



# The Promise of an Angel

*Ruth Reid*

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**Interrupting the ordered routine of the Mecosta County Amish settlement, an angelic visitor awakens Judith to a new faith.**

All Judith Fischer ever wanted is to marry within her community and raise a family. She longs for the day when her parents will allow Levi Plank to officially court her.

But on the day Judith suspects Levi will ask her parent's permission, her younger brother Samuel has an accident under her charge. Rushing to Samuel's aid, Judith spies a strange man helping him; a man she later believes was an angel.

When she shares her conviction with her family and close friends, she is shocked to find that no one believes her, including Levi. In the days following the accident, the angel visits Judith with information that may guide her down the path of faith, should she choose to follow.

As her community slowly distances themselves, only one person is willing to stand up for her?the bishop's son, Andrew Lapp. But can he convince the settlement to listen to her? With a show of faith that flies in the face of her conservative upbringing, can Judith hold strong to the promise that there are even greater things in store for those who believe in God's miracles?

## The Promise of an Angel Details

Date : Published May 30th 2011 by Thomas Nelson (first published March 31st 2011)

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Author : Ruth Reid

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

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## From Reader Review The Promise of an Angel for online ebook

### Tillie says

This book touched me. It was a fantastic book of how sometimes God makes his faithful wait till he's ready to show his miracle. I read it feeling like I was Judith. She had been through a tragedy relying on God and no matter how many people thought she was looney she stood by her story. By the end of the book I was actually in tears {I rarely get that emotionally attached to a book}, but this story grabbed me in from the start. I loved Judith's character, her innocence, her strength, her faith and determination. By the end I could only hope that I get her kind of faith someday. Brilliant story. Amazing book. I will definitely recommend to everyone and read it again.

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### D.J. says

The Promise of an Angel is amazing — stupendous — incredible! The story is so mesmerizing, I felt like I was there — seeing and hearing everything going on. Eventually, I began to feel like I was in the presence of an angel, too! The story is that powerful!

I began reading this story after everyone had gone to bed... I read late into the night, but eventually had to stop — in order to get a few hours of sleep. The next day at work I finished the book during my lunch break. By the time I was done, my emotions were so charged; I was shaking, with tears running down my cheeks! I quickly made a stop at the ladies' room to wash my face before going back to my office.

Judith Fischer — I really like Judith! I especially like that she shares her experience with others, even though they don't believe her — mostly because she's known for making up stories — and she's warned to stop talking about it. But really, if you had an encounter with an angel, could you keep quiet about it!

Of course she begins to wonder why her brother is paralyzed — the angel tells her to “have faith, Samuel's steps are ordered by God.” Although she questions what this means, she believes God is telling her that Samuel will walk again, so she never really loses hope... or faith. Even after everyone tells her she's crazy and she needs to accept God's will, Judith still believes.

Ruth Reid is a FANTASTIC author!

I've been reading Amish fiction for years, but I never expected a story where a young Amish girl comes in contact with an angel. And the reaction from everyone in the community — except for Andrew Lapp — is the reason! I admit... I imagined it would be a bit “over the top” for a plain, humble community. But it was perfect!

This book really touched me. I can't wait to get to book 2 — Brush of Angels Wings!

I will definitely recommend this series to everyone.

The Promise of an Angel... a story of an extraordinary event!

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## **Salena Stormo says**

Judith has dreamed of marrying Levi for years. Her parents insist that she cannot begin to court until she is nineteen. She is sure after her birthday Levi will ask her parents to court her. The day before her birthday tragedy happens when her little brother, Samuel, falls from the barn roof, while under Judith's care.

Judith sees an angel, Tobias, kneeling beside Samuel as he lies on the ground. Tobias tells Judith to keep the faith that Samuel will walk again. When she tells the community about her angel encounter they question her sanity and whether she is sinning or causing others in the Amish community to sin. Levi quickly dismisses his interest in Judith and pursues Judith's younger sister, Martha.

