



## The Amish Mother

*Rebecca Kertz*

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## **The Amish Mother** Rebecca Kertz **Unexpected Love**

Amish widow Lizzie Fisher loves her seven stepchildren as though they were her own. But her brother-in-law's unexpected arrival on the farm has her worried. After all, Zachariah Fisher is the true heir of the property. And he could decide to send her away from her family and her home of two years. Lizzie is determined to show the handsome farmer that her physical challenges don't prevent her from being a hard worker or a loving mother. For she finds herself losing her heart to Zack and hopes he'll see they're meant to be a family forever.

### **Lancaster Courtships: Life and love in Amish country**

Collect all 3 book in the series!

The Amish Bride by Emme Miller

The Amish Mother by Rebecca Kertz

The Amish Midwife by Patricia Davids

### **The Amish Mother Details**

Date : Published October 1st 2015 by Love Inspired (first published September 15th 2015)

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Author : Rebecca Kertz

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## **From Reader Review The Amish Mother for online ebook**

### **Melody says**

The Amish Mother is a light and slow-paced novel. The story is pretty predictable, and I did feel like it dragged along at times. However, the characters were endearing, and I enjoyed reading their story.

I also loved how the characters from The Amish Bride were back in this novel. Although each book in the series is written by a different author and reads well as a stand-alone, the three authors created a common community and cast of secondary characters for all three novels. The events of this second book are set about a month after those of the first book. That was a nice touch since there was about a month between the release dates of the two books.

I would recommend The Amish Mother to fans of Amish fiction looking for a light romance, although I must say I enjoyed The Amish Bride much more.

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### **Janice says**

Read this on the Kindle

I really enjoyed this one in the series

How left with 7 step children she not only looks after them but also how much she loves them well worth reading

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### **Dianne says**

I might not be a religious person, but I do love reading about other cultures. Amish novels don't usually tend to be 'preachy' but they do give you a good insight into their faith. This book managed to give me a brief look into the Amish or Plain life and very little religion compared to other books of this genre that I have read.

Be aware that this is book two in a trilogy and that each book is written by a different author.

This story should have been fascinating –nineteen year old widow- Lizzie Fisher is responsible for the upbringing of her 7 stepchildren and the farm that they live on. She also has a bit of a handicap. When her brother-in-law decides to visit the farm (and yes he does have an ulterior motive!) Lizzie starts worrying...she has a pretty good reason to worry.

As the book progresses a romance is supposed to blossom –but I never really saw it. Most of the book is taken up with descriptions and repetitive dialogue. Food takes up a major portion of this book –the descriptions of, the eating of and the pondering of food. This probably would have been better as a cookbook! The romance took a backseat to everything else and just seemed to come out of nowhere near the

very ending of this book.

What bothered me the most is that I don't think that the author stayed true to the Amish people/culture in most of this book. You would think that since I am non-religious I wouldn't notice a detail like this! I am willing to admit I am not an Amish expert by any means, but in what I have read, I do know that the Amish say a prayer before all of their meals – not so in this book.

Not my favorite Amish romance in anyway. The lack of plot, uninteresting and sometimes childish characters made this a difficult read for me.

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### **Susan says**

Cried my eyes out.....

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### **Rhonda says**

The Amish Mother was filled with love, drama and Amish life. I loved the characters.

Elizabeth Fisher is 19 year old mother of seven. A widow of two months. She has a crippled leg. She is Amish and living on a farm. The younger children all call her mom but the oldest girl has a hard time accepting her as a mother.

Zachariah Fisher has come to find out about his older brother death and how his children are. His family didn't even know about his wife Ruth's death two years ago and remarriage to Lizzy.

The farm is his. By Amish tradition. He decides after seeing Lizzy with the children. To bring his sister Ester with him to stay in the Grandparents house.

Zach and Lizzy keep having feelings for each other but think it is wrong.

Ester runs into the boy she loved when she was fourteen and forced to move out of state with her mother.

I enjoyed reading this clean Amish romance. It is not afraid to pray and do Gods will.

