



A Season of Love

Amy Clipston

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In the fifth and final novel of the Kauffman Amish Bakery Series, three young women are about to change their lives. Lizzie Anne and Samuel have decided to get married, and Lindsay is about to be baptized in the Amish faith and is courting Matthew. While Katie Kauffman is happy for her friends who seem to have settled their futures, she is also finding herself something of a fifth wheel. When Lindsay's sister Jessica returns to Bird-in-Hand, she finds that Jake Miller has moved on with his life. He lost hope that Jessica would ever be satisfied to settle in rural Pennsylvania and takes comfort in becoming close friends with Katie. However, it's not an easy road as Jake is Mennonite and Katie has just been baptized in the Amish faith. Her father forbids them to see each other, adamant that his daughter marry an Amish man. A Season of Love is filled with surprising twists that will grip you to the very last words. As the stories of your favorite Amish community draw to a close, join Lindsay, her friends, and all the people of Bird-In-Hand for one last volume.

A Season of Love Details

Date : Published June 19th 2012 by Zondervan (first published June 12th 2012)

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Author : Amy Clipston

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

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From Reader Review A Season of Love for online ebook

Dani says

SPOILER ALERT

The story of the growing love between Katie and Jake is sweet. I do have a problem with Katie's Dad though - he seems to jump to conclusions without hearing the full story. I was also doubtful about Jake converting from being Mennonite to being Amish. Everyone seemed to accept that it was okay for him to convert to be Amish because he was in love with Katie and saw it as a way for them to be together. Although I am not Amish, and the only experience I have of this way of life is through novels, I would have thought that the two bishops would have refused to let him convert as his main reason for converting was loving a woman. I thought they would have questioned him more about his faith and the other reasons for him converting. Apart from that though, I enjoyed this book. Another gentle love story from Amy Clipston.

Laura says

A SEASON OF HOPE was loaned to me by a friend since she is a huge fan of Amy Clipston and I have only read and liked a few of her novellas and one of her young adult books. My friend says this is Ms. Clipston's best book. We both are fans of Amish fiction, so I asked to borrow my friend's book.

I am no judge on whether or not this is her best book, but I wasn't impressed with it. The characters were flat, and the reader was held at a distance. I couldn't connect with them, even though I wanted to. Plus, they had the same conversation multiple times, even in the same chapter. Repetition is good in some things such as learning the multiplication table, not so good in others, such as getting lost in a book.

The story is clean, with nothing a conservative reader would find shocking, and I do like the way it is centered around a bakery in Lancaster County and everyone even remotely connected to it. Fans of Ms. Clipston might find this "her best book yet" as my friend did. Fans of Amish fiction and series related to one family (bakery) saga might like it.

Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says

About this book:

"Three young friends enter the most important season of their lives. But relationships have changed, and only time will tell if Lindsay, Katie, and Lizzie Anne have made the right choices.

Three young women are about to change their lives: Lizzie Anne and Samuel have decided to get married, and Lindsay is about to be baptized into the Amish faith and is being courted by Matthew. While Katie Kauffman is happy for her friends who seem to have settled their futures, she is also finding herself something of a fifth wheel.

When Lindsay's sister Jessica returns to Bird-in-Hand, she finds that Jake Miller has moved on with his life. He lost hope that Jessica would ever be satisfied to settle in rural Pennsylvania and takes comfort in becoming close friends with Katie. However, it's not an easy road as Jake is Mennonite and Katie has just been baptized. Her father forbids them to see each other, adamant that his daughter marry an Amish man."

Link to review:

<https://booksforchristiangirls.blogspot...>

*BFCG may (Read the review to see) recommend this book by this author. It does not mean I recommend all the books by this author.

