



# Along Wooded Paths

*Tricia Goyer*

Download now

Read Online 

# Along Wooded Paths

*Tricia Goyer*

## **Along Wooded Paths** Tricia Goyer

All she wanted was a simple Amish life . . . But now Marianna Sommer finds herself depending on Englisch neighbors. Although proud of living apart from the world, she and her newly relocated Amish family have discovered that life in the remote mountains of Montana requires working together.

As Marianna begins helping those different from herself—and receiving their help—her heart contemplates two directions. She’s torn between the Amish man from Indiana whom she has long planned on marrying and the friendly Englisch who models a closer walk with God than she’s ever seen before.

Who should have young Marianna’s heart? What is God asking her to sacrifice? Her traditions? Her community? The answer is found along the wooded paths.

## **Acclaim for Tricia Goyer’s *Big Sky* Series**

“A wonderful story about the Amish and the way they live their lives by the writings of the Bible. Readers will delight in this.”

## **RT Book Reviews**

“A sweet, tender tale that’s sure to please readers. Amish fiction fans will be wanting more from Ms. Goyer!”

## **AmishHearts.com**

“A captivating story . . . the reader can’t wait to turn the page.”

## **Suzanne Woods Fisher**, best-selling author, Lancaster County Series

"A sweet, tender story about God's gentle workings in the hearts of His own. Tricia Goyer has a true talent for creating believable characters readers can identify and empathize with. Anyone who enjoys Amish fiction will appreciate this moving tale."

## **Sally Laity**, author of *Remnant of Forgiveness*

"I was pulled into Tricia Goyer's *Along Wooded Paths* from the first page! A devastating past, a heart-breaking choice, this story has it all. Endearing, lovely in every way. If you love heart-warming Amish fiction you can't go wrong here."

## **Traci DePree**, author of the Lake Emily series and *Into the Wilderness*

## **Along Wooded Paths Details**

Date : Published October 1st 2011 by B Books (first published September 2nd 2011)

ISBN : 9781433668692

Author : Tricia Goyer

Format : Paperback 307 pages

Genre : Amish, Christian Fiction, Amish Fiction, Christian, Fiction, Romance

 [Download Along Wooded Paths ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Along Wooded Paths ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Along Wooded Paths Tricia Goyer**

---

## **From Reader Review Along Wooded Paths for online ebook**

### **Gray says**

#### **Wonderful**

I think this book is how love should be, how neighbors should live. I really do not cotton to Amish because they try to live by the law. The law they seem to live by is really not God's law but it is the bishop. I did enjoy reading the books 1 and 2 and is going to read #3

---

### **Sherry Cross says**

#### **Amish romance**

Along Wooded Paths is the second in the series by Tricia Goyer. Set in the Big Sky country of Montana, Mariana has been introduced to a new way of thinking of God, as well as questioning whether wearing a kapp & apron & following the old traditions was required to get to heaven. Ben has taught her many things about God that she never considered before. Aaron comes to visit & hopes to bring Mariana back to Indiana. Mariana's heart has gone to Ben but because he is not Amish, she chooses Aaron. Recommended to those who enjoy the genre. Best to read the series in order.

---

### **Laurie Carlson says**

“Along Wooded Paths” A Big Sky Series by Tricia Goyer

A Big Sky Series, Book Two, “Along Wooded Paths” by Tricia Goyer does not disappoint at all. Book One is “Beside Still Waters” and is all about Marianna and her family moving from the plains of Indiana to the mountainous region of Montana. Each book can be read on its own, but to get the true feeling of this book, these books should be read as the series in order. By doing so gives us the true meaning of this complete story.

I love this series so much because of the way it is written. I love Tricia Goyer's style of writing, and in this genre, she has the characters come to life and jump off the pages at us. We can feel what they feel, think what they are thinking and even ask ourselves what the character are asking themselves. She has proven herself to be very talented at writing an Amish series, and these are by far no cookie-cutter stories like some Amish Fiction can be. This series of books is completely different from any of the other Amish books I have read so far. It is so different that it gets deep into the nitty-gritty of the characters. She even adds a little suspense in this story as it reads along.

