



## Running Around (And Such)

*Linda Byler*

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## **Running Around (And Such)** Linda Byler

A romance novel by an Amish writer, based on true experiences!

It isn't that Lizzie doesn't want to stay Amish. It's just that there is so much to figure out. Like why can't she let her hair a little looser on top? And why can't she wear shoes with a little bit more of a heel? And will she ever really just know for a fact who she is going to marry like her next-older sister, Emma, does? And how does it happen that her just-younger sister, Mandy, is going on a date before Lizzie ever has a real one? So does it matter at all if she eats one more whoopie pie? Amos seems to like her a lot when she pounds out the ping-pong games. He even asks her to be his partner in doubles. But then he asks Ruthie if he can take her home!

It has been this way Lizzie's whole life. She has too hot a temper. She hates housework and dislikes babies. She loves driving fast horses but is petrified of going away from home for a week to work as a maud (maid). Now that Lizzie is running around, will she scare off the Amish boys with her hi-jinks manners? She has certainly attracted the attention of the egg-truck driver. A scary thrill runs through her every time the worldly man comes to pick up an order, each time extending his stay a little longer. How long will she keep this a secret from Emma—and from Mamm and Datt? What will become of Lizzie? Is she too spirited, too innocent, and almost too uninhibited for a young Amish woman?

## **Running Around (And Such) Details**

Date : Published May 1st 2010 by Good Books

ISBN : 9781561486885

Author : Linda Byler

Format : Paperback 345 pages

Genre : Amish, Christian Fiction, Fiction, Amish Fiction, Romance, Christian, Young Adult, Religion, Coming Of Age, Contemporary

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# From Reader Review Running Around (And Such) for online ebook

## Danielle says

I am about as confused as Lizzie is. I am gonna share what another wrote since I agree and my adds to it *"the story was boring and very unimaginative"* it was like a preteen book no real story.

*"The story never really progressed. I felt like I had read forever, but I didn't go anywhere!"* I felt as if I read it for 2 weeks and it had only been 2 days it just dragged on and on

*"Lizzie obsessed over being heavier than her sisters and the reader had to hear about her obsession in every single chapter."* This got real old real fast and when they said how big she was she was not that big and really played it up (talk about body image issues)

*"The author used the technique of flashback way tooo much!!!"* EVERY CHAPTER HAD A FLASHBACK IT SEEMED

All in all the only thing this book was good for was the recipes at the end. Would I recommend it??? No way

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## Rachel Brand says

Before reading this book, I'd read a lot of very mixed reviews. Some people loved it, some thought it was okay, while others outright hated it. Thus I approached this novel with trepidation, not entirely sure what to expect, other than the fact that it was written by an Amish woman and didn't conform to the standard style of "typical" Amish novels.

Perhaps it was because I knew this book wasn't entirely standard that I was able to enjoy it, as I wasn't disappointed to find this book was aimed more at young teens than adults, and that its format and style was more in keeping with that of Laura Ingalls Wilder than Beverly Lewis. Either way, I ended up quite enjoying Linda Byler's first novel. When I started this book, I was needing something light and unchallenging as I was feeling quite stressed out about my impending wedding, so this hit all the right spots. Perhaps the lack of an overarching plot will irritate some, but I liked the fact that I could dip into this book easily and not have to concentrate too much. As well as being incredibly informative about the day-to-day aspects of Amish life, there were also some good depictions of relationships between sisters and some fun childhood stories. I never got bored with this book, even if there wasn't a suspenseful plot, and it was pretty entertaining.

But this book does have a few downsides, which stop me from rating it any higher. To start with the nit-picky stuff, this book just ended far too abruptly. I turned the page expecting a few more concluding chapters only to find a page of recipes. I know that there are two more books in the series, but even a paragraph summing up what Lizzie had learned over the course of the book would have been more satisfying than the way this book ended.

And as other reviewers have mentioned, Lizzie's whining could get on my nerves after a while, particularly about her weight and her family liking Emma more than her. It seemed a bit overdone and sometimes a little unfounded. She did eventually overcome both of these issues, and they did make her sympathetic, but sometimes I just wanted her to have some actual conflict that wasn't all inside her head. Sometimes she also seemed a bit young for her age, although at times I found myself thinking "Hmm, maybe I did act like that when I was 15", but this could be because of her Amish upbringing.

