



## Amish Celebrations: Four Novellas

*Beth Wiseman*

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### *The Gift of Sisters*

Hannah and Rachel are fraternal twins approaching their sixteenth birthday—a time when they will be allowed to spread their wings and enjoy their *rumschpringe*. The sisters couldn't be more different: Hannah is outgoing and beautiful, while Rachel is shy and withdrawn. And when newcomer Abraham Stoltzfus arrives in Lancaster County, both women fall head over heels for him, each fighting for his affections in their own ways and driving the sisters to turn on each other. Who will Abraham choose? And will Hannah and Rachel reunite after a devastating heartbreak?

### *A New Beginning*

Rebecca and Noah are in love and about to be baptized. But when Noah decides to enjoy one last night of his *rumschpringe* a few weeks before the ceremony, he does something that causes Rebecca to reconsider his proposal. As Rebecca and Noah navigate the turn in their relationship, Rebecca must learn to forgive Noah or abandon her dreams of marrying him. If Noah won't forgive himself in time for the baptism, his guilt could cause him to run from his love for Rebecca and leave his community behind.

### *A Perfect Plan* (previously published in *An Amish Wedding*)

Priscilla King has been planning to marry Chester Lapp since she was sixteen years old, and when Chester pops the question on Priscilla's nineteenth birthday, wedding plans begin immediately. But everything begins to fall apart as Chester works to build a house for his new bride, only to have one disaster after another occur. Can true love take this couple through the challenges that threaten their union, or will they begin to doubt that they are on the right path, the one God has chosen for them?

### *A Christmas Miracle*

Mary is twenty-seven years old and already has five young children. Married to her husband at age eighteen, she wasn't quite prepared for motherhood, and exhaustion and frustration are sending her into a downhill spiral as the holidays approach. Too proud and ashamed to ask for help, Mary's situation begins to take a toll on her marriage. But when an elderly man in a red suit and his sidekick elf befriend Mary, showering her with wisdom and advice, she must choose to accept help, learn to cope with her situation, and ultimately find the true meaning of Christmas.

## Amish Celebrations: Four Novellas Details

Date : Published July 10th 2018 by Zondervan

ISBN : 9780529118738

Author : Beth Wiseman

Format : Paperback 440 pages

Genre : Amish, Romance, Christian Fiction, Amish Fiction, Christian, Holiday, Christmas, Fiction

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## **From Reader Review Amish Celebrations: Four Novellas for online ebook**

### **Karla says**

I must say that when I see Beth Wiseman's name on the cover of a new book, I just have to grab it and I KNOW that it will be one that keeps me totally engrossed from beginning to end! This new collection of Amish novellas is no exception! Admittedly, novellas are not always as enjoyable to me as a full length novel. However, Beth's creative writing talent kept me totally captivated. I absolutely loved this book!!

Beth's unique and strong storytelling gift is evident in the description of the characters in each novella. The characters are described in such a detailed realistic way that one can easily identify with each of them. Just because they are Plain People does not exempt them from the trials of daily life. I quickly became drawn into each of the main character's lives. When they hurt, I hurt! This is an important part of my personal opinion of what makes a great book! Escaping reality for a short while , living the life journey of another individual, is my greatest desire when immersed in a new novel.

Each story had a strong plot with plenty of action and just the right amount of unexpected twists and turns to keep the reader engrossed from beginning to end. This collection is perfect for those who wish a short read before retiring for the night. Reading one novella took just about the right amount of time before I was ready for sleep. Mind you, as usual, I had a very difficult time putting the book down!! Beth has such a talent in storytelling that I find her books rather "addictive"!

This is definitely a five star book!! Don't miss it! A marvellous, magnificent read!!

This book was received from the publisher/author. The opinions and thoughts expressed are honest and my own.

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### **Jeanie says**

**If you live your life based on what-if's- What if I get divorced? What if I fall out love? and so on, you're never going to be happy.**

A Christmas Miracle- A celebration of Christmas when a little Amish girl Rachel King ends up asking Santa for a Christmas miracle. My mutti needs help. Bruce playing Santa and the mall and his associate Joan playing the elf are surprised when the little Amish girl makes her request. The Amish are not known to be requesting Santa for anything. Bruce is financially able to make miracles come true thinking the Amish girl's family may be in financial trouble, has a check mailed to the Rachel's family. The King family know that they cannot accept this gift and do not understand why their daughter would make such a request. Mary, Rachel's mother has her own insecurities as her own mother died young and raising so many children, keeping the home, she feels inadequate. Taking the check back, the King family unbeknownst to them, have started a relationship with Bruce and Joan. This relationship entails the many miracles only Christmas can bring.

