



The Christmas Remedy

Cindy Woodsmall , Erin Woodsmall

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When an Old Order Amish woman takes a job at a small-town pharmacy struggling to survive in a world of "big box" stores, her motive is to help her Plain community. But the advent of the holiday season brings an unusual mystery to the surface--and possibly love.

Twenty-four-year-old Holly Zook lives a unique life for a young Amish woman. Years ago, her bishop allowed her to continue her education and become the lead technician for Greene's Pharmacy, an old-timey drugstore that looks out for the Amish community--a group largely without secure healthcare plans. She knows she can't marry and hold onto her professional job. She's Amish, and she can only have one or the other, so she spurns love and works toward addressing treatable diseases--like the one that claimed her father's life.

As long as Holly continues to avoid Joshua Smucker, the one man who draws her like a warm hearth in winter, she should be fine. When something unexpected threatens Greene's Pharmacy, Holly and Joshua must work together to unravel what's happened and find the "missing" patient before the Board of Pharmacy shuts them down. As the snows of December arrive, with Christmas in the air, will Holly succumb to the generous spirit of the season?

The Christmas Remedy Details

Date : Published October 23rd 2018 by Waterbrook Press

ISBN : 9780735291041

Author : Cindy Woodsmall , Erin Woodsmall

Format : Hardcover 208 pages

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

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From Reader Review The Christmas Remedy for online ebook

Sherry Greene says

A delightful Christmas story surrounding Holly Noelle Zook, an Amish woman who has been able to get the permission of her bishop to continue her education to become a Pharmacy Technician, and to further become a nurse. She wants to help prevent any deaths that conventional healthcare might help to avoid in the Amish community. She also wants them to be comfortable with the English pharmacy when they need medications. Holly has worked Greene's Pharmacy since her father died several years prior.

She knows that if she chooses to follow this career path, that as an Amish woman, she would not be able to marry and raise a family as the Amish require newlywed women and new mothers to stay home to focus on their family.

After the owner, Lyle Greene suffers a stroke, several things occur in the pharmacy that lead her and an Amish friend she had met in the past, Joshua Smucker, to try to solve the reasons that may cause the pharmacy to have to close. They work with Lyle Greene's son, Brandon, to solve this mystery.

The book is a sweet story of traditional family and teachings, non-traditional family, and friendships crossing the Amish/English lines. Love also plays a big part in the story.

I enjoyed this book very much and highly recommend it to those loving to read Amish genre and Christmas books.

I received an advance reader copy of this book from Netgalley and Waterbrook/Multnomah publishers in return for my honest opinion.

Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says

About this book:

"When an Old Order Amish woman takes a job at a small-town pharmacy struggling to survive in a world of "big box" stores, her motive is to help her Plain community. But the advent of the holiday season brings an unusual mystery to the surface--and possibly love.

Twenty-four-year-old Holly Zook lives a unique life for a young Amish woman. Years ago, her bishop allowed her to continue her education and become the lead technician for Greene's Pharmacy, an old-timey drugstore that looks out for the Amish community--a group largely without secure healthcare plans. She knows she can't marry and hold onto her professional job. She's Amish, and she can only have one or the other, so she spurns love and works toward addressing treatable diseases--like the one that claimed her father's life.

As long as Holly continues to avoid Joshua Smucker, the one man who draws her like a warm hearth in winter, she should be fine. When something unexpected threatens Greene's Pharmacy, Holly and Joshua must work together to unravel what's happened and find the "missing" patient before the Board of Pharmacy shuts them down. As the snows of December arrive, with Christmas in the air, will Holly succumb to the generous spirit of the season?"

Series: As I can tell, no.

Becky says

I've loved Cindy Woodsmall's writings for a while, and now she's collaborating with her daughter-in-law, Erin, and together they are making beautiful, novel music together. I know Cindy best for her Amish fiction, and now that she's collaborating with Erin, her Amish fiction has taken a step up in the quality department.

