



The Promise

Susan Lantz Simpson

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In the beautiful spring warmth of Southern Maryland's Amish country, love always finds a way to bloom . . .

Like most Amish young women, Phoebe Yoder has dreams—but not of a courtship—at least not yet. She dreams of caring for the tender-hearted alpacas at her *Englischer* neighbor's farm, and learning the business herself. But that longing falls away the moment her baby sister goes missing. In that horrifying instant, desperate for her sister's safe return, she whispers a promise to *Gott*: she will give up her dreams and marry Micah Graber, a man she doesn't love, but who is determined to make her his wife.

Benjamin Miller hasn't been back in Southern Maryland for long before he meets Phoebe and begins to imagine what a fine life they could build together—beginning with an alpaca farm of their own. But he can see that Phoebe's brash vow is all she will consider, no matter what her heart wants. As Ben falls for her gentle manner and sweet, sad eyes, he comes to understand his daunting task: to convince Phoebe that together, they can make a new promise that will never be broken . . .

The Promise Details

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Dana says

Lovers of Amish fiction will enjoy this novel from Susan Lantz Simpson. It's a great mix of romance, humor, a bit of mystery and a whole lot of alpacas! Phoebe Yoder is a determined young heroine whom readers will be rooting for and the book is rich with details about Amish life and beliefs.

Angela Brocato-Skaggs says

Nineteen year old Phoebe wants to raise alpacas and takes every opportunity to learn about their sweet tender nature. Her mom, sisters and her attend a Saturday market in town and while learning about the alpacas her baby sister, Naomi, is kidnapped. Both her and her younger sister, Martha, feel responsible. Phoebe has struck a deal with God that if her sister is returned she will marry Micah Graber even if she doesn't love him and he does not share her dream of owning alpacas.

Ben has moved to the area to help his aging grandparents run their farm and is excited to learn about the alpacas at a neighboring farm. He hopes to be able to convince his grandfather to add the sweet animals to his menagerie of animals. Ben meets Phoebe at the alpaca exhibit at the market and falls in love. Can he help Phoebe during this difficult time and save her from making a lifelong mistake?

I was very excited to read an Amish book set in Maryland as I have visited the area and that makes books even more interesting to me. I can recall the smells and feel the weather like I am right there with the characters.

Phoebe - You have a sweet love story going on in the background while a terrible tragedy is unfolding. Phoebe is trying to come to terms with her part in the kidnapping of her baby sister. She keeps herself busy with chores around the house to the point of exhaustion. You really get a sense of how strong the Amish are physically and mentally. I admire Phoebe's mental strength as I am not sure I could keep it together one little bit.

Micah - JERK. The nicest term I can use. I have never disliked an Amish character as much I do Micah. He is arrogant, cruel, and a bully. He treats others like the dirt on the bottom of his shoe. I cringed every time I read his name.

Martha - Phoebe's 13 year old sister who Phoebe asked to watch the younger two sisters and decided being with her friends was more important. You make think 13 years old is too young to be in charge of the younger siblings in such a public place but we have to remember that the Amish teach their children to responsible from a very young age. Martha is a very spoiled brat and tends to be extra whiney when she should be helping around the house. At one point I wanted to have Micah court her just to teach her a lesson but he was way too old for her. I do think she learned from mistake by the end of the book.

Ben - He is the main every little girl dreams of marrying one day. Patient, kind, soft spoken and caring. He would do anything to make Phoebe happy.

I can't wait for The Mending to be released in August of this year.

Thank you to NetGalley and Kensington for a copy of the book to read in exchange for my honest review in my own words.

Kimberly Rocha~ Book Obsessed Chicks says

Phoebe Yoder had a desire to learn all about and care for Alpacas. They are a wonder to her and consume all of her thoughts in her free-time. Instead of thinking about her own home and a marriage and family, Phoebe thinks of her alpacas. But tragedy strikes her family when her baby sister is kidnapped making Phoebe make an oath to God to marry Micah, who isn't even remotely her first choice and who couldn't possibly make her happy.

