



## Plain Dead

*Emma Miller*

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*When a newspaperman is murdered in the Amish community of Stone Mill, Pennsylvania, Rachel Mast digs up the dirt to find out who wanted to bury the lead...*

Although she left her Old Order Amish ways in her youth, Rachel discovered corporate life in the English world to be complicated and unfulfilling. Having returned to Stone Mill, she's happy to be running her own B&B. But she's also learning—in more ways than one—that the past is not always so easily left behind.

After local newspaperman Bill Billingsly is found gagged and tied to his front porch, left to freeze overnight in a snowstorm, Detective Evan Parks—Rachel's beau—uncovers a file of scandalous information Billingsly intended to publish, including a record of Rachel pleading no contest to charges of corporate misconduct. Though Evan is certain of her innocence, it's up to Rachel to find the real killer. A closer examination of the victim's unpublished report leads Rachel to believe the Amish community is far from sinless. But if she's not careful her obituary might be the next to appear in print...

## Plain Dead Details

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Author : Emma Miller

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## From Reader Review Plain Dead for online ebook

### Mary Brown says

Plain Dead  
Emma Miller  
5 Stars

Synopsis:

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Review:

I have read all of the books in this series and I thought they were all excellent. All the things that I look for in a cozy are here: mystery, suspense, romance, and small town feel. In addition to all of these things, this book is an Amish mystery, which is one of my favorite types.

The characters are well developed and well rounded. Rachel is smart and is not afraid to stick her nose into things that really are not any of her business. But, as we all know, that is the only way to find a killer. She really does not take a lot of unnecessary chances but she will take every opportunity to go snooping. I really enjoy the fact that although she is now an Englisher, she still honors the traditions of her Amish family.

The mystery is well plotted and carried on perfectly throughout the book. There are suspects to consider and clues to reveal and decipher if the murderer is ever going to get caught. The method of killing was unique, which I enjoyed. There are enough twists and turns to make you stop and rethink the culprit a few times.

The writing style flows smoothly and the book is an easy read. The author is very talented in creating suspense with the written word. She is talented in giving enough description to allow the reader to get the images in their head but not so much that the book begins to drag.

I would highly recommend this book (and series) to all those who enjoy a well crafted cozy mystery. If you like Amish mysteries, this book (and series) is a must read.

I received a free copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for a honest review. I would like to thank

NetGalley and Kensington Books for the opportunity to read and review this book.

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### **Wanda says**

Really enjoyed reading this book. Learned a great deal about the Amish and their beliefs.

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### **Cats of Ulthar February Weird Fiction says**

PLAIN DEAD by Emma Miller

A comfortable cozy that warms the reader, like hot cocoa and a crackling fireplace in the depths of winter, Emma Miller's PLAIN DEAD neatly delineates community and personal lives of Amish (the Plain People) and "English" (non-Amish). Protagonist Rachel Mast has a foot in both camps, as it were. Born and raised Amish, at seventeen she left the community for university and corporation. When that palled, she returned and opened a B&B and gift shop. Her organization of the Winter Festival (and her engagement) are quite successful; but Amish peace and tranquility are threatened by a nosy, interfering, newspaperman with lots of gossipy research. Then he is discovered, dead of exposure--but clearly his death was no accident.

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### **Dawn says**

The third book in The Amish Mystery series did not disappoint. Rachel becomes involved in investigating another murder, this time the local newspaper reporter. Who could have killed him? Plenty of suspects including Rachel and the Amish but who actually did the murder will shock you. I could not figure it out till the end and you probably won't till the end either. Love the characters especially Rachel.

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### **Lisa Morin says**

This is the first book I have read by this particular author. I have read several different Amish cozy mysteries and this one was quite good. For me, I really enjoyed the concept of this story. In most Amish cozies, the protagonist is either full Amish or an Englisher. Rachel Mast is neither, while she holds strong to her Amish roots, her time as an Englisher is important to her as well.

This story is set in January and the town is getting ready for their Winter Frolic. Rachel has worked hard to bring new growth to the small community of Stone Mill, PA, and she is pleased with the turnout. Her Bed and Breakfast is booked for the festivities and her personal life with Evan seems to be moving along at a comfortable speed. The Winter Frolic would be a huge hit if only nasty newspaperman Bill Billingsly would keep his gossip to himself. It seems that the nasty reporter loves digging up the dirt on his fellow neighbors and he doesn't know when to stop. It seems his gossip has made someone hate him enough to do the unthinkable and when his body is discovered it seems Rachel has made the suspect list. This story is very well written and I found it easy to lose myself in the quaint little town of Stone Mill.

.I will be sure to recommend this book and author to my friends.

I received an ARC of this book from NetGalley in exchange for my fair and honest review.

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### **Tina Watson says**

When your past, know matter how old of the past it is, comes back to meet you in the face, what would you do? Tell your Old Order Amish parents and siblings, hoping they understand? Tell your Detective boyfriend, who has you on the list as a suspect?