I was given this romance by Net Galley and Harlequin to read and in exchange to give a honest review of The Amish Mother.

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### **Kav says**

Book 2 in the Love Inspired continuity series, Lancaster Courtships Books are released monthly, written by multiple authors and though they share an overlapping community (Honeysuckle, Pennsylvania) and characters, each book reads as a standalone. How cool is that?

First, kudos to Rebecca Kertz for creating a heroine with a disability in *The Amish Mother*. It is heartening to read about a heroine who doesn't meet the traditional romance novel standards. I'm of the opinion that diversity in fiction is as important as diversity in our daily lives.

Lizzie has battled a physical challenge all her life and she's determined to prove herself. Especially to the brother-in-law she's just met. Imagine being widowed at nineteen! And left a step-mother to seven children! Lizzie has enough love in her heart and desperate determination to keep the family together especially when Zach arrives in Honeysuckle. He intends to lay claim to his family's farm and his brother's children. Nothing has prepared him for Lizzie though and an unusual love story ensues.

Best line in the book: Little Amish boy explaining the drama of a gash in his hand. "I had an accident. It's better now. Mam took me to the doctor and I got quilted." (pg.109)

And just an interesting side note: Unlike the usual two person point of view found in Love Inspired books, this one has multiple viewpoints and a secondary romance -- all wrapped up in a heartwarming package.

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### **Maryann Skaritka says**

Nineteen year old widow Elizabeth (Lizzie ) King Fisher has her hands full. She has most certainly experienced more than others her age in her Amish community of Honeysuckle, Pennsylvania.

Growing up with a bad limp and at times a mom who seems to distance herself from Lizzie, this sweet girl has learned to be independent and do her best in all things.

She finds herself a young widow with 7 stepchildren. Just two years earlier she married Abraham Fisher after being encouraged by her mother that this would be best for her with her disability. Abraham was about 15 years her senior and died tragically on the farm.

Lizzie tries to hold it altogether while dealing with a step daughter who is unaccepting of her, trying to take care of seven children as well as farm and household duties. She always says that the children are the children of her heart.

Zach Fisher comes to reclaim the farm that is his birthright. Lizzie has known that her deceased husband was only a caretaker of the farm until Zach came to claim it.

I loved the sweet characters in this book and Zach's sister Esther is sweet as well as Sarah, Lizzies mother in law.

Putting on a brave front, Lizzie wonders if Zach and her might have feelings for each other. Zach also sees how much Lizzie loves the children and what she is capable of doing. I also loved the budding romance between Preacher David and Esther. .

Even though this was the second book in the series I felt perfectly fine jumping in and feeling at home . If you are looking for a sweet romance with a wonderful message of love, faith, family, and community this would be a great read.

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## **Anna (Curiosity comes before Kay) says**

Such a sweet little romance! Full review to come.

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## **Tina Watson says**

A delightful read, that will have you on the edge of your seat the whole way through.

The second book in *Lancaster Courtships* "The Amish Mother" by Rebecca Kertz focuses on Amish widow Lizzie Fisher who is raising her husband's seven children on his families farm all by herself.

Two months ago, she wrote a letter to her husband's family letting them know he passed away. Lizzie has not heard from them, until Zachariah Fisher, her brother-in-law and her husband's youngest brother, shows up in her yard.

Lizzie is determined to show the handsome Zach that her physical challenges do not prevent her from being a hard worker nor a loving mother to her step-children. And Zach is determined to farm the family farm and to make sure his nieces and nephews are taken care of.

Will the rest of the Fisher family accept Lizzie for who she is and not treat her differently?

Do hearts have something else in mind for them?

Is there another courtship going on in Honeysuckle as well?

Fans of the Amish genre you do not want to miss out on reading this book nor this series. I am loving this series. Each author has done great job of making sure each other so far has characters informations that they need to make each book flow smoothly.

I look forward to reading the last book in the series, *The Amish Midwife* by Patricia Davids.