My other issue was more do with my personal feelings about the way certain characters were portrayed and how this can be construed by the reading audience. While I was able to enjoy this novel as a nearly-married twenty-year-old university student, I think it's more suited for a twelve-year-old girl. Considering my love of Laura Ingalls Wilder, Jo March and Anne Shirley, plus anything historical or old-fashioned, as a preteen, this probably would have been right up my alley. But that also makes me wonder about how I would have perceived Lizzie's parents at that age. Perhaps I'm sympathising with Lizzie too much, but I found her mother incredibly harsh. There were times when she told Lizzie off and admitted that she shouldn't have trusted her with such a responsibility at such a young age, like using the washing machine unsupervised. Even though she knew it was her fault for leaving her daughter unattended, she still criticised her daughter, and never apologised for her harsh words. There were other times when her parents seemed too quick to judge and lacking in trust for their daughter. For example, they decide that Lizzie is old enough to work outside the home and let her work at an egg plant, but then make her stop working there when she inadvertently attracts the attention of an English man. If they think she's mature enough to work outside the home, she's also mature enough to know how to deal with men. It seemed a bit bizarre to teach your daughter to work but not to warn her against attracting unwanted attention. So Lizzie is seen as being at fault here, because she didn't know that her behaviour was inappropriate and bordered on flirting. At times, I just got so frustrated with Lizzie's parents, especially her mum, for wanting her to grow up and take on new responsibilities, but not teaching her about moral issues such as how to act around men. I'm sure not all Amish families are like this, but if I'd read this book as a young teenager I might have got a bad impression of Amish parenting.

Although I had my personal issues with certain parts of the story, I would probably recommend it to girls between the ages of 11 and 13, maybe younger or older, depending in maturity and reading abilities. It would be nice to see what Lizzie gets up to in the later books, but I'm probably not going to rush out and buy them. It was relaxing and mildly entertaining to read about Lizzie's coming of age, but it wasn't exactly a gripping read, so if you're not a Laura Ingalls Wilder fan and need structure to your books, this probably isn't for you. That said, I did learn a lot about life in a very rural Amish community, running a farm and dress-making, even if I had wished this book had a more solid conclusion. 3.5\*

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## **Myckye says**

This was the first time I've read an Amish book and I wasn't sure what to expect. I was surprised to find that except for scattered cultural references the story follows much the same path as any other book of its genre - that being a coming of age story of an adolescent girl.

Lizzie is fifteen and filled with all the same sorts of feelings any teenager would have, but added to that she's rebellious and willful - something that by definition goes against the Amish belief system. She runs into trouble with family and friends and it's usually of her own (however unintended) making. Some of the situations she gets into are funny and some not so much. But it is usually caused by Lizzie's belief that she is somehow not as loved as her older sister. I found the feeling expressed by this character to be pretty honest and insightful. What I didn't expect was this girl's food issues. Her mother was always making something sweet and rich and while her sisters showed constraint, Lizzie was usually eating too much of it. Food disorders are a serious problem and I don't feel I know enough about them to give an educated opinion about the presentation of this characters problems with food, but I had a gut reaction that her mother did not deal with it in the best possible way. Not sure though. Lizzie's self-image is that she is overweight and not very pretty. I thought it a bit odd that on the cover of the book there is a picture of a very pretty and slim-looking girl with a wide smile. I'm assuming that's Lizzie at a happy and self-confident moment!

Linda Byler has a simple, to-the-point writing style. In each chapter there is a flashback to a related current and in this way the reader is taken through the character's growing pains. I found the Amish lifestyle interesting (so very far removed from my own) and found the glossary at the back of the book useful. I think this would be a good book for any one who enjoys the coming-of-age genre and is tired of those that are the profane, serious mental health issue type books.

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## **Camille says**

I wish to thank FSB Media again for this opportunity to review books for them. I am grateful for any opportunity to get to read and be exposed to more literature.

I immediately jumped into the first book in the Lizzie Searches For Love series.

I have to admit, I was sadly disappointed.

While I believe the book was probably very true in its depictions of Amish life, the plot left everything to be desired.

Running Around (And Such) follows the main character, Lizzie, who progress from age 15-16 during the course of the novel. She is struggling after having to move to a new county where there are few Amish families.