Meet Rachel Mast who was raised Old Order Amish and is currently the owner of a Bed and Breakfast that she runs. She finds herself in trouble and she's bound to clear her name. When her Detective boyfriend Parks is over looking two major clues in Rachel's eyes, she decides to find the answers. Will looking for those answers land her in more trouble than she was looking for?

The answer to these questions and more can be answered by reading "Plain Dead" by Emma Miller. You will not want to miss this Amish Mystery.

If you like suspense and mystery that keeps you looking for the murderer, then "Plain Dead" by Emma Miller is the book for you. Emma Miller has out done herself with "Plain Dead". I did not know who the murderer was in this book, nor did I suspect this murderer by the end of the book. Well done Emma with keeping my blindsided.

The characters, the setting, the plot, are all well developed; feels like you are there with the characters. The over all writing of this book reads smoothly and easy to follow. The flow runs evenly and stays current, no jumping back from current to past days back to current days.

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I received a free copy of this book through NetGalley for an honest review. No money was exchanged. This is my honest review in my own words.

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### **Lisa Ks Book Reviews says**

There is nothing plain about PLAIN DEAD!

This is my first book in the Amish Mysteries by author Emma Miller, but I will be going back and reading the first two installments, PLAIN MURDER, and PLAIN KILLING.

Author Miller has penned an amazing story in PLAIN DEAD. I was hooked from page one, and the story just kept getting better. I instantly liked protagonist Racheal Mast and her fiancée Detective Evan Parks. They make a wonderful couple to read about, and I loved the interactions between them.

PLAIN DEAD was an intriguing mystery with plot twists that really kept me guessing. The murder was pretty unique for a cozy-traditional mystery. Not your normal stabbing or poison. And the killer? Wow! That's all I'm saying other than, I didn't see that one coming!

This book will be a sure hit with mystery fans, and readers of Amish fiction. Reads from teens to seniors will all enjoy **PLAIN DEAD**.

A fun bonus for me...author **EMMA MILLER** lives in Kent County Delaware just like I do! ?

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### **Betty says**

At the Winter Frolic Rachel Mast learns that newspaper reporter, Bill Billingsly has learned why she return to Stone Mill. He plans to print it in his gossip column that week. That evening in a manor snowstorm she walks to his home but decides not to knock on it on the door. The next morning Bill Billingsly is found frozen to death in his front yard. Rachel and several of her friends are suspected in the case. Rachel begins to explore what happen against the advice of the police. The twists that the book takes will keep you turning the pages. The Amish way of life is explained in contrast with the outsiders. I will read more by this author.

Disclosure: I received a free copy from Kensington Books through Netgalley for an honest review. I would like to thank them for this opportunity to read and review the book. The opinions are my own.

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### **Jackie Roche says**

I would like to thank NetGalley and Kensington Books for giving me the opportunity to read this in return for an honest and open review.

After the death of a newspaper editor in The Amish community of Stone Mill, Bed and Breakfast owner Rachel uncovers a string of secrets.

This is the first book I've read by Emma Miller and it wasn't until I'd finished it that I discovered what a prolific writer she is. Although this is book 3 of "An Amish Mystery" series, I had no problems reading it as a stand-alone thriller.

What I particularly liked about this book was learning about the Amish way of life. In fact I was so intrigued by it I did some research into it.

I would certainly recommend this to anyone who loves a good mystery.

I will certainly by reading more of Ms Miller's books.

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### **Jeanie says**

Rachel has left her Amish community only by keeping the Amish traditions that she was raised in. She is more English than Amish. Having her own business, wearing certain clothes and currently she is investigating a the murder of the local newspaperman who was always looking for smut on everyone including herself. She along with several others becomes the prime suspect of his murder. Being currently engaged to the local police detective Evan, has made the situation even worse as her past comes back to haunt her. The secret that could destroy her family and the community that she loves.

Rachel is determined to solve the murder when another suspicious death occurs among the Amish community. The evidence points that the death is Amish related. What secret would a practicing Amish kill for?

This Amish read was different from other Amish novels that I have the pleasure of reading. It was light on faith and religious undertones which I was a little disappointed in however, it might create a wider audience because of that. It is a clean book but it does not create the Amish has spiritual wonders but as men and women that make mistakes (what I would call sin) and overcome by coming clean. Learning to trust and lean on family. What I found enjoyable was Rachel's relationship with her Amish parents and the heartbreak they had as she turned to her English ways. It was witty and had the spirit of love and fun.

A fun read with mystery and a community coming together!

*A Special Thank you to Kensington Books and Netgalley for the ARC and the opportunity to post an honest review.*

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### **Kristina says**

Plain Dead by Emma Miller is the third book in the An Amish Mystery series. Rachel Mast owns and runs the Stone Mill Bed and Breakfast. Rachel was raised in the Amish faith, but she decided not to be baptized into the faith. She tried the corporate life, but Rachel found it unsatisfactory. Rachel is happy to have returned to Stone Mill, Pennsylvania. She is currently dating Evan Parks who is a detective with the state police. The one thorn in Rachel's side is Bill Billingsley. He is the local newspaperman who has started a nasty gossip column (he is printing people's secrets). Bill has also been taking pictures of the local Amish against their will (you should always get permission first). Rachel has a secret that she does not want anyone to find out (she has not told her family or Evan). Rachel decided to confront Bill late one night and even got as far as his house. Rachel changed her mind and went home.