Karla says

"A Season of Love"

By Amy Clipston

Amy has written another winning novel from the Kauffman Bakery Series. This story continues with the two sisters, who were left as orphans when their parents were tragically killed, as secondary characters, while the rest of the community take front stage. The setting is Bird in Hand, Pennsylvania, right in the heart of Amish country. A lovely spot for a love story to take place- Lindsay, the sister who has become Amish, is in love with Matthew, Lizzie Anne is planning her marriage to Samuel, leaving the third best friend, Lizzie (who just happens to be Samuel's sister) , in back field , feeling lonely and unwanted. She is a dedicated baker at her Mammi's bakery and takes care of her family, however you can feel her great desire for something more. She so wants to be a wife and mother. She is secretly hurting, as she does not want to tell her two best friends how she really feels and spoil their happiness.

Throughout the book, you feel Katie's confusion, hurt and challenges, trying to please her rather harsh father, but also desiring to fulfill her lifelong dreams. To complicate matters, with her daad, a young carpenter , Jake, enters the scene. He is suffering as well, but from a broken heart. He is trying to rebuild his life but is rather aloft to people, afraid of being hurt more. Then comes the challenge- Jake begins to do a project at the bakery. He and Katie spend some time together and find that they have a lot in common. Katie is confronted by a huge challenge, she is Amish, Jake is Mennonite- a definite problem. Katie's father is furious. It is totally unheard of for the two to mix, let alone date, and they dare not be seen together. What will Katie do? Try to please her dad or follow her heart's desire???? What will Jake do?? What is God's plan for these two wonderful young people?

This is a wonderful love story that exhibits God's love for all of His people. Amy has concluded her series with a true work of art!! I am definitely looking forward to more books by this very talented author.

This book was provided for review purposes by Zondervan and Net Galley.

Karla says

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Gail says

I loved this book!!! I felt bad for Katie Kauffman. She was in love with Jake Yoder a mennonite. Jake's grandparents were Amish but his mom left the amish & joined the mennonite. Jake loves to do carpenter work. Katie is forbidden to even talk to jake by her father. Jake realizes he only will have friendship with Jessica Bedford Lindsay's sister. He pray often & then talks to his grandfather & grandmother (Elmer & Malinda)how he feels about becoming Amish. Jake talks to Bishop Abner Chupp & Bishop Gideon Swartzendruber (this is district he would become Amish in) they agree to let Jake take classes in the spring. Jake confront Robert & Sadie Kauffman along with Bishop Chupp. The truth is told that Katie was attacked by 3 bad men & Jake was only helping her. Jake tells Katie he will become Amish & when he does they will marry!!! Katie is so happy becuase she loves jake very much, too!!! Rebecca Kauffman is on bedrest due to being forty & high risk pregancy. Daniel makes sure she rests. She has a baby girl at Christmas time & named here Grace Mathew asks Lindsay to be his girl friend. She says yes!!! He gives her a hope chest that was his mother's, but he refinished. He asks her how many bedrooms she wants in her house eventually she tells him 5, but will settle with 3. He is given proerty & the house would be built before they marry. Lizzie Anne King marries Samuel Kauffman & lives in an apartment til there house is built. I really loved this whole series!!! I do recommend it!!! I had to keep reading just to see what was going to happen next. I could picture in my mind what was going on. The author used words that made the story enjoyable & not get lost while reading it!!!

Maureen Timerman says

This is the final book in the Kauffman Amish Bakery Series, and how time has flown. It is hard to say goodbye to old friends, but love being updated on everyone. Major life changes abound here for three close friends, Lindsay, Katie, and Lizzie Anne, and then there will be no turning back. These girls are no longer little ones, and have somehow before our eyes grown up. They are now deciding to join the church and taking a life partner, they are moving on.

Two of these friends seem to have found that perfect one for them, but Katie sees no one in her future. When we see how Katie's dad treats her, no wonder she is having problems. I wanted to smack him when he wouldn't listen to her about those men that were accosting her.

Her father has concerns for her faith, and sees a budding relationship between her and Jake a Mennonite, they are Amish and she is baptized. As this story unfolds, you will see how extreme her father goes to keep her Amish.

While I hate for this series to end, I loved this book, and wish there was more.

