. There is soooooo much to recommend What the Bishop Saw that I'm not quite sure where to start. Maybe with Henry himself.

Hello! You've gotta love a man who names his horse Oreo! And fusses over a mother kitten in the barn. And adopts a beagle pup. Definitely ticks all my critter lovin' boxes! Then there's his unusual talent which is both a blessing and a curse. I'll leave you to discover exactly what that is but, goodness, it brings a whole new dimension to a good mystery!

And yes, Henry is a mature hero -- but hero none the less. He is in his sixties, widowed over twenty years and dedicated to leading 'his flock.' Love the way he guides rather than controls -- a genuinely caring man with an incredible capacity for compassion. He loves people and it shows. And there's one point, at the end, where I got goosebumps when I realized just how remarkable a man Henry is. The perfect example of faith in action.

Of course, there are some people he loves more than others. Emma Fisher has held a special place in his heart, first as a friend for decades, but now that friendship seems to be blossoming into so much more.

There is something particularly sinister about arson and Chapman takes us into the misguided mind of a killer. Danger amps up in this idyllic Colorado community (love the unusual locale for an Amish story!) and Henry finds himself in the middle of a police investigation he had no intention of getting involved in. Great insights into interactions between Amish and Englisch and the cultural divide that needs to be breached in order to bring a killer to justice.

A captivating blend of mystery and romance wrapped up in a message of hope.

Christy says

While I enjoyed the character of Henry Lapp and was glad to see an author show appreciation for a seasoned lead man I didn't enjoy this read as much as I had hoped. The Amish people read like little snippets of a Hallmark movie. They just didn't come across as Amish people in the story to me. There was one time the Amish Bishop is sitting at his kitchen table telling the woman arsonist investigator (a stranger) about his love life. I just found that ludicrous and one other time Emma tells her granddaughter that she can be anything she wants to be; and I just couldn't picture an Amish woman telling that to another Amish. I also couldn't imagine an Amish community not shunning Alvin for leaving his wife for another woman. There were just so many moments that these supposed Amish people spoke and read just like any other contemporary set of characters. I was disappointed.

Vera Godley says

The author has begun a new series - The Amish Bishop Mysteries - with a delightful story about a group of Amish who settled in the San Luis Valley area of Colorado. I don't know if the series will feature Bishop Henry Lapp in all of the books, but I just love his gentle guidance that carries a bit of humor and a lot of strength for the members of his community. I hope to read more about him in future stories.

As a peaceful, pacifist group they find themselves embroiled in and the target of murder and arson when one of their own's home is burned out and left murdered in the fire. This is only the start of a series of violent arson acts that seem connected. Yet, the arsonist also strikes a couple of non-Amish establishments leading to questions about how they, too, would be the object of the serial arsonist's attention.

Characters' experience with special gifts of intelligence are brought forth and it is shown how their gift can affect personality and development. Henry is considered a savant because of his unique ability to draw detailed images from his subconscious memory. A good link on savant syndrome is at the NIH website. A concise definition could be....

Savant syndrome is a rare, but extraordinary, condition in which persons ... have some 'island of genius' which stands in marked, incongruous contrast to overall handicap. ... Whatever the particular savant skill, it is always linked to massive memory.

I found one of the warm-fuzzy characters to be the little puppy that Bishop Henry Lapp adopts added a layer of warmth and joy to the story. Delightful. Heartwarming. And the young girl, Katie, is so loveable. I am thinking she would be a strong interest to follow should the author continue the series with the same

characters.

Vannetta Chapman writes an easy to read story and her mysteries are interesting and just suspenseful enough to keep one's attention and yet not get too convoluted. Character development is always a plus with Chapman's books and the story line is always well developed.

I can highly recommend What the Bishop Saw.

I received a complimentary copy to facilitate a review of my own opinions which are freely given.

Kathleen Kleinert says

What the Bishop Saw by Vannetta Chapman

This first book in a new series by Vannetta Chapman grips you from the start. Ms. Chapman has a tremendous talent at writing both Amish and Mystery novels. When she combines the two.....you are in for a very entertaining read!