Judith is heartbroken. Practically shunned by the community she struggles to understand the messages Tobias brings to her during their encounters.

Only one person stands up for her, Andrew Lapp, the bishop's son. Handsome, quiet and protective, Andrew helps Judith understand what Tobias is trying to tell her.

Tobias leads the whole community, in a series of events; on the journey God wishes them to take in order to strengthen their love and devotion for Him and their concern and consideration for each other.

I read this book in 1 day! For me that is unheard of. I was drawn into the community, into their homes and lives. The dialect was well researched. I could hear their accents, see the sorrow in their eyes and hold each one of them close to my heart.

I have a list of books that I will read over and over again. The list is not very long, consisting of maybe 6 or 7 books over the course of my life. This book WILL be added to that list. I can see myself picking up this book time and time again to be welcomed into the hearts of those I now hold dear.

This book will warm your heart and guide your faith in a way you never imagined. I highly recommend this book! Even if you don't normally read Amish books, you HAVE to read this one! The second book in the series comes out in April 2012 and I can tell you that I will be one of the first in line to pick it up!

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## **Shari Larsen says**

This story takes place in an Amish community, set in Mecosta County, Michigan.

All Judith Fischer ever wanted was to marry Levi Plank and raise a family, but on the day that Judith suspects that Levi will ask her parents permission to court her, her 5 year old brother Samuel has an accident while under her charge. While rushing to Samuel's aid, she spies a strange man helping him, which she later believes was an angel.

When she shares her conviction with her family and friends, no one believes her, including Levi. In the days that follow, the angels continues to visit Judith, to guide her down the path that she should take with her life, but she is conflicted when the community slowly distances themselves from her. Only one person stands up

for her, the bishop's son, Andrew Lapp, but he can he convince the settlement to listen to her?

I enjoy reading stories about the Amish, but I wasn't sure at first if I would like the supernatural element in this story, I admit I had my doubts that the author could make it work within this genre, but I gave the book a chance because the story is set where I live; I have lived in Big Rapids, in Mecosta County, all my life. There really weren't that many references within the story though that made the setting unique to Michigan; it could have been set just as easily in Ohio or Pennsylvania, but that is not a complaint, just an observation. The name of the town of Big Rapids was changed to Hope Falls, but the author did mention that the hospital was on Oak Street, which it really is, and mentioned a character trying to find a place to park his buggy at the hospital, and I have seen Amish horse and buggies parked in our hospital parking lot a few times.

It turned out though, that the setting didn't matter, I enjoyed the story much more than I thought I would, and the visits from the angel added an interesting twist to what would have been the "usual formula" for this type of story.

The author actually spent some time among the Amish when she attended Ferris State University here in Big Rapids; during that time, she stayed with a retired farmer and his wife and got to know many of their Amish neighbors. The farmer, Mr. Thon, actually makes a brief cameo appearance in the story.

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### **Jennifer Jessop says**

What could be better than a heartwarming Amish story featuring angel encounters? Only the next two books in this series.

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### **Diana Montgomery says**

The Promise of an Angel is book one in the A Heaven on Earth series. I am loving this series. The characters are well developed. All Judith has wanted all her life is to marry Levi. But her parents put a extra time of two years before she can court which means she has to wait till 19. When most all are courting at 17. So many things start happening in her life that Levi hasn't gotten to ask her fathers permission. Lot of twist in this story to keep you reading. Her little brother falling of a roof and her seeing a angel there by him. But only thing is her family and others don't believe her. They think something has terribly happened to her. How can she get them to believe and how can she keep from being banned by the bishop? Great novel!

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### **Kathleen (Kat) Smith says**

To everyone a measure of faith has been given, but Judith Fischer isn't sure just how large her's is!

Always known for her creative storytelling and her love of children, she spends her time taking care of them when she can. When her family needs to have a barn raised, Judith is placed in charge of the children she loves so much while the men tend to the building of the barn and the women begin the preparation of the food.