Furthermore, Lizzie's older sister makes Lizzie feel like she is incompetent. Emma always is glad to assist her parents in any way she is asked, whereas Lizzie is more concerned with her appearances, wanting to fit in, wanting to be thinner, and has no desire to do the type of housework that she has to do all the time, especially milking the cows.

And with that, I've pretty much summarized the entire plot of the novel.

Lizzie is young, yes, but she is truly not a very likable character. She seems to whine and complain about everything, and while many teenagers are a bit whiny I feel like this goes so overboard. Not to mention she is drawn to tears by the most trivial of things that it seems almost unrealistic.

I kept reading hoping the plot would finally pick up. The back of the book blurb makes it sound as if the plot is detailed involving her struggle to decide whether she has interested in Stephen or Amos romantically, but they are probably the most minor part of the story.

Also, the book ends very abruptly. Yes, I realize it is a series, but most books that are a part of a series end less abruptly so that the novel as a whole feels like a book. I feel like when I closed the book I left off in the middle of the chapter.

Frankly, little exciting happens and it's 300+ pages of background. I plan to read the next book in the series and hope that it is more interesting than Running Around (And Such).

Perhaps my hopes were too high based on having an Amish author, or perhaps the book as a whole is a bit disappointing.

However, if you do have a lot of interest in a much more in-depth look at daily Amish life than this book is excellent at painting a better picture of day-to-day life than most other Amish novels I have read which seem to incidentally mention daily activities. Running Around (And Such) is much more detailed and that could be very appealing to those who are deeply interested in a deep look into daily Amish life.

All-in-all, three out of five stars.

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## **Jerry says**

### **A Quickie Review**

Oh, wait...this isn't about **that** Lizzie!

Seriously, though: The story was decent, but the ending was rather abrupt, and Lizzie herself was rather whiny and not very likable. Hopefully, future volumes will bring about a change in her character.

**Score: 3/5**

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## **Yvonne says**

Lizzie is quite the character!

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## **Brenda says**

Lizzie Glick is the second oldest of five children in her family. Her family lives in Jefferson County and her datt owns a pallet shop, but her datt has decided to sell the business and become a farmer. None of the family really want to move to the country, because there aren't very many Amish families living there, Lizzie's biggest worry is how her and her sister Emma will find any Amish boys to date if there aren't any, but soon Lizzie has more to worry about than boys because her mamm becomes sick and needs to be admitted to the hospital, so it falls on Lizzie and her sister Emma to take care of the house, something Lizzie hates.

When Lizzie is forced to work outside the home, she hates it, but her mam is determined to prepare Lizzie for what she will need to know when she marries. When Lizzie turns sixteen and starts "running around" she soon realizes its not as easy as it seems.

Lizzie comes off as a whiny, unhappy Amish girl and thinks that no one really likes her, but in truth she actually has self esteem issues. Her sisters are thin and pretty, while she is a bit overweight, and is also dealing with pimples! She is going thru a rebellious faze in this book, and actually I was pretty surprised at how disrespectful she was to her mamm, not something I normally read in an Amish story. Just when you think she is growing up some she reverts to her whiny ways.

The writing style of this book took a bit of getting used to, for me it took reading half of the story before I

actually became interested. The way the author jumps from past to present had me re reading parts of the story just to get it! I also found a few areas where there was a few inconsistencies, for instance when Lizzie and her sister was painting at the King house, one page said the walls were old and cracked the next page said it was a new house, or when Lizzie was hanging clothes on the line, in one sentence and then in the next sentence it mentions Emma hanging them.

While we didn't get to experience alot of Lizzie running around in this book, overall it was a nice getting a glimpse of Lizzie and her family, and since I read alot of Amish stories I normally don't run into any new Amish words but I did in this book, and having the Amish glossary in the back was very helpful. The author also includes several yumtastic Amish recipes for us to try out as well.

Reading this story really reminded me of the series of books that Carrie Bender wrote a few years back.

This book is the first in the Lizzie Searches for Love Series, and while this book is written for the teen to pre-teen audience I really enjoyed reading it. I look forward to reading more of Lizzie's antics in the next book

When Strawberries Bloom, which was released in October 2010.

Even though I was provided a copy for review by FSB media (thanks Julie) it in no way alters my opinion of this book.

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## **Staci says**

Why I wanted to read this book:

\* It's no secret that I love books that feature the Amish way of life, so when I was offered the chance to read Amish fiction written by an ACTUAL Amish woman I immediately said yes!