I received this book through Net Galley and the Publisher Zondervan, and was not required to give a positive review.

Rhonda says

A Season of Love by Amy Clipston

Kauffman Amish Bakery series Book 5
Book Review

In the fifth and final novel of the Kauffman Amish Bakery Series, three young women are about to change their lives. Lizzie Anne and Samuel have decided to get married, and Lindsay is about to be baptized in the Amish faith and is courting Matthew. While Katie Kauffman is happy for her friends who seem to have settled their futures, she is also finding herself something of a fifth wheel. When Lindsay's sister Jessica returns to Bird-in-Hand, she finds that Jake Miller has moved on with his life. He lost hope that Jessica would ever be satisfied to settle in rural Pennsylvania and takes comfort in becoming close friends with Katie. However, it's not an easy road as Jake is Mennonite and Katie has just been baptized in the Amish faith. Her father forbids them to see each other, adamant that his daughter marry an Amish man. A Season of Love is filled with surprising twists that will grip you to the very last words. As the stories of your favorite Amish community draw to a close, join Lindsay, her friends, and all the people of Bird-In-Hand for one last volume.

What I loved: This book was such a sweet ending to the Kauffman Amish Bakery Series by Amy Clipston. I felt like I was having coffee and Whoppie pies with old friends as I read. Lizzie Anne and Lindsay seem to have everything going right for them and Katie seems to have so much conflict in her life. I appreciated the honesty of Katie's feelings and the very real issues she faces with her strict and unrelenting parents, particularly her father.

What I didn't like: To be honest, I hated for it to end when it did. I won't spoil anything for readers but I wanted more! I wanted to know what happened next for the characters I had grown to love and cherish! Also, and this is a technical issue; I was reading on Adobe Digital Reader and it cut off the top portion of each page. I could make it out enough but it was irritating. I have read other books on this same reader and did not have this issue. I also do not like the practice of "shunning" practiced by the Amish and this was carried out in the book. I do not think it shows a forgiving nature and that is supposed to be a hallmark of the Amish culture and faith. My heart hurt for the characters dealing with being shunned or their former family members having experienced it in the past.

An Added Bonus: Through out the book, each chapter features a recipe from the Kauffman Amish Bakery. So we can all cook up some of our favorite Amish goodies and enjoy them while we read our next Amish fiction!

My recommendation: *****5 Stars!! Read this book. You won't be disappointed. You will be left with a "feel good" emotion when you finish. Thank you, Amy Clipston, for another wonderful book!

About the Author

Amy has contracted for six full-length Kauffman books and two Christmas novellas. A Promise of Hope is book #2 in the series and was followed by A Place of Peace. Book #4, A Life of Joy, will debut in October 2011, followed by Books #5 and #6 in 2012 and 2013. The first Christmas novella, A Plain & Simple Christmas, hit bookshelves in 2010, and Naomi's Gift: An Amish Christmas Story will be out in August 2011.

All of the books in my Kauffman Amish Bakery series have achieved the Christian Fiction bestseller lists, including the CBA (Christian Book Association) bestseller list and the ECPA (Evangelical Christian Publishers Association) bestseller list.

She loves writing about the Amish, and an Amish friend in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, reads her manuscripts for accuracy. Amy was always fascinated with the Amish when she was a child. She remembers visiting Lancaster County, and her father, who was a German immigrant, told her that the Amish speak the same dialect of German as my relatives. She was drawn to their simplicity and faith. Due to her own German heritage, she feels a loose connection to the Amish and their culture.

Her plots come straight from her heart and all involve family issues intertwined with faith.

Her website: <http://www.amyclipston.com>

To buy her book: http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_...

To read a sample of A Season of Love: <http://media.zondervan.com/media/samp...>

To listen to an audio sample: <http://zondervan.com/9780310413103>

I received a free copy of this book through netgalley and Zondervan publishing in exchange for my honest review.

Natalie says

The last book in the Kauffman Amish Bakery series was enjoyable, but left me wanting more.