She also has the advantage of keeping a very close eye on Levi Plank, the man, she has dreamed of marrying

as soon as she turns 19 according to her parents wishes. Even though the Ordnung in which she lives allows for girls to court when they are 17, her parents wanted her to wait. Now while Levi works hard on the roof for the barn, she can glance at him from time to time.

While the women prepare to serve lunch, the group gathers round for prayer from Bishop Lapp, while he prays, Judith is bold enough to glance at Levi, and is stunned to see that her younger sister Martha is flirting with him. What's worse is he is returning her affections! When she glances down at her younger brother Samuel, she notices that he is missing. In horror, she sees he is on the roof of the barn attempting to help mend the roof. As she cries out to him, she sees him fall, and when she is the first to arrive hoping he isn't dead, she finds an English man who is kneeling beside him.

He tells Judith that God is guiding Samuel's steps with the bluest eyes. As he begins to walk away, the family arrives and begins to care for Samuel who is now unconscious. Judith follows him only to see him vanish in the fog in the apple orchard.

When Judith explains what she believes was an angel, the family grows concerned that Judith's stories are becoming too real for her to understand what is real and what is simply a story. Now it's up to her to convince everyone that an angel has appeared and that Samuel will be OK.

In the novel, *The Promise of An Angel* by Ruth Reid, the reader gets an unexpected surprise in the traditional Amish fiction. God has a plan for Judith and how He works on her will cause her to not only question her feelings for love and marriage but also just how much faith she possesses in the end. This book is highly recommended for those that love the Amish fiction, as it renews our own faith as we read about Judith's struggle not only in trying to convince her community what she saw is real, but also in being a woman who isn't afraid of telling others, despite all that it will cost her.

I received this edition on my Kindle compliments of Tyndale House Publishers through NetGalley for my honest review and LOVED it from the first page. I simply could not put this one down until I finished it. The characters are beautifully created by Ruth Reid as you become part of them in this story. I give this novel a 5 out of 5 stars and can't wait to read more from Ruth Reid in her *Heaven On Earth Series*.

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### **Jean St.Amand says**

I liked the story but unfortunately, this book mainly made me not like Amish men and not respect Amish women...pretty sure that wasn't the author's intention, but other than the two main characters, the people in this book really weren't likable....at all.

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### **Reena Jacobs says**

Expect my full review July 25, 2011 on my blog: <http://wp.me/pPz8s-1wY>

With my paranormal kick, I haven't spent much time reading Christian fiction these days... well, at least not before I got my hands on *The Promise of an Angel*. Now, I can't help but look forward to my next Christian read (Amish preferably). This work had less of a paranormal aspect to it and more of a spiritual intervention flavor.

This was a feel good book. I couldn't help but imagine living in a world as simplistic as the Amish community, an environment where the rat race is a thing of the past. I'm not saying the life presented in the book was perfect. It just seemed so... free.

Judith was the main protagonist in this story. I was a bit apprehensive about her in the beginning. She seemed a bit complacent and willfully blind to the happenings around her. I was afraid she'd be too stupid for me to care about. Let's just say I was wrong. Though she tried to temper her anger, my gal still had quite a bit of spice in her. In fact, it turned into a balancing act at times: Judith trying to be mild-mannered and loving versus trying to stand up for what was right without offending her Amish community.

Andrew played the secondary protagonist. Okay, flowers aren't considered manly... but truly, Andrew was like a blossom opening. In terms of character growth, his journey was the longest. He was a beautiful person. Faithful, loving, generous. A good man. I only wanted the best for him.

Then we have the antagonists, Levi and Martha. Though *The Promise of an Angel* was excellent (4.5-5.0 stars out of 5), I have to say the antagonists were the weakest aspect of the book. For the most part, they were rather 2 dimensional. I think if the antagonist hadn't been so selfish and mean without an apparent reason, this would have landed a solid 5/5. Still, Ruth Reid brought the entire work together in the end and created a satisfying conclusion to the story. Well done!