I have read some of the reviews on this book and I want to address the romance, or some say, lack, thereof. There is not a lack of romance in this book at all, if you follow along, but more so what makes this book so good is the ‘anticipation and suspense’ of the love that has developed and is developing, and the love to come, and with whom. If you want the traditional Amish romance that tends to turn out predictable, then go grab a different author's book where the stories all start to sound alike and are predictable. This book is not like that at all. Predictable, not at all! I guess I want to call this book a ‘mature’, grown-up version' of Amish books and it deserves every bit of that title. I really hope to see Tricia Goyer writer more books in the Amish

genre. This has been so refreshing and entertaining, kind of like a curve-ball in Amish Fiction! I like this a lot!

This book has brought us to a city in Montana where the Amish and the English interact and live among each other without the usual tensions that other Amish communities seem to have. They, the Englishers and the Amish all sit down together at the same tables in a restaurant and have dinner together. They are friends that can count on each other. You will find them doing things together, even going to prayer meetings together and having get-togethers. This is such an enjoyable read, maybe even more realistic than just fiction. The sense of community really shines through in this story.

In this series, Tricia Goyer has us feel what these characters feel and draws us right into their lives. Between the two books in this series, so far this book has been, by far, my favorite. I am dying to read Book Three, which will be called "Beyond Hopes Valley". I am sure, after reading this third book; it will then be my favorite! Each book just gets better and better.

In this book the story line has taken hold, developed and gets us living in Montana with these characters. This is a book I could sit down and read a second time and enjoy it just as much! How refreshing to read such a masterpiece in Amish Fiction! I sure hope she writes more of this genre! I found myself talking out loud to these characters' which only happens when I am really into a great book!

Now that Marianna and her family are living in Montana, they are all falling into the pattern of daily life. Marianna meets a man named Ben, who is an Englisher. He teaches Marianna that it is possible to have a personal relationship with God, rather than just the Amish way of thinking about God, and the Amish don't teach this concept. She is enjoying this very much; so much so, she even sneaks out one night in order to go to the prayer meeting. The prayer meeting is mixed with the Amish and the Outsiders. Marianna finds herself finding this prayer meeting very rewarding as she forms her own personal relationship with God, thanks to Ben who introduced her to it. She has found a sense of freedom in learning to have a personal relationship with God.

Marianna is being drawn closer to Ben. She really likes him, but there is still Aaron back in Indiana to whom she has pledged her heart to, yet she is finding she really likes it in Montana.

Even though this group of Amish that Marianna's family moved to here in Montana is so different from the 'typical' Amish communities, they still follow the laws of the Amish, so if Marianna were to allow herself to fall in love and marry Ben, an outsider, she would be excommunicated from the church and her family, just like her brother, Levi, who in the end may or may not go back to being Amish. His parents are praying that he does return to the Amish community as they did lose two other children already, but I can't give spoilers on this great book. However, I do feel Ben loves Marianna. She would never hear of this, though, even though deep down this very same thought has crossed her mind, and she has wondered if perhaps she might love him. Neither of these characters has said anything about this subject to the other, just thought it, but she would never allow herself to fall in love with Ben because of the threat of the excommunication. She loves her family and her faith too much to be able to accept a life like that.

Marianna thinks of Ben as having served his purpose in that he has taught her to have a personal relationship with God. This is all that Ben can be. Nothing more, yet he does enter her thoughts. When Marianna returns to Indiana, Ben will always have a soft spot in her heart for him.

I wonder if Ben, and if I remember correctly, Ben has entertained the thought of whether or not he could become Amish. If that were to occur, then Marianna could fall in love with him. It is so unusual for an Englisher to turn Amish, though, that it rarely happens.

Later towards the end of the book, we see Aaron come to Montana to see Marianna. She is delighted. She decides to go back home to Indiana, planning on spending the rest of her life with him. She has a few misgivings. Why? Trust is one of those misgivings, but why does she feel this way? She happily leaves Montana, hugging and kissing all of her newfound friends' goodbye and leaves with Aaron to head back to Indiana to start planning her new life with Aaron, planning the Wedding. This is pretty much where our story leaves off without, again, giving any spoilers.

I cannot say enough or recommend this book anymore than I already have!

We do get a glimpse into Chapter One of the next, third book! This, I will leave for you to read! I think I can guess one thing, but I won't say! I can only say, again, I can't wait for Book Three to come out!

I hope for Amish Fiction lovers you get the opportunity to read this series and treasure it! It is one you will not put down till you have read it all. I HIGHLY recommend this book and give it 5 stars! Tricia Goyer has proven, once again, her writing skills are so talented!