I wasn't wild about the romance with Katie and Jake, and I couldn't stand Katie's parents. They seemed quite unreasonable - and they wouldn't even listen to her half the time!

I also wanted the series to have more closure with Jessica. She has grown a lot as a character but it just seemed so open ended.

??Trea says

This is my second time around for reading this story, but first time reviewing it. The story follows 3 friends as they pass into Amish Womanhood. It really felt more like 3 short stories with a common thread in it, more so than anything else. Katie's story was by far my favorite, but I liked the closure that we got with Lindsay's story too. I liked seeing the different paths converge as well. All things considered, a good read, if you can set aside the 3 short story feeling, and a fitting end to the series.

Kimmie says

Would love to read more in the series, but alas, it's over.

Lisa at Farm Fresh Adventures says

A lovely conclusion to the series! Now I need to find the novellas that go with this series so I can get Naomi's story and Jakes mom's story.

Jackie Rogers says

Final book in series and my favorite. Lyndsay and friends have joined the Amish church and vowed to follow Amish ways. Loved these books as they did not glorify the Amish. Showed their flaws as we all have them. Found myself angry at the judgement and condemnation shown due to one father and the bishop believing wrong things about one of their own. The end finished the character development of those followed in all books. You will like this series if you decide to partake of it.

Cindy says

OHH wow, all good things must come to an end, but I am so sad to see the end of this series. I really feel like I know Elizabeth and Eli Kauffman and their very large family. I have to say, and I know I say it every time, but this book was the best. Each book in this series improved with each story. I love Amy's writing style and this story had me hooked from page one to the end.

Lindsay comes home from visiting her friends in the English world, people who are like family to her. However upon finding out her Aunt Rebecca was on total bed rest for her third pregnancy, Lindsay rushes home, and knows that this is where her heart is and decides to be baptized with her best friends Lizzie Ann and Katie Kauffman. Life is changing for them all as they are growing up into young adult women. Matthew waits for her baptism and then he starts courting Lindsay. Lizzie Ann and Samuel Kauffman announce their intentions to get married. But Katie feels left out, like a fifth wheel, she has no boyfriend and no real interests in the boys of their congregation. A budding friendship with Jake Miller will lead to trouble, and lots of it.

This story made me laugh and cry, it was hard watching as Katie struggled to find her way. Again this was my favorite of the entire series. I cannot wait for the next series!!

Many thanks to Amy Clipston and Zondervan for allowing me to review this book. No payment was received for this review. 5 stars 304 pages USD \$12.99

Rachel Brand says

GENRE: AMISH ROMANCE
PUBLISHER: ZONDERVAN

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 15, 2012

RATING: 4.5 OUT OF 5 – EXCELLENT

PROS: Good conclusion to the series; ties up loose ends from previous books; relatable characters make you invest emotionally in the story

CONS: Katie's father is over-bearing and can be difficult to read about

Newly baptised into the Amish church, Katie Kauffman longs for the love that her two best friends have found. When everyone around her seems to be growing up and getting married, Katie is staying the same. As much as she enjoys working for the family bakery alongside her grandmother and her cousins, she's the fifth wheel to Lindsay and Lizzie Anne and their boyfriends whenever they attend youth gatherings, and she's known for a long time that none of the boys in their district are going to interest her. But her loneliness starts to dissipate when she meets Jake Miller, a Mennonite carpenter who is helping her grandfather build new cabinets for the bakery. Jake's mother was once Amish and left the community to marry someone outside their fold, but Jake has always felt a kinship to his grandparents' faith. As innocent as their friendship is, Katie's father forbids her to spend time with Jake and warns her of the consequences of forming a relationship with someone outside their faith. Katie doesn't want to be shunned, but she can't help but feel a connection to Jake, and a series of situations conspire to bring them together. Misunderstandings about the circumstances of her relationship with Jake cause Katie's relationships with her parents to disintegrate, and Katie isn't sure if she can ever find happiness. She knows that she cannot be with Jake, but she can't help but care for him. Can she learn to let go and love someone of the same faith, or will something drastic have to occur in order for her and Jake to finally be together?