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

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## **Kathy Davie says**

Second in the Lancaster Courtships inspirational romance series and revolving around Amish communities.

The couple focus is on Lizzie Fisher and Zachariah Fisher and set on the Fisher farm in Honeysuckle, Pennsylvania.

### **My Take**

The premise for *The Amish Mother* is sweet, and I did want Lizzie to succeed...however, Kertz's main conflict had me rolling my eyes. It was so hamhanded that it stole away from the warmth and love in the rest of the story.

Kertz did make me see Lizzie's daily life on the farm — I am amazed at how much she managed to accomplish every day! — and in her (self-supporting) community, and I loved the support Lizzie did get.

Kertz also takes us to prayer meetings and works the harvest.

There are the typical anger issues with the older children resenting Lizzie for taking their mother's place, although Kertz does resolve this nicely. There is plenty of other conflict besides the resentment in the story what with Lizzie's disability and fears for her future, the pregnancy, Esther's regrets, Zack's thoughts, and the really, really annoying shared fears that Zack and Lizzie individually drone on about.

I can certainly understand Lizzie's fear, and this custom appears to be very unfair. How could they toss her off the farm and away from her family?? I wanna smack Zack up one side and down the other for his thoughts. And how is it that Zack is the heir and why was Abraham working the farm until Zack grew up enough? Wouldn't the eldest inherit? It's another factor that brought my rating down for this story. Another aspect that didn't make sense.

It does feel rather odd that the Amish in this story ride around in cars and use gas-powered washing machines. It also felt odd how easily the Fishers flit between Honeysuckle and Walnut Creek.

I did enjoy reading about children who help their parents with chores!

### **The Story**

Amish widow Lizzie Fisher loves her seven stepchildren as though they were her own. But her brother-in-law's unexpected arrival on the farm has her worried. After all, Zachariah Fisher is the true heir of the property. And he could decide to send her away from her family and her home of two years.

Lizzie is determined to show the handsome farmer that her physical challenges don't prevent her from being a hard worker or a loving mother. For she finds herself losing her heart to Zach and hopes he'll see they're meant to be a family forever.

### **The Characters**

**Elizabeth "Lizzie" King Fisher** has been widowed for two months. **Abraham Fisher** had taken Lizzie as a second wife almost two years ago, mostly to help him care for his children. **Ruth** was his first wife. Lizzie's stepchildren include **Mary Ruth, Hannah, Rebecca, Matthew, Anne, Jonas**, and three-year-old **Ezekiel**. **Rosebud** is the mare.

**Zachariah "Zack" Fisher** is Abraham's brother. **Esther Fisher** is the unmarried sister. **Miriam** is the oldest married sister who lives in Walnut Creek with her nine children. **John**, Miriam's eldest son, is married with two children: **Jane** and **Jacob**. Miriam's oldest daughter, **Mae**, has four children. **Sadie** is another of Sarah's daughters. **Sarah "Mam" Fisher** had cancer; **Daniel** was the husband who died so many years ago (Sarah was Daniel's second wife). **Dr. Rosemont** is the one who treated Sarah. **Ted Harris** is a neighbor of theirs back in Walnut Creek.

**Rachel Miller** had been Lizzie's friend since childhood and is married to **Peter Zook**. **David Hostetler** is the preacher; **Jacob** and **Jed** are his sons. **Margaret Yoder** had been his wife. **Deacon John Mast** has a big family. **Bishop Andy** is one of the church elders. **Rosemary Yost** is interested in Zack. **Nancy Miller** is the unmarried schoolteacher.

**Lydia King** is the mother who has never taken to her daughter, Lizzie. **Katie** is Lizzie's sister and interested in **Mark Troyer** while **Susie** is another daughter, married to **Amos Mast** in Indiana. **William** and **Luke** are Lizzie's brothers.