The next morning Bill is found tied to his front porch and frozen to death. Unfortunately for Rachel, she is the number one suspect. Rachel will have to investigate to clear her name and prove to Evan that she is not guilty. It turns out that plenty of people in the area have secrets that they wish to keep hidden. Will Rachel be able to find the killer before she ends up in jail or becomes the next victim? Rachel also has her hands full organizing the Winter Frolic and deciding whether or not to wear Evan's engagement ring (he proposed at the end of the last book).

Plain Dead is well-written and easy to read. The mystery was interesting (best part of the book). I just wish the writer had provided more clues. We keep getting told different information, but none of it helps the reader to find the killer (just one clue right before the killer is revealed). I did find Rachel a wee bit frustrating. Rachel left the Amish way of life, but she still caters to her family (by dressing the way they expect when she goes visiting for example). The one thing that had my blood boiling was the comments from an Amish man about a woman's place. I would hope that in this day and age no one would actually expect a woman to stay home, cook, clean, and raise children (evidently the Amish do though). If that is what a woman chooses to do, that is fine. But it should not be a given (sorry for the rant). Plain Dead is a good book, but it was not my favorite in the series. I give Plain Dead 4 out of 5 stars. While Plain Dead is a part of a series, it can be read alone. The author does a good job at updating the reader.

I received a complimentary copy of Plain Dead from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

For more information, check out my blog: <http://bibliophileandavidreader.blogs...>

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### **Susan says**

PLAIN DEAD is filled with mystery, suspense, and romance. Everything you could want in a delicious cozy. I love Rachel's character and how she is not afraid to keep digging until she finds out the truth. The mystery in this story is well plotted and will keep you guessing as to who dun it. I changed my mind on who it was a few times and I love when I think I have it all figured out only to be thrown in a different direction by the author. Emma Miller is quickly becoming one of my favorite go to Amish authors. PLAIN DEAD is very easy to read and well written. I can not wait to continue with this wonderful series.

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### **Melina says**

This is a wonderful series and this was a great installment in that series. I really like Rachel, she is truly stuck in two different worlds. She still has her Amish roots and values, but she wants to be in the English world, and knows how to survive in that world too. She seems to always get herself stuck in a murder investigation, much to the chagrin on her boyfriend Evan. This time, Rachel is a suspect herself! So of course Rachel has to try to find out who the real killer is. She is also busy running Stone Mill's first Winer Frolic, so Rachel is a very busy girl. This book grabbed my attention and kept it through out. I couldn't wait to find out who the killer was, and when each suspect was proven innocent, I was even more anxious to find out who the killer was, and it is a total surprise. If you are looking for an interesting, well written book, that will keep you turning pages, then this is the book for you.

I received a complimentary copy of this book for my honest review.

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### **Carla Johnson-Hicks says**

This is the first book I have read in the "Amish Mystery" series but it will not be the last. I had no problem with following the story or the characters even though it is the third book in the series.

Rachel Mast, is a character that lives between two worlds. Born and raised Amish, she left home at seventeen to go to university and then went to live in the big city and work for Corporate America. When that did not pan out, she returned home, but not to the Amish home, she lives as an Englisher and runs a Bed & Breakfast as well as a gift shop. She is the chairperson of the "Winter Frolic" a festival to highlight the town and well as the Amish people. The only bee in her bonnet at this time is Bill Billingsly, a nosy, interfering, newspaperman with lots of gossipy research. Then he is discovered, dead of exposure, frozen to death on his front porch. With all the people he has upset and alienated, there are many suspects and Rachel is one of them. She must find out who the real culprit is to clear her name.

This story is filled with mystery, suspense, and romance. Rachel's character is strong, loyal, smart, stubborn,

persistant and doing an amazing job of balancing her old and new worlds. She is so caring of the Amish world and its traditions that they let her in, even though she has left the "Plain World" to live as an Englisher. The mystery in this story is well plotted and will keep you guessing as to who is the guilty party. I changed my mind on who it was a few times and I love when I think I have it all figured out only to be thrown in a different direction by the author. I did figure it out just before the reveal, and that made the story even more interesting for me. Definitely an author I will follow, especially as I learn more about the Amish life.

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### **Peggy R says**

This is the first book that I have read by this author and found it to be very enjoyable. I am a fan of cozy mysteries with an Amish setting so when I was provided the opportunity to read this book I didn't hesitate. The book is well written with a good pace and a solid mystery. Set in a charming town, I found the characters to be well developed and likeable. I will definitely be reading more by this author.

I was provided an ARC of this book by the publisher through Netgalley.

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