I read *The Promise of an Angel* in a 24 hour period and finished it refreshed and uplifted. I recommend this work to anyone who just needs a break from the stresses of life.

I received this book from the publisher in exchange for a review

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## **Laura says**

Title: THE PROMISE OF AN ANGEL

Author: Ruth Reid

Publisher: Thomas Nelson

June 2011

ISBN: 978-1-59554-788-0

Genre: Inspirational/Amish

Judith Fischer has loved Levi Plank forever. And now that she's nineteen, she's waiting anxiously for Levi to want to court her. But tragedy strikes Judith's household when she's supposed to be watching her young brother, Samuel. Unsupervised, Samuel climbs up on the roof of the barn and falls off, leaving him paralyzed.

Seeing an English man kneeling beside Samuel, Judith goes to talk to him. This "man" turns out to be an angel, and he ministers to Judith saying Samuel will be alright. Judith tells everyone she seen an angel and that Samuel will be fine, but no one believes her. They all think she's gone crazy from her brother's accident.

When even Levi begins to push Judith away in favor of her younger sister, Judith begins to wonder what exactly this angel meant by alright. Nothing was right. Will Ruth continue to trust in the angel's message even if it means losing everything—including the support of family?

I enjoyed getting to know Judith and some of the other characters. I had to admire Judith's faith, even when it wavered; she still struggled to stand strong. Some of the secondary characters had me wanting to crawl into the pages of the book and strangle them.

THE PROMISE OF AN ANGEL is Ruth Reid's debut novel, and the first in her three book A Heaven on Earth series. Incorporating the popular Amish fiction in with spirituality, the reader has the best of both worlds, Angels and Amish in one page turning novel. This is a great beginning to a new series. \$14.99. 304 pages.

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### **Rachel Brand says**

When her younger brother falls off a barn while in her care, Judith can't help but feel guilty for not keeping a closer eye on him. So she's relieved when a mysterious, English stranger tells her not to worry and that her brother will walk again. Throughout the tiring journey her family take to keep the farm running while waiting for hospital updates on her brother, this stranger continually appears to encourage Judith's hope in God and her brother's recovery. But when she tells her friends and family about this man, whom she believes is an angel, she's surprised to be met with animosity. No one believes that this angel exists, instead thinking that she's created another one of her stories or is going mad over her grief and guilt. Even Levi, the man she hoped to marry, makes fun of her suggestion that she has been convening with angels. The only person to believe her is Andrew, the son of the bishop, who could destroy his relationship with his father if he was seen conversing with Judith about celestial beings. Accused of telling lies and fostering false hope in her younger brother by talking about healing, Judith is close to being shunned by her community. Can she ever convince anyone that there really is an angel watching over her?

When I heard that an Amish book about angels was being released, I was initially a bit sceptical. Even an avid fan of Amish fiction like myself is starting to wonder when the market will become fully saturated, and the synopsis of this book sparked the thought that perhaps publishers were pushing the boat a bit too far in an attempt to maintain the genre's popularity. Fortunately, I was entirely wrong! This was one of the best Amish novels I've read in a long time and I would not have known that this was Ruth Reid's debut novel. She brings something entirely new and refreshing to the full-to-bursting genre, yet also had something about her writing that reminded me of Beverly Lewis, the original Amish author.

The hostility that Judith received from her community for her belief in angels and miracles could have been set amongst any Christian group, making this a novel that transcends its genre. Those wary of Amish fiction may be persuaded to read this book in order to understand the problems that a church or community can face when its leaders deny principles that are scripturally sound. I'm sure that many readers of this book will have experienced or heard of situations where healing or miracles have been dismissed as non-existent, or only being present in Biblical times. It's hard to hang on to your faith when experiencing such adversity, especially when you know in your heart that what God and his Word say are true. Judith's difficulties in her Amish community represent this so perfectly. She hangs on to her belief that God will heal her brother and allow him to walk again, despite her family and friends trying to convince her that it is God's will for him to lose the use of his legs.