I received this book for "FREE" from B & H Publishing through NetGalley, through their Book Reviewer's Program in exchange to read and write a review about this book. It is NOT required for my review I write to be either positive or negative, but, "of my own opinion." I was NOT provided with "ANY" monies to accept this book, "NOR" to read it, NOR were "ANY" monies given to me to write the review for this book. All that was 'expected' of me was to enjoy the pure pleasure of reading it. Again, the opinions expressed for and about this book are 'of my own opinion'. I am disclosing this information in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255, <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/wa...> Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising.

---

## **Patti says**

### **Love this story!**

This is Book 2. It continues the story of Marianna. She is learning to love God in a way that she didn't learn from her Amish upbringing. That causes conflict within her as she comes to see that God doesn't care about how she dresses, does her, laundry, behave as a "perfect" Amish girl. He cares about what is in her heart, how she loves Him. How it becomes clear to her the Englischers love God just as much in their own way. She comes to realize God should be their judge, not their Amish neighbors making sure that the others around are following the Ordnung to the letter. That life is about serving and loving God, not being worried about trying to prove to your neighbors that you love God because you have your laundry done before breakfast, or you pin your dress, not button it, that you live exactly like your ancestors did because if it worked for them it must be the way God wants you to live. Mari strongly feels called to share that openness and love with the people back home who are worried more about what they are doing and how they are doing it than what God wants them to FEEL.

This book touches me as it talks about "feeling" the presence of God, not just knowing it and following it, even when you truly DO believe. There is so much more God has to offer, all it takes is learning more about Him by reading the Book He gave us.

---

## **Crystal Martin says**

Along-Wooded-Pathssm.jpg

Tricia Goyer has quickly become one of my very favorite authors. I recently reviewed the first book in her Big Sky series, *Beside Still Waters*, which introduced us to Marianna Sommer. I fell in love and couldn't wait for the second book, *Along Wooded Paths*, to be released.

*Along Wooded Paths* continues the story of Marianna and her family after their move to Montana. We watch as she opens her heart to bits of the Englisch (English) way of life and starts to see that being friends with those outside your own community is possible. We also watch Marianna struggle with her heart. She has

deep feelings not only for her childhood love Aaron Zook, but also for an Englisher named Ben. Ben has a very deep connection with God and this surprises Marianna. But it also surprises her father. He never realized that non-Amish folk can be that close to and walk with the Lord. While her faith in God and her beliefs in the Amish life don't waiver, she does struggle with the path her heart is taking. Along Wooded Paths brings Aaron back into her life and she must choose which love she will take. And her uncle, Ike, doesn't help matters much when she sees his affection for the English too! It's an Amish love story!

I love the way Tricia writes the two lifestyles. She does a wonderful job of showing us the Amish traditions and beliefs & how they differ from the English. Yet she also shows how the two can connect and live together as friends. Just because your beliefs are different doesn't mean you can't rejoice together in your similarities. Tricia shows us that and I love it. This writing style pulls you in and makes you root for every character in her novels. I hope there are many more books in the Big Sky series. And so does my husband's step-mom who called dibs as the first person to read Along Wooded Paths after I finished my review. She is as excited by the release as I am!

Disclosure: I received a complimentary copy of Beside Still Waters as a member of LitFuse blog tours. All opinions are my own.

---

### **Renea Westlyn says**

#### **READ THIS!**

Oh, these books! I wish I could read faster but at the same time there is so much depth to the story that you just have to read slowly and let it melt against your heart.

---

### **Rosemarie says**

The second book in the Big Sky Series was just as intriguing as the first. Marianna is enjoying her new-found personal relationship with the God she always believed in but never really knew. Yet, a surprise visit from her male friend back home leaves her in a position of having to make a choice -- the Englisher she met in Montana who taught her to really know her Savior, or the Amish man from back home whom she always believed she'd marry. She must choose between relationship and tradition, ostracism and acceptance, God's will and hers. It's one side or the other...or can she have both? What IS God's will for her life? And what must she give up to have it? It's a question we all face at least once in our lives. Marianna chooses well.