When Benjamin Miller meets Phoebe Yoder, he starts to imagine what life would be like with Phoebe permanently in it. He even thinks that starting an alpaca farm would be just perfect for him and Phoebe. But Phoebe has made her oath and making her see that she needs to be happy is quite a task. Is Benjamin up to that task? Only time and reading this book will tell.

THE PROMISE by Susan Lantz Simpson is a lovely story with humor, intrigue and faith, as well and romance. I truly enjoyed this book and will most definitely be reading more by this talented author.

Dawn says

A new author for me and absolutely loved this book. I found myself hooked in this book and couldn't wait to finish. When a promise that was made may be the the wrong promise. Will Phoebe realize before it is to late. Loved the characters and story line.

Cecilia says

In The Promise by Susan Lantz Simpson, we meet Phoebe who lives in Maryland with her family. She is a big help to her mother and younger siblings. The book opens with a normal Saturday trip to market to sell their wares to the locals and tourists. Phoebe, along with her 13 year-old sister Martha, takes their young sisters to look at the alpacas. Phoebe, who is very fascinated by the alpacas, leaves Martha to care for the younger siblings and accepts the offer of the farm owner to pet some of the friendlier alpacas.

When she turns around to check on her sisters, she discovers her youngest sister, Naomi, has been kidnapped. Grief stricken, she tries to find her. Ben, also an alpaca enthusiast, had been petting the alpacas when Phoebe discovered her missing sister. He quickly tries to assist in her.

Ben is a young man who just moved in with his grandparents to help out on the farm. Fascinated with the alpacas, he wants to convince his grandfather to let purchase a few for the farm. He quickly falls for the beautiful Phoebe and would do anything to help her find her sister and end her grief.

So grief stricken, Phoebe, strikes a deal with God to marry Micah Graber, in exchange for his sister's safe return. Phoebe has no interest in Micah and he actually makes her skin crawl, but she would do anything to get her baby sister back.

This is the first book I have read by Simpson and I honestly couldn't stop reading until the very end! I found the book well-written and the characters were easy to love or hate. I actually felt the emotions of Phoebe when Micah was being described.

I would recommend this book to anyone who loved Inspirational Fiction.

Kathy Davis says

A fun story for lovers of Amish fiction.

Laura says

THE PROMISE is Ms. Simpson's newest Amish book and it is already getting a lot of buzz. In fact, I've had people ask if I was going to review it. Well, if you were one who wondered, here it is.

Benjamin Miller is a dream. He is sweet, sensitive, caring, and knows what to do and say in stressful situations. He has a head on his shoulders. He's also got a strong faith and he doesn't allow doubt to take root.

Phoebe... oh, I hurt for her family. I can't imagine being responsible for watching your baby sister and having her snatched while in your care. She and her family were depressed - understandably - and for the first half of the book that is pretty much the focus.

I have never heard of alpacas so I was kind of curious what they were. Maybe kind of like Llamas? I don't know. They were described as like camels in the book, but the cover looks like llamas. I saw have to research them sometime. They were an unusual and interesting twist to an Amish romance story. I enjoyed this.

Micah was a villain that was easy to hate. I didn't like him at all. Unfortunately I know men like him: overbearing know-it-alls who are selfish jerks. I think we all do. Very realistic.

If you like Amish fiction, pick up a copy of Ms. Simpson's THE PROMISE. You will love this book. Especially Benjamin (swoon).

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

Deanne Patterson says

The Amish in this Southern Maryland community enjoy selling and browsing at the Amish Market. Those smiles of Sunshine turn to tears of rain though for the Yoder family though when the baby sister of the family is kidnapped by a mentally unstable woman after she has a miscarriage. She tells her husband the baby is an adopted replacement for their child and he believes it. Oldest daughter Phoebe blames herself for the kidnapping. She makes a "bargain" with God if the child is returned she will marry a man whom she feels her parents want her to marry but she doesn't want to. Phoebe wants to be courted and marry but not quite yet and definitely not to Micah. Newcomer in town, Ben has so many of the same interests she has including alpacas and is so nice and caring towards her unlike Micah. Her heart opens to Ben, but should she pursue it when she just doesn't feel worthy of his love? Really enjoyed this and I can't wait to read the next book in the series.