What worked for me:

\* The promise of a great story about a strong-willed young girl who wonders if being Amish is what she wants out of life.

\*

What didn't work for me:

\* Pretty much everything...the story was boring and very unimaginative.

\* The author used the technique of flashback way tooo much!!!

\* The story never really progressed. I felt like I had read forever, but I didn't go anywhere!

\* Lizzie obsessed over being heavier than her sisters and the reader had to hear about her obsession in every single chapter.

\* I just felt that there was no depth to this book. Maybe I'm unfairly comparing this one to other Amish fiction that I've read and for that I apologize.

Recommend? Unfortunately I would not recommend this book to friends. I barely made it through this one and it felt like a chore instead of an escape into the Amish world.

My Rating: 2/5

Because of my low rating I feel the need to post links from other blogger's who read this one and enjoyed it. Please visit this site so that you get a balanced look at this novel.

Cindy's Love of Books

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## **Ruth says**

I'm a Catholic who reads a lot of Christian fiction. Christian fiction, for the most part, is written for and by Evangelical Protestants, and reflects their faith experiences and life view. Sometimes these books contain Catholic characters, and often when they do, I roll my eyes and say "The author just doesn't get Catholicism". They may get the externals right (and sometimes not) but the meanings fly right past them, whether its because we aren't good at explaining them or because the author doesn't want to give up pre-conceived notions about us.

So, why am I talking about Catholicism when I show a photo of a book with an Amish girl on the cover? Amish fiction is a popular sub-genre of Christian fiction, but most of the authors are not Amish and hold a very different world view than do the Amish. I've often wondered if their depictions of Amish life and faith were as flawed as the depictions of Catholicism that I've read. With *Running Around (And Such)* (Lizzie Searches for Love, Book 1) I'm pretty confident that the depictions of Amish life and beliefs are accurate because the author, Linda Byler, is Amish. One thing I've found interesting is that she made it clear that the Amish are not one monolithic group who are all the same. The family at the center of the story moves a couple of counties away and the women have to change their hairstyles and are allowed to wear sweaters. I'd say the strength of this book is the depiction of Amish life--the clothes, the hairstyles, the houses, the schools and the fact that just like "English" girls, Amish teens want to look nice.

Unfortunately, the weakness of this book is the plot--there really isn't one. Lizzie, the main character, is coming of age. She is looking forward to being of dating age when one day her father announces they are moving to another county to buy a farm. She doesn't like farming, but Amish kids who live on farms work on farms. Also, we follow her as she works for other families in the area, and starts looking for a husband. Still, the book lacks the typical plot arc of introduction, problem, rising action and resolution. It doesn't end as much as it stops. The only conflict is between Lizzie and her parents, and there is no real resolution, but then the conflict isn't that much different than many teens and parents.

If you enjoy Amish fiction and want to read a book written by an Amish woman, you may like this one, but in the overall world of books, *Running Around (And Such)* (Lizzie Searches for Love, Book 1) leaves a lot to be desired. Grade: C.

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## **Rhonda says**

*Running Around and Such* by Linda Byler  
4 STARS

*Running Around and Such* is supposed to be written by someone who is Amish. So with that knowledge it makes it seem more real.



Lizzie Glick is the main character and its her telling the story. I had a real hard time caring about her. She is overweight,lazy and wants fancier stuff than the simple plain ways. Lizzie also talks back to her parents. She reminds me of me at times.

Lizzie is 15 at start and her older sister is almost 16 and can start dating and going to sings.

Emma is the oldest girl and is good at everything. She likes to cook,sew and willing to work hard and has strong faith. What I usually think of about the Amish women. So I judge Lizzie harder because she does not measure up for me.

Lizzie is selfish and always think that the others are picking at her. She uses food to calm her in stressful times.

Lizzie is trying to understand how finding the right man to marry that Gods wants for her.

Its a simple story with a lot more details of dailey life as a young female teens Amish life.

This is a very clean read that anyone can read and enjoy.

I will read more about Lizzie in the next book. I was given this ebook to read in exchange for honest review.

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## **Paula-O says**

This was a first book of Linda Byler's for me. She is a amish writer and so knows a lot about amish folks and how to write about them. I liked the stories that unfolded of the girls growing up. They moved from one area to another which was difficult but the family worked hard at making do with what they had and managed to live and prosper.