**Ellen Beachey** runs **Beachey's Craft Shop**. Ellen used to see **Neziah Shetler**, who has two sons: **Asa** and **Joel**. **Barbara Emory** commissions a quilt for her daughter, **Dana**, from Lizzie. **Dinah Plank** lives above the craft shop and works for Ellen. **John** is Ellen's father. Farmers include **Thomas and Marybeth Stoltzfus**; **Amos Beiler**; **Wilmer and Joanna Miller**; **Martha Yoder**; and, **Samuel Yoder** who has a son, **James**.

**John Miller** runs **Miller's General Store**. The grocery is the **McCann's**. **Margaret's** is a local Mennonite restaurant. **Naomi Beiler** is the head of the local widows' group and has three children: **Emma**, **Aaron**, and **Michael**. **Mary Blauch's** son, **Raymond**, was born prematurely. **Anne Stoltzfus** is the midwife. **Joseph Lapp** has wandering goats. **Mark Hostetler** is the blacksmith. **Alta Miller** is an old friend of Sarah Fisher's.

*Endie* means *aunt*; *grossmama* is *grandmother*; *onkel* is *uncle*; *schwester* is *sister*; *vadder* is *father*; *Dat* is *Dad*; *mudder* is *mother*; *brooder* is *brother*; *grossdaddi* is *grandfather*; *dochter* is *daughter*. Think of the *dawdi haus* as a mother-in-law cottage.

### The Cover and Title

The cover is soft pastels from the hazy blue of the sky above the blurred yellows and golds of the woods behind Lizzie. She's wearing her white cap with the ties fluttering in the breeze and a pale gray, high-waisted dress with below-the-elbow sleeves, and carrying a dark basket of green apples. Her other hand appears to be on Ezekiel's straw hat, as he looks up at his stepmother with curiosity.

The title is who Lizzie is, *The Amish Mother*.

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### Fiona Marsden says

This is the second in the Lancaster Courtships series. This is the story of Lizzie Fisher, widow and adopted mother to seven children from her marriage. Lizzie is only nineteen and married grieving widower Abraham when she was seventeen to help him with his young family.

When Abraham's brother Zach arrives to claim the farm, he is disconcerted by Lizzie. He can see that in spite of her limp, she works hard and is a good mother to the family. Lizzie also finds Zach to be someone out of her experience and disturbingly attractive. Her arranged marriage has not prepared her for this. There are a lot of children so it takes a bit to keep them in your head but overall it's not too confusing.

This isn't really an angsty book. The conflicts are situational rather than deeply emotional for the most part. We get another look into the Lancaster Amish community. It's a little different to the first in the series. The spiritual side is there but doesn't permeate the story in quite the same way.

Overall I enjoyed this story. There is a small secondary romance with Zach's sister Esther which was rather sweet.

I received this book from Netgalley for an honest review.

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### Sonya Heaney says



Also posted **HERE** .

EDIT: since writing this review, I have indeed found an Amish fiction author whose books I enjoy: Patricia Davids

I've been thinking of trying an Amish romance for a while now, and so when a whole series of them popped up for review, I grabbed the first one I saw. The me of a few years ago would have thought I'd gone mad: a Christian book about seven children!

*The Amish Mother* is an interesting insight into Amish life for someone like me, who lives about sixteen-thousand kilometres from the nearest Amish person. However, this is a book that basically has no plot, and relies on nonstop scenes of the heroine misunderstanding people and running off to cry in order to create conflict.

The best thing about this book is that the author clearly knows what she's talking about. I believe she lives in a community where there are constantly Amish people about, so you couldn't get a better writer to cover their way of life.

Our heroine is only nineteen, has a disability which causes many people to think she can't cope, and is running a farm while raising her seven stepchildren on her own. Our hero turns up to take the farm out from under her (which doesn't exactly make him endearing at first!) and then of course they fall in love with each other, with lots of misunderstandings along the way.

There just wasn't enough time devoted to the relationship in this one. The hero comes and goes from the book, back and forth from his own home in Ohio, and the heroine spends all her time admiring the children and cooking, and baking, and cooking and baking. More page time was devoted to the ingredients she put in her muffins than to a major tragedy that happens to her (and for some reason this tragedy is never mentioned to the hero)!