The conclusion to a popular series is always tricky. Do you choose to go out with a bang, or to quietly wrap up all of the storylines with a happy ending? I often find that while I enjoy the final book in a series, I don't love it as much as the others, often just because tying up all of the loose ends doesn't always make for a terribly compelling story. When it comes to the conclusion of the Kauffman Amish Bakery series, Katie's story wasn't quite as complex as some of the other Kauffman books, but I was impressed with the way that *A Season of Love* managed to conclude several ongoing plot-threads without detracting from Katie's story. I appreciated being able to learn more about Rebecca's pregnancy, Lindsay's blossoming relationship with Matthew, and Jessica's non-relationship with Jake, as well as the details about Lizzie Anne and Samuel.

While Katie's story occasionally takes the backseat so that we can catch up Lindsay and Matthew or other members of the Kauffman family, I never lost interest in her storyline. Like Lindsay, the protagonist of *A Life of Joy*, Katie is one of Amy's younger heroines and is barely out of her teen years. To some of the more mature Amish readers, reading about such a young protagonist might not be so appealing. Even I was surprised to read about an eighteen-year-old contemplating marriage and planning her future...until I remembered that I got engaged at nineteen and will be married before my twenty-first birthday, so I have no right to complain about Katie. Although my upbringing and life experiences are very different to Katie's, I could relate to the position she was at in her life and her desire to get married and start a family and be done with her dating years. I could even slightly relate to her father's disapproval of her boyfriend, Jake. While my dad never forbade me to see Simon, he didn't pay him a lot of attention when we first began dating. No boy is going to be good enough for daddy's little girl, although Katie's father definitely took a more extreme approach to this idea.

For me, Katie's father was the biggest stumbling block in *A Season of Love*. On the one hand, his treatment of Katie made me really angry and I rooted for her to stand up to her father and call him out on how unfair he was being. A fictional character that can get me this riled up is definitely a sign of a talented author. But I can also see why a character like Robert Kauffman can be discouraging to read about. Stubborn father-figures are pretty prevalent in Amish fiction, and Robert is at least the second I've come across in Amy's books alone. In fact, when I try to recall books containing supportive, caring Amish fathers, the only one I

can think of is Laura Hilton's Patchwork Dreams. Considering how many Amish books I've read in my lifetime, this is evidence that fathers like Robert Kauffman are unfortunately more common than they are not.

Considering how unrelenting and stubborn Robert was throughout the whole of A Season of Love, his turn-around towards the end didn't seem entirely convincing, and he didn't apologise for everything he'd said and done to Katie. I was glad that Katie reconciled with her father, but I did struggle to read about a girl, almost the same age as myself, who was under her parents' rule and unable to speak up and defend herself even though she was a legal adult. I know that this is the way that the Amish community works, but I did wish that Katie had had more of a backbone and stuck up for herself rather than running off to cry in her room whenever her father shouted at her. To put it simply, I have mixed feelings about the conflict between Katie and her father. I loved that it got me so emotionally invested in the story, but I also felt uncomfortable reading about such an overbearing and narrow-minded father figure.

The end of a series has to have a happy ending, but thankfully A Season of Love didn't overdo the happiness. I loved the way that Amy managed to get all of the principal characters from previous books into the final scene together without it seeming too contrived. The final chapter of A Season of Love was a brilliant conclusion to the Kauffman Amish Bakery series, and as much as I'm looking forward to whatever Amy's writes about next, it's a little sad to say goodbye to these characters who were one of my first introductions to Amish fiction. Even if you only pick up A Season of Love to find out how the cliff-hangers at the end of A Life of Joy are concluded, you can't help but care about Katie Kauffman and sympathise with her desire to find the love and her frustrations over her family situation. Despite my struggles with Katie's father I did really enjoy reading this book, and I will be anxiously awaiting the arrival of Amy's next Amish novel in winter 2013.

Review title provided by Zondervan.