Not only do Judith's family turn against her, but also Levi, the man she had been planning to court when she came of age. While I immediately dismissed Levi as being unworthy of Judith's time, I can remember being a teenager and hanging all my hopes on a boy whose faults I just couldn't see. Any woman who remembers

the pains of teenage heartbreak will sympathise with Judith's anguish when Levi makes fun of her belief in angels and continually embarrasses her in front of friends and family. Her younger sister makes matters worse by continually flirting with Levi, despite her parents' warnings that she's too young to court. It was strange to see such mean-spirited, selfish behaviour from an Amish teenager, but Ruth seems intent on breaking down any stereotypes about the Amish! Martha and Levi's behaviour eventually reaches a stage where Judith can take it no more and decides to wash her hands of Levi. His cousin, Andrew, has been becoming increasingly angered by Levi's mistreatment of Judith, yet it takes her a long time to trust him after the attitudes she has been met with by Levi and other members of the community. The relationship between Judith and Andrew is slow to develop, but his unconditional trust in her was heart-warming.

I would encourage all readers of Amish fiction, and those who have been tempted to read the genre but have been put off by the typical, romantic plots, to look out for Ruth Reid's Heaven on Earth series. If The Promise of an Angel is anything to judge by, it looks like she's going to become a favourite amongst Amish fans. 10/10

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### **Lisa says**

This wasn't a typical Amish story of following faith and the ordnung and always doing what it expected. Instead, Judith's little brother falls from a roof and as he is rushed off to the hospital, she sees an angel. As word gets around that she has seen an angel, everyone starts to believe that she has gone crazy. The boy that she has loved all her life and had planned to marry, makes fun of her and ends up kissing her younger sister. His cousin, Andrew, helps Judith throughout the story even going against his father's wishes. A good ending. I look forward to reading another story by this author.

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### **Massanutten Regional Library says**

**Karen, Grottoes patron, July 2017, 5 stars:**

How strong is your Faith? A young lady must choose what she saw and what she is told to say.

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### **Tonya says**

Hmmmm... Interesting.

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### **Grace says**

This is Ruth Reid's debut book and the first in the Heaven On Earth series. I would recommend this book to readers who like fictional stories about the Amish and their faith. It is a relatively easy read for the average reader. I would say this has a reading level of High School/Young Adult. The book did have a few errors in grammar and punctuation. The point of view does switch back and forth, which can sometimes be confusing on which character is speaking. There were times it was easy to know what would happen, which caused me to jump paragraphs a couple times. Overall I enjoyed reading such an inspiring story about faith. I give this a

4-star and look forward to her next book.

Summary below:

The story takes place in an Amish community of Mescota County, Michigan. It is about a girl named Judith who has seen an Angel after her brother has a barn-raising accident. The Angel has told her that God says her brother would heal, and has inspired that her future will be as she wants. When she starts to tell her family and friends, they refuse to believe her. Her community believes this is another one of her colorful stories that she tells to the children. However when Judith continues to say that these are not stories and that she believes what the Angel has told her, it starts a strife in her community and slowly Judith becomes afraid for her future in the community. The man she believed she would marry begins to spend time with her sister Martha. The other women in the community have excluded her in their sewing times. Her own family begins to ask her to stop because they were afraid she would be sent away. It becomes a true test of Judith's faith to stand strong and listen to what God's Angel has told her. Only one person stands behind her - Andrew. He becomes an unexpected friend, considering that his father is bishop of their community. Judith must find the strength to keep her faith strong, but does she falter? Can Judith find love in the community? Does her brother become whole again? This book promises to hold your attention long enough for you to find the answers.

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