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## **Bookworm says**

Running Around (and Such): Lizzie Searches for Love is the first book in a three book series by author Linda Byler. The story is centered around fifteen year old Lizzie Glick and her Amish family. The family is about to move from their home in Jefferson County to a new home in Cameron County. The reason for the move being that Lizzie's Dad is giving up his business and becoming a cow farmer instead.

Lizzie lives with her 'Mam' and 'Dat', her twin baby sisters and her sisters Emma and Mandy. She is outspoken and dislikes housework and farming.

This book is mainly a coming of age story. Strong willed Lizzie struggles to fit in and she has views and ideas that differ from her parents and her Amish upbringing. She doesn't want to marry a farmer and she wants to wear nice clothes and high heeled shoes. Lizzie is self conscious like any teenage girl her age. She feels like she's not pretty enough and not thin enough and won't fit in at her new hometown and school.

When Lizzie finally turns 16 she begins what the Amish call 'running around', or going out to social gatherings on weekends with other Amish teens. Once she starts running around, Lizzie meets some interesting boys and wonders who will be her husband one day.

Running Around was an okay read. I'd say it is good for readers ages 11-14.

I think teens any older than that would not be able to relate to Lizzie, unless they are Amish themselves.

You get a view into the Amish lifestyle as the girls bake with their mother and sew their own clothes. Included at the end of the book are Lizzie's favorite recipes from the story, like Apple Pie with Crumb

Topping and Chicken Stew, which I thought was a nice touch.

This was a light, fluffy read. It was definitely 'cheesy', but I expected that. I didn't love this book, but I didn't hate it either.

The title 'Running Around' doesn't really suit the book too well, since Lizzie doesn't actually start to run around until towards the end of the book. The ending leaves the book open for the next installment in the series.

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### **Tasha enderby says**

This is one of my least favorite Amish books and it's so sad because I read the last book in the series and it was good. Not great mind you but worth me hunting down the whole series on Amazon to read. I don't like the way Lizzie sees herself, she doesn't have any self confidence and is boy crazy but in all the wrong boys. I have never before heard of the Amish having issue's with over eating but Lizzie eats sweets to feel better about herself and her life. I don't care for that. this whole book has no real connection feel to the Amish at all.

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### **Marilyn says**

Running Around (and Such) is the first book I read by Linda Byler. I found this book in a resale shop and thought it would be interesting to read an active Amish author's book. This book was slow and redundant with all the whining and self centeredness of Lizzie Glick. I finished it but was disappointed with the cliff hanging ending. A review was not required by purchasing the book as a used book, but I have shared my own thoughts.

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### **Laura says**

Title: RUNNING AROUND (AND SUCH)

Author: Linda Byler

Publisher: Good Books

May 2010

ISBN: 978-1-56148-688-5

Genre: Inspirational/Amish

Lizzie Glick is growing up Amish, and is unhappy when her father decides to give up his successful business and become a cow farmer. In spite of his family's wishes, he sells their farm and moves to a community with few other Amish, and Lizzie wonders how she and her sisters will ever meet boys if there aren't any.

But other things need their attention before boys. When Mam comes down with a terrible sickness and goes to the hospital, Lizzie is forced to help out to keep the house running. And when Emma (Lizzie's big sister) is old enough to start running around, Lizzie is forced to get a job to help save money to start Emma's hope

chest.

When Lizzie turns sixteen, she learns that running around is more confusing than she thought it would be. How does she tell which boy likes her? And even more confusing, which does she like back?

RUNNING AROUND (AND SUCH) is the first book by this real-life Amish writer. I picked this book up, thinking that since I am writing about the Amish it might be beneficial for me to read. And there are some good parts, informative, mostly about the running around (toward the end of the book.)

Otherwise, all I can say is Oh, the drama! Lizzie, though in her mid-teens, is whiney, prone to crying and wailing, and selfish beyond belief. She tends to over-react to almost every situation. Since there are two other teen girls in the family there are several moments with more than one teen girls sporting attitudes. The writing isn't exactly top-notch, there is a lot of telling, weak writing, and jumping around in time (going from current day to backstory without warning) which was quite jarring.

However, the book did get exciting toward the end, and I will be looking for book 2 (coming in October 2010) When Strawberries Bloom to learn more about Lizzie as she looks for her potential husband. Several Amish recipes and a glossary are included at the end of the book. \$13.99. 343 pages.

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