Pub Date 27 Mar 2018

I received a review copy from Kensington Books through NetGalley. Thank you. All opinions expressed are my own.

Patricia Bradley says

I really enjoyed *The Promise*. Amish fiction isn't my usual genre, but Susan Lantz Simpson's writing quickly drew me in. When Phoebe Yoder's baby sister was kidnapped, I felt Phoebe's fear and guilt. And I understood why she uttered a vow to God that she shouldn't have. I struggled along with her as she wrestled with this vow. Phoebe's spunk made me chuckle at times, especially in her interactions with the man who pursued her.

Benjamin Miller is a swoon-worthy hero. I love the way Simpson worked the alpacas into the story, and it was fascinating to read about the Amish way of life.

I received an ARC of this book, but that in no way influenced my thoughts on it. This is a book readers of Amish fiction will love...as well as someone who loves a good story.

Carol says

The Promise is a book of vows, promises to keep or not to keep, lessons on Grace, kidnapping, integrity and GOD. Naomi had a major tragedy in her life. When it happened she makes a vow to GOD for HIM to fix it. When things work out she feels like GOD wants her to hold up to her end of the bargain - but as we all know we are not under Law but under Grace - does she keep that vow or does she let her heart lead her - and where does that desire come from? Yup - GOD! This is a great book don't miss out. I received a copy of this book from the Publisher and Netgalley; all of the opinions expressed in this review are all my own.

if you would like to read more of my Christian book reviews go to christianlybookreviewers.blogspot.com

Marilyn says

As a reader of Amish fiction, I loved reading *The Promise* by Susan Lantz Simpson. Phoebe Yoder enjoyed caring for her younger siblings but on market day a tragic transpired with little Naomi being kidnapped. Phoebe was heartbroken and made a vow to God that was made without realizing the consequences and pain it would cause her. My emotions were on alert throughout this story with all the suffering she endured.

Benjamin Miller return to his grandparents' farm to assist them with their dairy farm. He enjoyed going to Dori's farm to care for her alpacas along with Phoebe. However, Phoebe couldn't allow herself to have feelings for Benjamin with her vow to God to marry Micah with her prayer answered about her younger sister. Micah was an over powering brow beater with a lack for integrity and no work ethic. Will Phoebe be able to realize God loved her and wanted her to be happy instead of making a vow out of desperation?

Amish readers will not want to miss reading this book. I was blessed to receive a copy from a friend. I was not required to write a review but have expressed my sincere opinion. I'll abide my time until Simpson's next book, *The Mending*, is released

Norma Jean says

Phoebe Yoder is a young woman from a large, loving Amish family. She longs to marry and raise children of her own. When her baby sister is kidnapped on market day, Phoebe feels responsible and promises God that if he brings the baby home, she will marry Micah Graber.

Micah Graber is an overbearing young Amish man who thinks the world revolves around him and his wishes. He has decided that Phoebe will be his wife even though she is not even fond of him, much less in love with him. He thinks he can order Phoebe to marry him. He is so irritating that they can't even carry on a conversation without becoming angry.

Ben Miller has come home to help his aged grandparents on the farm after being away for several years. He is the complete opposite of Micah. He is kind and loving with a good sense of humor. He is very attracted to Phoebe, but Micah has told him and the whole community that he and Phoebe are to be married, so Ben keeps his distance.

I am a big fan of Amish novels and this is the best one I have read in a long time. I am looking forward to reading more books by Susan Lantz Simpson.