---

### **Rachel Brand says**

Book Review: Along Wooded Paths by Tricia Goyer  
By Rachel Ropper

GENRE: AMISH

PUBLISHER: B & H PUBLISHING

PUBLICATION DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2011

RATING: 10 OUT OF 10

Following directly on from Marianna's decision to remain in Montana at the end of *Beside Still Waters*, the second in the Big Sky trilogy explores the difficulties Marianna is having not only in deciding between Englisher Ben and her beau back in Indiana, but also in her spiritual journey. Two men show her two paths she can take in her life – should she remain with her family's Amish faith and cut herself off from the rest of the world, or is it worth joining the English world to be with Ben and experiment with reading an English Bible, playing instruments and attending prayer meetings? As she and her family get to know their English neighbours better, it is not just Marianna who is forced to answer difficult questions about the way they have chosen to live and whether this is the only way to please God. Matters are complicated further when an old friend from back home pays a visit and ends up staying longer than planned, forcing Marianna to speed up her decision making and figure out whether staying in Montana is best for her, spiritually and emotionally, or if she should finally return to Indiana.

It's not often that I read a series of books in the Amish genre where each book picks up where the last one finished. In fact, Tricia's Big Sky trilogy reminds me of Beverly Lewis more than anyone else who writes Amish novels, and that's a big compliment for an author who is a newcomer to the genre! But I don't think that Marianna's story could have been condensed into one single book. After finishing *Beside Still Waters* I was itching to read the next instalment to find out what turns Marianna's life would take next. The first book in the series rather ended on a cliff-hanger, so if you haven't started this series at the beginning I'd recommend going back to *Beside Still Waters* to avoid any confusion. While some series can be read out of order, I wouldn't recommend this for the Big Sky trilogy.

While I felt that this story was a little more slow-moving than *Beside Still Waters*, and Marianna dallied over her decisions and could be quite indecisive in places, it was wonderful to read a book that was so driven and motivated by a character's internal emotions and dilemmas, rather than the characters themselves being moved along by dramatic events in the plot. Tricia addresses many issues that are often skimmed over and avoided in other Amish novels, such as whether a prayer covering is really necessary for prayer, or whether those who are not Amish can still receive salvation through Christ. Although Marianna's mother remains mostly stuck in her ways, hoping her daughter won't be too influenced by her new English friends, her father finds himself querying some of the Amish teachings as he begins to read an English Bible and is given insight into some scriptures from Ben, an Englisher. We "Englishers" often enjoy reading novels in which the Amish and English get on perfectly well without ever addressing these issues, so it was interesting to read a book in which the Amish and English are forced to interact daily because of the practicalities of living in such a remote location, and in which such a situation causes them to question the lives they have been living. In particular, it was wonderful to see Marianna's faith in God grow and change over the course of this series. I can sometimes be picky about the Christian fiction that I read, and despite being a Christian I still find some books to be verging on preaching in their attempts to display a Christian message. I had no such issues with *Along Wooded Paths*, and found myself becoming thoroughly engaged in Marianna's spiritual journey, finding it far more real than many I'd encountered previously in Christian fiction. I hope that Marianna's situation can speak to others who are having difficulties in their faith lives and encourage them to make the changes necessary to draw them closer to God.

But of course, where would an Amish novel be without a pinch of romance? Having left Aaron behind in Indiana in the first book in the series, Marianna finds herself falling for Ben, an Englisher and therefore entirely forbidden. Her father in particular is concerned about their closeness and it is in *Along Wooded Paths* that Marianna had to consider whether their friendship is entirely suitable. Friends and colleagues begin speculating about their relationship, particularly when Aaron comes to Montana for a visit, forcing Marianna to decide between the two lifestyles and two men, once and for all. I'm still not sure whether I was entirely surprised by Marianna's ultimate decision, but there's always the chance that she may change her mind in the third and final book in the trilogy, *Beyond Hope's Valley*.



I've become entirely addicted to the Big Sky series, and like many other Amish fans, I'm wishing that time would go faster so that I could read Beyond Hope's Valley and discover where Marianna's life takes her next. Tricia Goyer has brought something new and refreshing to the Amish genre and I hope that novels like Along Wooded Paths will encourage new readers, particularly those who have been wary of the romance-orientated novels that the genre is often concentrated on. The spiritual and emotional depths of Tricia's characters are something that I'm particularly fond of, and I have high hopes for Beyond Hope's Valley in April 2012.

Review title provided courtesy of B & H Publishing.

