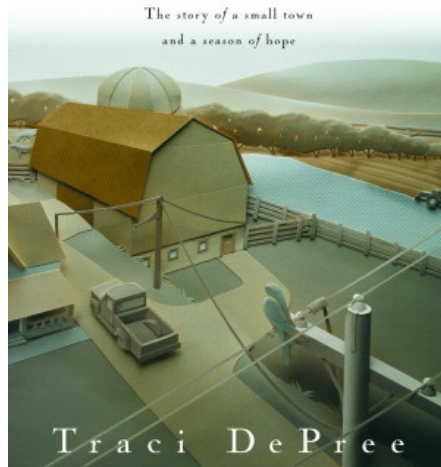


a can of peas



A Can of Peas

Traci DePree

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Traci Depree

A Can of Peas Traci Depree

Weaving together the strong threads of family and friends in a pattern of grace, forgiveness, and kindness, *A Can of Peas* invites readers into a place where every day brings a new story and neighbors are more than just people who live down the road. Sometimes funny and often poignant, these vignettes will draw both men and women into the reassuring rhythms of life as it ought to be—and as it still is in the heart of America.

After the death of his grandfather, Peter Morgan and his new bride, Mae, face a life-changing decision: should they embrace the career-chasing ambitions of their family and friends in St. Paul or accept the absurd challenge of saving the family farm in the Minnesota countryside?

Enticed by the romance of a simple, quiet life, the Morgans set out to follow in the footsteps of Peter's grandparents. Soon, Peter is farming around the clock, barely one step ahead of failure as Mae struggles to find her place in Peter's life and in the community. Will the strain of saving the farm tear their marriage apart? Was it a mistake to dream?

A Can of Peas Details

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From Reader Review A Can of Peas for online ebook

Becki says

Book Club book for November\nPeter and Mae Morgan make a decision to change their entire life-style. They are leaving their city existence in St. Paul to move to Lake Emily, Minnesota, and take over the family farm. Their learning curve is steep as they learn about farming and try to find a place in this small community. \nThis book was pleasant?a nice story, nice characters?for the most part. It wasn't until the end that the characters and the story really caught me and spoke to me on a deeper level. \nOne of the frustrating things for me was the dropped story lines that would come in and out. Not the background stories of the different residents of Lake Emily. Those were interesting and well done. It is more the story line of Trudy and Bert or Mae and her mother. Also, occasionally the pacing of the story didn't make sense. On one page Mae is talking about how exhausted she is all the time, but the next page (when it doesn't appear much time has passed) she has regained all the energy the early stage of her pregnancy had trained for her.\nStill, it was a pleasant story if not completely satisfying.\n

Taryn says

The "problems" in the book are a little too neatly solved and challenges are a little too neatly dealt with and resolved but this is a good book.

Jennybug says

This book was a little slower but I really enjoyed it. I already reviewed this book and added some of my favorite quotes. The only problem is it didn't save and the book is already back on the library shelf. So this is by memory...

There was a really good quote about you will always be you with the exception of the choices that you make. They will define you.

I also loved when the cute little grandma said, Some times you get your family where ever you can. And I need a granddaughter. So tender.

This was a great book and it really made me want to move to a small town.

Traci says

Okay, it's my first book I have to like it!

Valerie says

After the death of his grandfather, Peter Morgan and his bride of six months, Mae, face a life-changing decision: should they embrace the career-chasing ambitions of their family and friends in St. Paul or try and save the family farm in the Minnesota?

With thoughts of living the quiet, serene life and to get away from living with Mae's mother, the Morgans set out to follow in the footsteps of Peter's grandparents. Soon, they are learning not only how to run a farm, but figuring out how to see each other as the demands on the farm take up most of Peter's time. Will the farm tear their marriage apart? Was it a mistake to for them to leave their secure jobs in the city?

I liked the book, but could not really get into it as much as I had hoped. I love quirky characters, and there just didn't seem to be enough of that in this book. The main characters were not incredibly likeable, the grandmother Victoria was the only one I felt shone.

I thought the ending happened to fast, and am always bothered by the "God gives, and God takes back" philosophy of so many Christian authors.

Jonille Shepherd says

Enjoyed the book, wasn't crazy about the ending

Kate says

Traci Depree's Lake Emily books were recommended to me because I am/was a fan of Jan Karon and Philip Gulley's similar tomes. Traci Depree's novels are another entry into the (I think) relatively newish genre of Christian literature.

I am not a particularly religious person, but I love Philip Gulley's Harmony books above most books I've read in the past 10 years. I find my enthusiasm for the Mitford series has waned, they're a little too preachy. So I find myself approaching Christian fiction with a lot of leanness.

I got all 3 of the Lake Emily books on PaperbackSwap.com, however, and nothing warms my heart like free literature. So I decided to take a crack at it as I need some of the early parts of the alphabet for my alphabet reading challenge. Lake Emily will happily cover A, C, and D if I can get through them.

The story revolves around Mae and Peter, a young couple who take over Peter's grandfather's farm after the older man's death. While Peter struggles to make a go of the farm, Mae struggles to fit in with her new surroundings and figure out what she's going to do as a farm wife.