The Christmas Remedy is the kind of book that reaches to the dark corners of the heart and awakens them. Holly works as a pharmacy technician by the permission of her bishop. She did have to get her GED first, and now she's working toward her LPN degree to be more active in the health of the Amish people. With her nursing license, she could answer questions about the medications the doctors prescribed.

Because Holly delivers prescriptions for the Greene Pharmacy, she met Joshua Smucker. He is a sweet Amish man who has a distinct interest in Holly. Holly is equally interested but she's committed to her path of becoming a nurse, and she believes that precludes marriage.

Romance is not all that Cindy and Erin have put into this book, there is a bit of intrigue and investigation. Someone has framed the pharmacist for filling prescriptions without a doctor's order, and it takes all the resources of the pharmacy to find out the truth.

This is a five star book, a quick read, two thumbs up, and a fried apple pie, the Amish Way.

Waterbrook/Multnomah provided the galley I read through NetGalley.com. All they asked was a review with my honest opinion.

Billie says

This Amish Christmas story centers around Greene's Pharmacy. Lyle, the pharmacist and owner, his son Brandon, Holly, a pharmacy tech, and Josh, the young farmer. Holly is a young, independent Amish woman dedicated to modern healthcare and preventative methods, especially for the Amish. She has the blessing of her Old Order Amish Bishop to work as a tech while studying to become an LPN. Holly goes into action after an illness, false claims, and sabotage threatens to close Greene's Pharmacy. When she needs a friend to help her, Josh steps in. This contemporary novel has a little romance, drama, and mystery that combines to make it a real page turner. I received a copy of this book from the publisher Waterbrook & Multnomah in exchange for a review. All opinions expressed are my own.

Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says

This is a sweet Amish story with a mystery to be solved. I thought it was sad that Holly felt like she had to sacrifice marriage and a family in order to have a fulfilling career that would be so beneficial to the members of her Amish community. I liked Joshua and how he helps Holly, even after he discovers he has no hope with her. The element of light suspense kept the plot moving forward and I liked seeing how interconnected the Amish families are and how they were all happy to help. There is a definite warm feeling despite the snowy setting, and I was satisfied with how everything all worked out.

(I received a complimentary copy of the book; all opinions in this review are my own)

Deanne Patterson says

Holly Zook is unique among the Amish women in her community. This 24 year old Old Order Amish woman has the permission of the bishop in her community to further her education past the usual eighth grade education Amish receive. She has become the lead technician for Greene's Pharmacy an old fashioned drug store where the pharmacist treats her like family . Holly knows she is unable to marry because she knows Amish women are expected to marry young and raise babies right away. Her job wouldn't leave room for both and she knows an Amish man wouldn't allow her to work, she should be in the home he would think. Avoiding the one man should would consider for a romance, Joshua Smucker is not as easy as it should be when they keep seeming to run into each other. The work together to find a "missing" patient before the Board of Pharmacy shuts them down. Will Holly let her attraction to Joshua become a romance when she realizes his deep interest in her?

Sweet subtle romance with intrigue and an investigation as well. Very interesting to read about how the Amish feel about health care and pharmacies.

I have always enjoyed books by this author and look forward to reading many more. Highly recommended!
Pub Date 23 Oct 2018

I received a complimentary copy of this book from WaterBrook & Multnomah through NetGalley. Thank you. All opinions expressed are my own.

Nora St Laurent says

This story centers around Greene's Pharmacy family run business. Holly has worked full time at the pharmacy with Lyle Greene since her dad passed. At 15 years old the bishop gave her permission to work full time. Holly Noelle Zook's passion is to help bridge the gap between the Amish way of life and for them to get the medical care and education they need! Her life's calling is do further her education in the medical field.

Lyle Green's son, Brandon lives in the city and going to school. He's waiting to take the pharmaceutical test when the emergency room calls him about his dad. His father needs him but is too proud to ask for help at the store. Brandon can't really step up and write prescriptions because he's not licensed. Brandon is very surprised at how busy the store is and gets help. Then the unthinkable happens and another crisis brings father and son together as they have a short time to get evidence needed to solve a mystery. A mystery (if not solved) that could put Greene's Pharmacy out of business.