I'm still not sure why the hero and the rest of his family had never met the heroine (who was married to his brother) or the children before, or why they didn't know the first husband had died! Especially if they're supposed to be such a close family!

There are multiple widows and widowers in this book, and in every situation the same thing happens: the realisation that the second spouse is "better" than the first. I hate this trope! Why does the first – **dead** – spouse always have to be made out as not as good? Why can a person not love one person, and then love another? And then towards the end the *good man* dead husband was suddenly, inexplicably made out to be a bad father:

*The boys love Zack, Lizzie thought. He was better with them than their father had been. After Ruth's death, Abraham had grieved too deeply to pay much attention to his children.*

I struggled with the lack of plot. It led to so much padding to make up the word count, which started to make the characters look a little... unintelligent. For example, this conversation where heroine asks hero if he wants apple or chocolate cake:

*“Apple chocolate?” She furrowed her brow as she thought. “I haven’t heard of that recipe.”*

*“Both,” his mother explained.*

*Before Lizzie could question her, Esther spoke up. “He wants both apple and chocolate cake. He’s telling you he likes both kinds.”*

*Lizzie examined the man next to her, enjoying the sight of his stunning good looks. “I can make both.”*

These characters **eat so much!** I felt ill reading about it! Pre-breakfast muffins, followed by bacon and potatoes and toast and everything else in the house for breakfast, followed by a few big slabs of cake for morning tea, followed by fried chicken for lunch. They ate more in half a day than I do in a week, and all of it was full of fat!

I must admit I struggle with the mentality of this lifestyle. Girls marry as teens and then have a baby a year for decades, and yet people use all other modern medicine (including – in this book – chemotherapy, antidepressants and painkillers), travel in cars when they need to, play baseball, and eat pizza and hamburgers?

The only aspects of the past they seem to stick to are the ones that make life terribly hard for women.

If you’re a hardcore fan of Amish romances, I’m sure you’ll enjoy this one. I think I’m going to give one more Amish book a go before calling it a day, but this was far from my favourite read of the year. I started out wanting to enjoy it more, but it stopped working for me pretty much right at the start.

*Review copy provided by NetGalley.*

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## **Harlequin Books says**

received 4 stars @ RT Book Reviews

Miniseries: Lancaster Courtships

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## **Harlequin Books says**

"Lizzie is a wonderful role model, as she is a strong, capable character who does not let her physical limitations hold her back. This is a quick read with well-developed and integrated secondary characters" (RT Book Reviews, 4 stars).

Miniseries: Lancaster Courtships

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## **Pam says**

The Amish Mother is book 2 of Lancaster Courtships by Rebecca Kertz. It is a Love inspired Harlequin. It is written with neither graphic sexual content nor words. This makes it a wonderful book to read for inspiration. The book is very good.

Lizzie Foster has a handicap. Her hip is a problem and she limps. It hurts her almost constantly; but has not found anyone who is able to fix it. She just bears with it. She married Abraham Fisher to care for him and his seven children. His wife has just died and he is still mourning her. Lizzie knew he didn't love her but hoped he would come to care for her. Just as this seems to have been happening, he falls from the barn loft and dies. Now Lizzie is left with the farm and the children. Just as she is getting a handle on things, Zachariah Fisher shows up. Lizzie is anxious to know what he is going to do. The farm was left to Zack and Abraham was just taking care of it until Zack was of age. Has he returned to take the farm and the children who are only hers by marriage, but she loves him.

Zack has come to see about the farm and to meet Lizzie. None of the family knows anything about her. He fully intends to take the farm and possibly custody of the children. It depends on what he finds when he gets there. When he sees her physical challenges, he believes he has made the right decision; but he decides to wait and see how she does. Besides, he is attracted to her and he shouldn't be. Luckily he and his sister are staying in the "dawdi haus" so there is no accusations of impropriety.

What will happen to Lizzie? Will she lose the farm and the children? How can she tell Zack her secrets? Will they make a difference?

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