The Gift of Sisters-Rachel and Hannah are twin sisters who look nothing alike and are completely different in personality and characteristics. It is when a boy comes between them, that they both feel that having a sister is a curse and far from being a gift. Rachel has always loved Abraham but when her sister Hannah becomes involved with him, she becomes angry and bitter. Hannah soon finds out that all Amish boys are not who they claim to be. Abraham has been playing fast and hard leaving Hannah hurt and confused. She knows her sister is hurt but she also wants to protect her against the likes of Abraham. A celebration of sisterhood when two sisters climb over the misunderstanding and insecurities that build walls of friendship and love.

A New Beginning- Noah is in the middle of his rumspringa and is currently engaged to be married. However, when he goes to a party with an English friend and meets a girl that he can be totally himself with, he calls off his engagement to Rebecca. A moment decision is never good and he knows he cannot live his life by what if's. New beginnings show how small the world is and that circumstances are not always what they seem. What seemed like an indiscretion to Noah, becomes a celebration of new beginnings for many.

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

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### **Sarah says**

Amish Celebrations is a collection of four Novellas by Beth Wiseman of celebrations including a baptism, wedding, birthday and Christmas. I love these stories because of the faith that is interwoven in each story. What is perfect about these novellas is that you can read one each night before heading off to bed and you'll finish it that evening. Of course as a fan of Christmas, my favorite novella was "A Christmas Miracle." I love how Santa and his helper are forever changed by their act of kindness. These stories are heartwarming and will fill your heart with joy as you read about each family. If you enjoy Christian Amish fiction, you will enjoy this collection.

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### **Jen. says**

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The covers of these Amish books just keep getting prettier and prettier!

Amish Celebrations releases on July 10, 2018. It is the newest novella collection from Beth Wiseman.

A Christmas Miracle – Very cute story! Unique prologue! Strong Christian Christmas message and values.

The Gift of Sisters – A good story about Christian morals. Appropriate for teens as the sisters celebrate their

sixteenth birthday during the story.

A New Beginning – Probably the most complex novella in the collection. Enjoyable characters, plot and story. Nicely done!

A Perfect Plan (previously published in An Amish Wedding) – A comedy of errors impact these cute characters' wedding preparations. Strong message about how worrying too much will distract you from understanding God's plan. "Only God's plan is perfect." Sweet romance. (This story was not included in the e-galley I read but will be included in the finished copy of the book. I read this story last year in An Amish Wedding)

I recommend this book to people who enjoy Amish fiction!

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Zondervan though NetGalley. Opinions expressed in this review are completely my own.

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### **Amy says**

Amish Celebrations is a collection of four novellas by Beth Wiseman. These novellas include:

The Gift of Sisters - a story of Hannah and Elizabeth and of heartache

A New Beginning - a story of Rebecca and Noah and of betrayal and forgiveness

A Perfect Plan - a story of Priscilla and Chester

A Christmas Miracle - a story of Mary and my favorite of the book

I enjoyed all four of these stories. I give Amish Celebrations four stars.

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### **Ibjoy1953 Hannabass says**

#### **MY THOUGHTS ON THIS BOOK**

Amish Celebrations by Beth Wiseman is a collection of four Amish stories I thoroughly enjoyed. I love anything Ms. Wiseman writes. I love her writing style, her stories always capture my heart and I have a difficult time putting a book down written by this author. And this book was just like all others.

In each of these four stories, the characters are well thought of and created. And they are so realistic, I feel like I've met new friends. In each story, I feel in love with these sweet couples, but just like any family, they have their own problems with friends and family, with those in their little Amish communities. I learned a lot of valuable tips and lessons while reading these four stories. And if you enjoy a good clean Amish read, I strongly encourage this one!

The one thing I didn't care for was that "A Perfect Plan" was published in a previous book. So there was only three stories new to me. But it is nice having an entire short story book of Beth Wiseman stories! I received this book from BookLook Bloggers to read and review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 55.

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## **Lisa at Farm Fresh Adventures says**

Amish Celebrations is a collection of four novellas by bestselling author Beth Wiseman. Each of the novellas are geared around a celebration of some sort, and explore life within the Amish community. While Amish fiction isn't my favorite to read, I have found a few authors that I do enjoy with their "not-so-cookie-cutter" presentation of the unique culture. Beth Wiseman is one of those authors...