Many topics are brought up in this book like, What makes a family? Can Holly combine her work and a family? What makes a place home? I enjoyed the story, but I missed the depth of character and the natural spiritual thread running through the whole book. There was a good message about Martha and Mary near the end.

It's a fun intriguing read with characters I liked. I enjoyed the peek into health care from a pharmacist POV and all they go through to help their customers.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher through Netgalley. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising"

Nora St. Laurent
TBCN Where Book Fun Begins! www.bookfun.org
The Book Club Network blog www.psalms16.blogspot.com
Book Fun Magazine <https://tinyurl.com/y9lwbfers>
SVP Promotion

Gail Hollingsworth says

First of all I love the cover! The book was well written, full of heart and warmth. Holly Noelle is in a "fight" to help her Amish community educate themselves on their health and ways to prevent illness. Sometimes it seems like an uphill battle against the Old Order ways and medicines they don't think they need. Their attitude, "when it's my time to go, God will take me no matter what." But Holly is determined after losing her father to a preventable illness.

Trying to help her is the pharmacist at Greene's Pharmacy but he soon has a health issue that prevents him from working. On top of that, a crisis befalls the welfare of the store that could shut it down for good. This was full of emotion for me and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Put in a love for community, a little mystery, and budding romances and you have a first class trip to Raysburg.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Waterbrook Publishers but was not required to write a review.

Laura says

THE CHRISTMAS REMEDY is the first collaboration of Cindy Woodsmall and her daughter-in-law, Erin, although it is the third collaboration published. I like they wrote an Amish Christmas book together. Unlike Ms. Cindy Woodsmall's other Amish Christmas novellas this one has more than hero/heroine's point of view. There is also a touch of mystery (who is sabotaging the pharmacy and why?) And the druggist's son's point of view. There is also a hint of a secondary romance forming as the story unfolds.

I greatly enjoyed THE CHRISTMAS REMEDY and recommend it as a not to be missed Christmas read with a nontraditional Amish lady, a sweet hero raising baby Easter chicks (I researched something there--did you know they lay precolored eggs? Neither did I. Romance books can be educational! Check it out:

<https://www.fresheggdaily.com/2012/0...>)

I did guess who the bad guy was and why he was doing it, but how was yet to be discovered and I didn't know how he'd be caught. I really enjoyed this story, and now is a great time to preorder it since you'll get another not to be missed book with it. I love the cover of this book, too - an old timey pharmacy on the cover.

Great book.

I was given a copy free. All opinions are my own.

Helen says

The Christmas Remedy, by Cindy Woodsmall and Erin Woodsmall is a nice little story that blends the English and the Amish lives. Holly took a job working at Greene's Pharmacy after the death of her father. She has received permission from her bishop to work towards becoming a nurse. Her desire is to help the Amish community become better aware of their health needs and understand the care recommended for them. To do this she feels she needs to give up being a wife and mother.

Holly's employer and dear friend, Lyle, suffers a stroke. A member of the State Board of Pharmacy shows up to investigate five prescriptions that were filled the day before Lyle's stroke. Lyle cannot remember that day at all. Trying to help get the information needed, Holly turns to Joshua Smucker, a young man from a nearby community, to help locate the person the medication was for.

This is a great story. With just 200 pages, the story is filled with goodwill, caring for others, restoring relationships, mystery and romance. The part of the story that really stands out to me is when Lyle's son comes home to help his father. The son is so resentful of his father's reaction after his mother's death as well as how his father runs Greene's Pharmacy. But with helping run the pharmacy and visiting with others in the community, the son is able to see the other side of the story. I also enjoyed reading the part of Holly's sister helping decorate the store. She admits she enjoys the Christmas tree, even though their religion does not allow for them to have one.

I really enjoyed this story. I feel anyone who enjoys reading Amish fiction will enjoy this story.

I received a copy of this book from Waterbrook & Multnomah. This is my honest review.