---

## **Christy says**

Until I got my hands on the two novels currently in the Big Sky Series by Tricia Goyer, I'll confess...I wasn't a huge fan of her work. Now, before you go bashing me on the head because I've lost my marbles, let me be clear. She's a good author, but up until a week ago, her books didn't have that "zing" or "snap-crackle-pop" that I love to experience when reading. And now....we've got a "snap-crackle-pop," a "zipa-de-do-dah," and a "wowza!" all rolled together thanks to her latest offering--Along Wooded Paths--the second book in the Big Sky Series.

I love Amish stories that take me beyond the borders of Pennsylvania, Ohio, or Indiana (where most Amish stories are set). This series just happens to take place in Montana, and thanks to the majestic mountains and the small-town folk, the little town of Kootenai is almost a character by itself. Everyone loves to stop by the little store where Marianna works so they can get a good meal, maybe a slice of cake, and some good conversation. You may even find Ben there once in awhile, participating in an open mic night of sorts. But what sets this one little place apart from all the other Amish communities is the ordinary interaction between the Englisch and the Amish. In most Amish novels, the Englisch are pictured in one of three ways: as a mode of transportation, as a trusted doctor that they visit regularly, or as a temptation to some young boy or girl during their rumshpringa. But when your car is stuck on the side of the road, or when your cabinets are void of food...everyone helps each other. That quality alone makes this series different from any other Amish series I've ever read, and ya know...I'd love to see a whole lot more of 'em.

If all that wasn't enough to really make Tricia's Amish novels unique, she's got one more little trick up her sleeve--their interaction with God. Now, if you're a regular to Amish books, you know that they are pretty much "by the book" when it comes to matters of church, faith, and their Ordnung. Just like every other facet of their lives, there is a system and order to things that has been there for hundreds of years. While I understand most of it (although I couldn't ever physically do it all), I've always wondered about the religious side of things. Why don't they believe in reading the Bible on their own? Why do they almost blindly trust every word from their bishop's mouth? Why do they believe in praying silently versus praying aloud? Do they believe that they're the only chosen group going to heaven? What about outsiders that say they're Christians, too? In Along Wooded Paths, Marianna has many of those same questions, too, and I'm on pins and needles waiting to find out how she comes to terms with her new relationship with God, and how it's so special to her.

And good grief, you'll smack me upside the head for sure if I don't give you the best morsel of all! Yep....there's a love triangle, too! And sweet mercy, it's a good 'un...one of the very best I've read in a long time. :o) Now, Marianna hasn't sided with the right guy yet, in my opinion, but I'm still hoping for things to work out the way they're supposed to...there's still hope. I just don't think she's truly happy with her decision

at this point. (Oh, and there's not one triangle, but two...geez, could this book get any better?!)

Not since book 3 of Cindy Woodsmall's first Amish series have I been so impatient to read the last book in a series! How many days 'til April 1, 2012, Tricia...because I promise, I'm countin' them down!

---

### **Amber Stokes says**

In this second installment of a sweet yet serious series, Tricia Goyer has hooked me with the bait of a complicated love triangle! Despite the inherent sorrow that comes from the eventual "odd man out," love triangles are addicting to read about because of the heightened tension and the longing to know the end result. That is certainly the case in this series - I'm ready for book 3, Beyond Hope's Valley, so I can finally see who Marianna picks, and why she picks him!

From the lovely, peaceful cover until the last page, this book has a hopeful innocence to it that is quite charming. As with the first book in the series, I enjoyed watching the characters grow, especially in their spiritual understanding. This book is an encouraging and engaging read.

There are a few quirks that gave me pause - such as the occasional use of words such as "wouldna" and "wasna" which I've always thought of as more of a Scottish flavor than Amish. And I wanted to see more depth to Aaron's character besides just his apparent love for Marianna. From his actions in the first book, he didn't quite win me over, and despite the brownie points he earned in this book, I'm hoping that readers get more of his background and insights in the next part of the story.

All in all, though, this new Amish series is intriguing and will leave you wanting to find out what happens next!

\*With thanks to the publisher for providing me a copy of the book in exchange for my honest opinion, to be shared during the Litfuse Publicity Blogging tour.\*

---

### **Cheryl Baranski says**

Along Wooded Paths, By: Tricia Goyer

This continues the story of Marianna Sommer and Aaron Zook.

Marianna continues to work in the store in Montana.

She is growing more accustomed to the English.

She is amazed at how well the Amish here in their small community get along with the English. They socialize a lot more together than her old community she grew up in. There is even a prayer group of English and Amish that come together once a week to pray.