I found that all of these novellas were very well flushed out. It was easy to understand the characters and their situations. The plots were a bit more unusual for Amish fiction, and I enjoyed that. The characters in these novellas had real life "baggage" which affected their day-to-day lives and decisions they had to make.

Of the four stories, I think I enjoyed A New Beginning and A Christmas Miracle the best, although all of them were well written.

Disclaimer: I received this book in exchange for my honest review. I was not compensated in any other way for my opinion.

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## **Brittany says**

Amish Celebrations was a very nice collection of four novellas, all written by Beth Wiseman. I had read one of the novellas before, but it had been quite a while, so I enjoyed reading it again.

In The Gift of Sisters, I had to remind myself that Hannah and Rachel were very young and immature, which lead to the way they were handling the jealousy that was tearing them apart. I ended up liking this story a lot by the end of the novella.

A New Beginning was absolutely filled with tension! Quite a few people in this novella had hard decisions to make regarding their futures and some had to find or offer forgiveness to someone. This one kept me anxiously turning the pages.

A Perfect Plan was the story that I had read before, so I did know how things worked out. Still, it was fun to revisit these characters.

I wasn't sure if I was going to like A Christmas Miracle when I read the description of the story, but I have to say that I ended up being very impressed with it. Not only did the author do a good job of capturing the frantic and overwhelming situation that Mary found herself in, I also enjoyed both the Amish and Englisch storylines. This was a very sweet story.

I received a complimentary copy of this book. All opinions are my own.

You can read this review on my blog: [https://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.c...](https://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.com)

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## **Deanne Patterson says**

I've enjoyed all of the Beth Wiseman books I've read and this one is no exception. This one has 4 novella stories in it. They all focus on celebrating something but before the celebrating can begin something goes wrong but with faith in God and his guidance the characters get through it and their faith gets strengthened. I really enjoyed this book and can't wait to read more by this author.

Pub Date 10 Jul 2018

I was given a complimentary copy of this book from Zondervan fiction through NetGalley All opinions expressed are my own.

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## **Kristina says**

Amish Celebrations by Beth Wiseman is a collection of Amish novellas. The Gift of Sisters is the story of Hannah and Rachel, fraternal twins, who will shortly turn sixteen and enter their rumschpringe. The sisters have always been close, but newcomer Abram Stoltzfus comes between them. Hannah, the beautiful and outgoing sister, quickly catches his attention knowing her sister was interested in him. Gideon has been friends with the twins their whole life, but he has fallen in love with Rachel. Does he stand a chance against the charming Abraham? Will the twins let a man come between them?

A New Beginning takes us to Paradise, Pennsylvania. Noah will soon be baptized and then marry Rebecca Fisher. He decides to enjoy a last Englisch party before his rumschpringe ends. Noah spends the evening talking with McKenna. Two weeks later, Noah calls off his wedding to Rebecca. Paul Fisher, Rebecca's brother, has yet to be baptized and has been quietly meeting with McKenna. After seeing McKenna hug Noah, he jumps to conclusions and quits seeing her. What made Noah change his mind? Will there be a happy ending for these two couples?

In A Christmas Miracle, young Rachel Marie King sneaks off to visit Santa and his elf at the local toy store to request help for her mother for Christmas. Bruce Hanson, the Santa and Joan, the elf, are touched by the little girl's request and send a check to the family. Mary King has five children under the age of seven and she is overwhelmed and exhausted. Gabriel, Mary's husband, does not understand why Mary cannot keep a clean house and take care of the children as well. He is tired of sandwiches and coming home to a disorganized home. Mary visits Bruce to return the check which gives Joan a chance to talk with Mary. Joan feels God is calling her help the worn-out mother and begins visiting her with Bruce tagging along. Bruce has been at odds with God since the loss of his wife but being around the King family is helping him resolve his issues. See how God helps these individuals during the holiday season.

The fourth novella, A Perfect Plan was previously published in An Amish Wedding. I enjoyed reading these lovely Amish stories. They are well-written and engaging. My favorite novella was A Christmas Miracle. It is such a sweet, heartwarming story with good characters, special message, humor and a satisfying ending. I like how the Christian values and themes were incorporated into the story. We see the importance of having strong faith, the power of prayer, how God has a plan for our lives, events happen in God's timing—not ours, the value of helping others and how God is always there for us. Beth Wiseman creates delightful characters. Though each story is short, we get to know them and see them develop. My least favorite story was The Gift of Sisters. I felt the two sisters were too young to become serious about a beau (they are considering marriage). It is realistic with two sisters fighting over a boy, but I thought it was predictable. My rating for Amish Celebrations is 4 out of 5 stars (I liked it). Amish Celebrations contains stories that will touch your

heart.