198 pages

ISBN: 9780735291041

My Rating: 5 star

Sunnie says

Well, I love Amish fiction and I love Christmas books. So for me this was a great combo. Holly Noelle Zook works at a pharmacy and this is not your typical Amish occupation. But she tries to help her Amish people to get the help they need before things are too late and so she feels that this is her path for life. Not wanting the married, stay at home life she is expected to have.

This is a very interesting book with some mystery, romance and the combination of Cindy and Erin Woodsmall seems to work very well in this book.

I received an ebook copy of this book from NetGalley. All thoughts are my own.

Mayda says

Not your typical young Amish woman, Holly feels a calling to help her Amish community with their health needs. She was given permission to get her GED in order to take nursing classes to be an LPN. She works in the town's pharmacy and has no plans to marry. But no matter how well-planned a life is, something is bound to happen to upset those plans. In this case, it is a young Amish man named Josh. Still, Holly will not give up her dream, even if it means giving up Josh. This co-authored book is an interesting departure from a typical Amish story in that Holly has more than an eighth-grade education and her district allowed her to have that and more. How it all comes about and how the young couple work out their differences, as well as plot involving the problems the pharmacy faces, make for an entertaining and delightful Christmas tale.

Tonja Jensen says

Was approved if this book from NetGalley it is a very good story, Holly went into the old pharmacy building where she worked. She closed the red door and entered into a room that smelled like an old attic. Lyle was the pharmacist there. Holly was taking classes to be an LPN which would help her work at the pharmacy. Holly and Lyle and Dr. Jules were working together to get the Amish to understand their medications better. But the event's of the holidays brings an unusual mystery to the surface and possibly love. Holly is my favorite character she is very unique for a amish women!!! Hope you pre-order your copy soon. You won't want to miss out on the adventures of Holly...

Tina says

Cindy and Erin Woodsmall's latest book about the Amish will bring smiles and laughter to readers. I will honestly say that I wasn't sure I would enjoy it at first. I thought the premise...a young Amish girl allowed to work in a pharmacy...seemed odd and I didn't think it would work. I am happy to report that I was wrong. I am glad I gave the story a chance because the characters really warmed my heart and brought a new dimension to the Amish I hadn't given much thought too in the past: health care. The Amish have an innate distrust of "Englishers" and this includes doctors and nurses. When Holly Zook's father dies because he was unaware of how to take care of himself when she was a young girl, Holly decides that nobody else in her community should suffer without proper knowledge. She becomes a certified pharmacy tech and works to teach others about healthy living and the importance of medication. She accepts that she will never marry and is okay with that. When the pharmacy that she works for is threatened, however, she must find a way to save it, with the help of the only man she ever wanted to be more than friends with. Will they save the pharmacy? And will he maybe save her as well?

This story is good clean fun and truly enjoyable. I would highly recommend it for lovers of Amish fiction. I received a free copy of the story in exchange for my honest review from NetGalley. All opinions are expressly my own.

Pam Graber says

Holly Zook has a dream to bring health care to her Amish people. When her father died young of a completely preventable condition, Holly's zeal to get her people to understand their need for health care began. She got permission from her bishop to pursue her education past the 8th grade, and got her certification as a pharmacy tech. Even though she is beautiful, and often pursued by the area bachelors, she knows that in order to stay her course, she can never marry. Her ultimate dream is to become an LPN, so she will then have the right to do more than deliver the life-giving medicines she takes to the area Amish homes that need them.

When Joshua Smucker comes to Greene's to pick up his mother's insulin, Holly is confronted with the one man who might have a chance to knock her off her course. When Greene's Pharmacy is hit by dual problems that threaten to put them out of business, can Joshua and Holly work together with her English bosses to keep the store open, and the Amish community served? Most important, can Josh convince Holly to give them a chance at forever, together?

This Christmas novella drove home to me more of the hardships that the Amish endure. Cindy & Erin Woodsmall use a gentle hand, always pointing out the good that comes with the bad in Amish life, and always showing the Amish reliance on God for their provision. Cindy Woodsmall has long been a favorite of mine in the realm of Amish fiction, and this one did not disappoint. I definitely recommend it!