Honestly, the book wasn't really in-your-face Go God Go! In fact, it seemed to me like Depree randomly threw some praying in there when she didn't know what else to write. It was almost jarring. Pages and pages of why Mae is depressed or Peter is tired and then "let's pray".

I spent the entire book thinking, "Man I hate this book" and then at the end, I wound up crying. Which made

me hate this book even more. But something about it must have touched me because I pulled out the sequel tonight and started reading it.

It's kind of akin to how I feel reading Jennifer Chiaverini's Elm Creek Quilt books--I hate myself for wasting the time on them, but then I can't wait to read the next one anyway. I guess there's a place for books like that in life, and so I'll keep reading till I can't take any more. I rated it 2 stars, but I guess I would have given it 2 1/2 and I'm toying with 3. We'll see how the next book fares!

Liza says

I liked this sweet book, though I found it a little corny and predictable - I don't mind that if I'm in the right mood.

Angela says

This is a memoir-style story-driven overtly Christian fiction book with well-developed characterization and strong sense of rural-Minnesota place. The story starts out somewhat simplistically though engagingly, and even though I enjoy description in my fiction, I felt it moved a little slowly at the beginning for my taste. It is authentic in its farm knowledge, and a person feels they can learn the workings of a farm and its prodigious to-do list by learning along with the main character. This was definately written by a woman, or there would have been way more mechanics involved, including tractor maintenance, which may have netted some additional male readers. It does have a realistic conclusion.+++

Donna says

I really enjoyed this book. It's about a young man named Peter whose grandfather just passed away. He has many fond memories of helping his grandfather on the farm in Minnesota and wonders why his father didn't stay there to take over the farm. He resents his father, who is a musician, for always moving around while he was growing up and for missing his grandfather's funeral. Peter is between jobs and he and his new wife Mae are staying in her parents basement, which hasn't been ideal. Mae's mom doesn't think Peter is good enough for her and Mae ends up leaving with their mother-daughter relationship in ruins. Peter's Grandmother mentioned one day that her husband Roy had always hoped someone in the family would take over the farm and Peter thinks that is what he wants to do. He talks to his wife and his grandmother and they decide on a trial period to see how it goes. Mae finds out very quickly that outsiders have a hard time fitting in with small town folks where everyone knows everyone's business. Peter loves farming but has a hard time keeping up and is worried about paying back his operating loan. The story continues to tell of some of their trials on the farm.

I really like how the author inserted short chapters in italics that tell a small story from the past just before a chapter where that person is involved in the present. That allows the reader to get to know the people in the small town and how they relate to one another. You learn a little bit of history right when you need to. The stories are very well written and make you feel for the people in the story. After reading this book you are left wondering what's next and there are two more books "Dandelions in a jelly jar" and "aprons on a

clothesline".

This isn't just a book about farming. It's about being new and trying to fit in where newcomers aren't welcome. It's about love.... and family. It's about coming through difficult times unscathed and knowing you are not alone in the world.

Mary Lou says

Similar to Gulley's "Harmony" without the humor. Too many farming details.

Diane says

Great book!!! I especially enjoyed the sense of history that came with the "flashbacks." I recommend this to anyone that likes a good story where not a lot happens, but it's fascinating anyway - kind of like my life!

jimtown says

This is a new author for me. A Can of Peas is the first book in the Lake Emily Series. At Chapter 12, I'm finding her writing smoooooooooth and very descriptive. I enjoyed A Can of Peas very, very much. It got four stars only because nothing exciting happened in the story. It was all too pleasant.

The very best part of the story was the excellent descriptions of activities on the farm. All the characters were likeable but it was the addition of Trudie, Mae's sister that was truly a delight in the story.

Peter decided to take over the family farm when his grandfather died. It was something he knew in his heart that he wanted to do and he hoped his young wife would go along. Mae not only was agreeable to the idea, she wanted to help. At first Peter rebuffed her help, thinking he had to do everything himself. The farm needed constant attention however and later he relented and Mae started helping with rock picking, milking, gardening, canning and even butchering the chickens she'd so lovingly raised.

It was fun when Mae's older sister Trudie came for the summer. She had the Al's (Alfred and Albert) all worked up over her. Which one would she choose? There are more books in this series and I bet one of them will be all about Trudie. These are mildly Christian books but it wasn't preachy as some I've seen. It was hopeful. I think I'll go on to the next in the series soon.

Jamie says

This book made me think of what my mother went through being a Detroit city girl and moving to a farm. It made me smile, laugh, cry... The last scene is so typical of that country living hospitality, it made me sob!

A young couple moves to the husband's grandparents farm to help out after the grandpa passes away. They left the face-pace city life behind along with their ambitious careers. Can they run a successful farm without any knowledge of doing so?

I didn't know this book was a Christian novel until I read it in the small print. It's not preachy at all! Lovely and heart-warming!

Kasey says

An excellent book that will open your eyes to the troubles and joys of midwest farm life. Learn to have more appreciation for the simple joys in life, right along with Peter and Mae. After all as Leonardo da Vinci said: "Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication."