When fires begin to plague the quiet Amish community, fear soon follows. No one can understand why they are being targeted. With no rhyme or reason to the incidents, everyone begins to fear their homes and loved ones might be next.

Bishop Henry Lapp does his best to spread peace and calm through the community but it isn't enough. The Bishop's God-given and very unique talent needs to be used to help catch the arsonist but he is reluctant to brush off this seldom used skill. Will the Bishop be able to help his people before more lives and properties are destroyed? You won't want to miss the first of The Amish Bishop Mysteries!!

Tish says

A fire breaks out and a Amish man Vernon Frey is found dead. The fire department tells Bishop Henry Lapp that the fire was not a accident but it was set. When a man is accused of the fire Bishop Henry Lapp knows that the man is innocent and uses his gift from God to prove it. Bishop Lapp has the power that he can draw and see the accident. As more fires happen the Amish is afraid and some choice to move. This books keeps you wondering who is starting the fires and why are they doing it. A story of Faith and Love and forgiveness.

Robyn says

I am not an Amish Fiction fan. That said, I was surprised by how much I enjoyed this book. It had insightful and deep characters with a wonderful thread of suspense woven throughout the story. I enjoyed the unique plot line and all of the characters. If you love Amish Fiction, you will love this book. If you are not a typical Amish Fiction fan, you will STILL love this book! Highly recommended.

Lori says

I was really looking forward to reading this one and I was definitely not disappointed!

A suspenseful novel waiting to keep you on the edge of your seat waiting to see what would happen next!

This a darker Amish novel and I felt I could connect with the characters much better.

I like that the author shows us that Amish people are much the same as us. Only difference is they don't believe in striking back.

Emma is a wonderful lady whom I can definitely relate to because she has migraines.(I suffer from migraines too but unlike Emma usually take something for mine. Sometimes it helps and sometimes it doesn't and I'd have to go lie down in a dark corner).

Emma is a woman full of wisdom and has a quiet peace about her that I sort of have somewhat myself.

I admire Emma in more ways than one. To me, she is what I'd like my own mother to be.

Henry is pretty awesome himself.

He is another of my favorites. I love his ability that he can draw and it seems such a shame that he felt it wasn't a talent to be used unless something bad happens.

(I too love to draw only drawings consist of horses and other animals.

I definitely can't draw people).

I enjoyed this book very much! I even burned some midnight oil too!!!

Most often bullying starts from how a person is raised. I can relate to that also as I too have been made fun of and I can't make friends very easily and when I do they usually end up stabbing me in the back. It's why I'm a loner but I'd never ever stoop as low as this person did.

I have my Jesus to thank for that as He is the one true friend I'll ever have.

But, even bullies and make mistakes and more often than not they will catch up with you

It is a cry for help.

I'm so glad Henry is the bishop and the man he's supposed to be and for the I admire the Amish greatly! We Englishers can learn a thing or two from them like planting our gardens because there may come a time when we might have to!!!

Thank God for wonderful authors that entertain me through their books! Books are a woman's bestest friend ever!!!!

Vannetta Chapman you have outdone yourself in this book! Will

Henry and Emma get married in the future? I don't understand how they are both blind to each other after all these years!

Love is a funny thing I guess. It can sneak up on you or hit you hard between the eyeballs. Who knows?

Guess we'll just have to wait and see!

This is definitely a must read novel by Vannetta Chapman and I strongly recommend this book for people who love reading Amish stories

I received a complimentary copy from Netgalley and was in no way required to review this book

Just Commonly says

"Think before you speak, but don't speak all you think" (56)

What the Bishop Saw is the first of the Amish Bishop Mysteries series by Vannetta Chapman. If you've been following my blog, you know I love Vannetta's books. The subtle messages and profound wisdom in her books are so spot on, the story continues to leave a mark in your mind, even days after. What the Bishop Saw is that kind of book.