Marianna still struggles with her feeling for Aaron Zook.

The man she was supposed to marry. Marianna has strong feelings for Ben an Englisch. She struggles with them.

She knows how much it would hurt her family if she left the Amish life for Ben. After all the hurt they have been through.

Losing two daughters in a buggy accident and her brother Levi

walking away from the Amish life.  
Aaron isn't happy about Marianna working in the store being  
around the Englisch.  
This story keep me guessing to the very end.  
It is a must read book.  
5 stars

---

## **Laura says**

Title: ALONG WOODED PATHS  
Author: Tricia Goyer  
Publisher: Broadman & Holman  
September 2011  
ISBN: 978-1-4336-6869-2  
Genre: Inspirational/Amish Romance

Marianna Sommer has adjusted to life in Montana and she loves it there. She's settled in, making new friends with both English and Amish, and she has a job with a great boss that she loves.

She's also still struggling with her feelings for Ben—the English man who introduced her to God. Her parents fear that Ben will steal her heart, so without telling her Dat, Memm invites Aaron, Marianna's "fiancé" to visit. There's an accident and Aaron ends up breaking his leg, and stranded at Marianna's house. Marianne is upset and bothered by this, but she has no choice but to care for Aaron.

Will this enforced lengthy visit win her heart back to Aaron? Or will Ben win? Either answer means a heartbreak.

I read Ms. Goyer's first Amish book *Beside Still Waters* and feel this book is ten thousand times better. While *Beside Still Waters* is etched with sadness, *ALONG WOODED PATHS* is full of hope, of encouragement, and even joy, despite the decisions that Marianna must make.

Both Aaron and Ben are good men and I didn't really have a strong feeling which man should win Marianne's affections until the end – then I knew who I wanted to win. I'm looking forward to reading the last book in this series to see if it will end the way I think it'll end. There's some yummy sounding recipes included at the end of the book as well as a preview for the third book, coming in April 2012.

If you like Amish fiction, don't miss *ALONG WOODED PATHS*. \$14.99. 306 pages.

---

## **Elizabeth says**

In the book *Along Wooded Paths*, Tricia Goyer's second book in the Big Sky series, we once again join Marianna with her family in Montana. Her heart is still torn between two men and that dilemma is made more intense when her Amish fiancé' shows up.

As we struggle along with Marianna as she tries to make a decision between the two men, Ms. Goyer treats us to some lyrical descriptions of the beautiful outdoors.

“And as she sat amongst the trees, with bird song filling the air, it was as if God sat beside her, whispering words of hope and promise to her heart.”

Such beautiful words to enjoy as we read through the book.

Although this is book two of the series, it does stand alone on its own merits. The references to events in the first book are explained enough to make this book enjoyable on its own, though I would recommend reading *Beside Still Waters* first.

---

## **Bernard Holler says**

### **Trying to learn God's will.**

When Aaron, Marianna's Amish boyfriend's trip to Montana doesn't go as planned, will he be able to regain Marianna's love and convince her to return to Indiana with him or will she decide to stay in Montana close to Englisher Ben?

---

## **??Trea says**

**FTC DISCLAIMER: I RECEIVED AN E-ARC FROM THE PUBLISHER THROUGH NET GALLEY. I VOLUNTARILY OFFER MY HONEST REVIEW OF THE BOOK, THOUGH IT IS NOT EXPECTED OF ME! RECEIPT OF THIS BOOK IN THIS MANNER DOES NOT AFFECT MY OPINION OF THE BOOK OR THE CONTENT OF MY REVIEW!**

In my review of the first book in this series, I didn't think it would improve any, and I am sad to say that I was correct in that assessment. I was frankly bored with the story, despite the fact that it set itself up to be similar to the old *Sunfire* romances I used to read as a young girl.

The situation with Aaron felt so contrived! I kept wondering why he held on to his relationship with Marianna, when he was starting to show interest in someone else in Indiana. It seemed like he was just there to cast doubt and get in the way of a relationship between Marianna and Ben.

I also hated Marianna's wishy washy nature in this book, so much more than I had in the previous one! It was like she couldn't think for herself, despite the strides she had made in growing closer to the Lord. It was such a turnaround from the previous novel!

I did like that the series felt more like a saga, in that we follow the same characters for three books, but I just think that this series and author are not for me, and will be avoiding them in the future.

---