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### **Maureen Timerman says**

Four delightful page-turning Amish stories, that you can savor and read just one, or like the candy, finish them in one setting.

Each one will keep your attention and when the last of that one is finished, you will want more, at least until the final one is finish, and then I still wished I had more to go.

While the stories are all different they all emphasize the Amish lifestyle, with a mix of the English world out there. I loved how some of these novellas showed a perfect mix of the two worlds.

They also show a lot of the same challenges that go on no matter which culture you live in, and through out there is a love of God and family, which stress on Christian values.

I received this book through Net Galley and the Publisher Zondervan, and was not required to give a positive review.

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### **Cathy Cermele says**

What I loved about this collection is that they are all written by one author. In fact, one of my favorite authors, Beth Wiseman.

The characters are endearing and the stories are engaging. The different stories embrace the different seasons in the characters lives. In, The Gift of Sisters, we meet Hannah and Elizabeth the twins that are nearing their 16th birthdays ,rumspringe and some headaches for their parents. This is a cute story, but those girls were something else! They both are actually quite sweet as the story progresses.

In the other novellas, we meet characters that are slightly older and in different stages of their lives, with all of the challenges people face as they grow and begin planning for the future. A New Beginning and A Perfect Plan are both reflective of couples figuring out if their relationships will work out or if God has other plans for them.

My favorite was the last in this collection, A Christmas Miracle. At the age of 27, Mary is overwhelmed with caring for five young children, running a household and doing it all with little help. This was a touching story for a few reasons, one being that the help she needed and wanted the most was from her mother in law and finding out the reason why the help wasn't freely offered was heartrending. However, the unexpected help she and her family are given is heartwarming and perfect year round but it was especially meaningful for the time of year it was offered. This was the perfect blend of the Amish and Englisch.

Overall, I found this to be my favorite collection of novellas because of the tender moments between the

characters, the love of family and the message of faith. There is a story for readers of all ages and ones that you can share with your mother, grandmother and even with the younger reader in your life.

I received a copy from the publisher and was not required to write a positive review. All opinions are my own.

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### **Lucy says**

This is an exceptional Amish Novella collection that will engross you in these endearing stories. It is hard to pick a favorite as each story has a strong storyline that ebbs and flows smoothly. The Gift of Sisters is a story of division between Hannah and Elizabeth and the growing pains of becoming adults. Will they let jealousy and insecurities come between them or find the common thread of faith & family binds them together when an uncouth young man is exposed. A New Beginning has great characters that become intertwined in circumstances that threatened relationships and shows how God can use this to bring beauty out of the ashes. I could identify with Priscilla in A Perfect Plan as she is a perfectionist and has difficulty dealing with life when she can't control how everything goes for her upcoming wedding. When everything around them seems to spin out of control will they find a way through it with God guiding them. A Christmas Miracle will find you needing tissues as Rachel Marie asks for help for her mom. A unique storyline for an Amish novella that will have you quickly turning pages.

I found all the characters well developed for short stories and the stories were complete and not rushed. Beth Wiseman has a strong storytelling gift that leaves you anxiously awaiting the next book. I highly recommend putting this on your summer reading list.

I received a complimentary copy from the author/publisher. The honest review and opinions are my own and were not required.

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### **Cheryl Baranski says**

Amish Celebrations by Beth Wiseman is a wonderful collection of four novellas. These stories are full of love, faith, devotion, heartache, determination and so much more. I loved all the stories in the book I have to say though that A Christmas Miracle is my favorite. Be sure to get your copy of Amish Celebrations today.

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### **Kristi says**

If you like stories about the Amish and in the form of novellas this collection is for you! Beth Wiseman has written four stories that will leave you with a smile on your face.

All four of these novellas are well-written, complete stories. My favorite thing about these stories is that they show the Amish don't lead perfect lives but have struggles just like the rest of us. The only difference is in how they deal with the struggles. From teenage love to being a mom overwhelmed the characters in these stories have relatable issues.

If you aren't a fan of novellas (I wasn't until I started reading Beth's) pick up a copy of Amish Celebrations. I think this collection will change your mind about them. If you are a fan of novellas (or Beth's) then you know what a treat you are in for with these four wonderful stories.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher and was not required to write a review. All opinions are mine.

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