What the Bishop Saw is different than majority of the books you read, I surmise. Most stories tend to feature main characters who are in their 20s-40s. In this book, our main characters are actually in their early 60s. That's what caught my attention at first. Surprisingly, I find it endearing. Possibly because these characters have a different mentality when dealing with situations, and with our main character being the bishop of a community, it's even more interesting to see how he leads. Throughout the book, you'll notice that being older doesn't mean you're perfect. In fact, far from it, but the experiences one gains in years hopefully will enlighten. Age shouldn't limit what we come to expect in novels, including a compelling arc, as well as a romance readers can relate to. The subtlety and idea of respect in romance gave this story another plus in my book. Isn't it how it should be?

"In youth we learn, in age we understand." (204)

The many Amish proverbs throughout the book adds to its charm. What the Bishop Saw also reminds me why I enjoy reading Amish fiction and why I'm fascinated by the Amish culture. The Amish community are "more than neighbors, but less than family. They were a group of believers bound by faith and history." (57) Indeed they are and that's why I enjoy reading about their community. Not to say they are without faults, but their faith binds them together. Aren't readers as such too? Aren't readers of Christian Fiction bound by their faith, as well as their love for reading? Humbling is what I can say about Amish fiction, as well as What the Bishop Saw in particular. It's about life, death, love and God's gifts to us. Though we may not see or understand, His gifts are blessings.

"It's a gift . . . everything we're able to do is a gift from Gottes . . . our gifts are to be used to serve one another." (81)

With a murder mystery that threatens a community, What the Bishop Saw ties all the good things in books we love in a beautiful package, including a sweet beagle named Lexi.

This review first appeared on Just Commonly blog.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book from the author/publisher. I was not required to write a positive review, and have not been compensated for this. This is my honest opinion.

Laura says

Wow. I can't imagine the plotting that must've gone into this book. **WHAT THE BISHOP SAW** was engaging, about a bishop with a brain injury I'd never even heard of, that gifted him with an amazing gift--or curse--depending on how you look at it.

Did the bishop actually see anything to save the suspect Henry knows is innocent? If so, what... and will the police detectives be able to figure it out before there are any more fires?

I loved Henry. A dear, sweet older gentleman. There is a hint of a relationship developing, wonderfully developed secondary characters--not to mention a sweet beagle pup who turned into a better watchdog than Henry had ever imagined.

I love Vannetta Chapman's Amish mysteries -- can't get enough of them. She's a very talented author.

If you love Amish mysteries or either of the two by themself, you will want to read **WHAT THE BISHOP SAW**. It will keep you engaged until the last page is turned and the book is closed.

Maureen Timerman says

I'm not Amish but I sure wish I could attend Henry Lapps services, what a kind loving man, and yet he has had to deal with his own daemons.

The setting for this story is the breath taking valley of San Luis Colorado, and a quaint and closely-knit Amish community. What happens here is about to tear apart this group of plain people, and in the end leave some hurt and worse dead.

Now in his sixties Henry has a blessing, or a curse, depending on how you look at it, and now he needs to make a decision to use this for the greater good. As a youngster he was hit in the head with a baseball, a brain injury and that turned on a switch that gave him a rare ability.

As we travel this story to find the person responsible for the terror that these people are facing. Will they find the arsonist before they loose any more, or will be more be hurt and force some to make a hard decision to leave for their peace of mind.

These are pacifists and they are surely put to the test by the perpetrator, but why are these peaceful people being targeted? When you discover who is responsible, I had a feeling that he had been let down by society, and yet he is so wrong.

You won't want to leave here and found myself doing some extra reading about being savant, very interesting. I hope we will be visiting with Henry and his community again; I wanted to immerse myself with the people.

I received this book through Net Galley and Harvest House Publishers, and was not required to give a positive review

Jen says

I received a copy of this from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

I've always been a fan of Vannetta Chapman, and especially love her Amish mystery series.

What The Bishop Saw was well-written, suspenseful and full of interesting characters. I especially liked the subtle romance of the older bishop Henry and the widow Emma. They were such sweet characters.

It's not too hard to figure out the whodunnit in this story, but I enjoyed the path the characters took in finding out for themselves.

Overall, 4 stars. Recommended!