D.R. Rosensteel says

A kidnapped baby and a desperate promise to God—what a way to open an Amish romance! I honestly couldn't put this book down. Susan Lantz Simpson has such a way with words. Nineteen-year-old Phoebe Yoder is struggling. She's a sweet, God-fearing Amish girl who loves her family, and though she isn't ready to join the church just yet, she wants to be obedient to her parents. Even if that includes marrying Micah Graber, the man who has claimed Phoebe as his own.

Simpson did a marvelous job of developing Micah into the type of antagonist you want to punch in the face. He's self-centered, bossy, and lets Phoebe know how lucky she is that a man like him would even look at her.

Simpson did an equally marvelous job of making Ben Miller the type of man you want Phoebe to end up with. He's kind, caring, and humble—even in the face of verbal attacks by Micah, Ben stays cool—although his protective side comes out when Micah turns his nastiness on Phoebe.

When her baby sister disappears, Phoebe blames herself and promises God that she will marry Micah, even though she is falling for Ben, if God will only bring her sister home. You can feel her anguish dripping off the page.

I was fortunate enough to get an advanced copy, and am under no obligation to write a good review, but I have to give *The Promise* five stars. I seriously couldn't put the book down, and still can't get the characters out of my head. Two thumbs up to Susan Lantz Simpson. If I had another hand, she'd get three!

Pam Pavkov says

The Promise is a heartwarming book written by Susan Lantz Simpson. This is an amazing storyline that moves at a great pace and keeps the readers interest to the last page. I love the cover especially the addition of the Alpacas. I enjoyed this story and found it hard to stop reading it.

The characters are very likeable and realistic which keeps the readers attention throughout the story. I really enjoyed getting to know Phoebe Yoder. She is such a sweet tender hearted young Amish woman who loves her family and faith always. When a tragic event happens to her family Phoebe believes she is at fault. She makes a promise to God that she finds very hard to keep and struggles to find a way to honor it. Ben Miller has returned to Southern Maryland to help his grandparents with their farm when he finds himself in the middle of Phoebe's troubles. He instantly jumps in to not only help Phoebe's family but he is also offering friendship to Phoebe. Will his friendship cause Phoebe more distress? Can Ben help Phoebe see her promise is one she didn't have to honor? All the characters add a great element to this story especially Phoebe's outspoken younger sister Martha. She adds a lot of humor to the story.

I was not given a complimentary copy of this book to read and review. I was not approached by anyone to post a favorable review. I have rated this book with five stars for meeting my expectations of a wonderful story that I can highly recommend to others. This story can be read without reading the previous books by this author.

Congratulations to Susan Iantz Simpson for delivering another amazing story for her readers to enjoy. I will be anticipating more fantastic stories by this author in the future.

Leslie M. says

I reviewed this book for *RT Bookreviews Magazine*: <https://www.rtbookreviews.com/book-re...>

This is the first installment in Simpson's The Amish of Southern Maryland series. Ben and Phoebe demonstrate the damage that can be done by carrying around shame and guilt instead of forgiving oneself. There is no glossary, as in common in many Amish-themed novels, so readers new to the genre could be a bit confused at times. The pace is steady throughout, but it's a bit challenging to root for some of the characters. Micah is extremely difficult to like, as he is rude, demanding and almost has a stalker-like feel to him. It's hard to fathom that Phoebe wouldn't speak up to her parents, even though the Amish are not as outspoken as their Englisch counterparts. Ben is a truly enjoyable character, and Phoebe is as well, at times, but it comes later in the book. For the majority of the story, you feel sorry for her but also frustrated that she doesn't share her feelings with her parents, the bishop, etc. The theme of wanting to go after your own dreams will likely resonate with readers. An excerpt from the second book is included.

Nineteen-year-old Phoebe Yoder is not your typical Amish girl who dreams of marriage and a family of her own. Her dreams include owning alpacas, so she's thrilled to have the chance to help care for her neighbor's alpacas. There, she meets Benjamin Miller, who recently moved to the area. He can't help but be taken in by Phoebe's kindness and beauty, and he also loves alpacas. Phoebe fears her dreams will never come to pass after her little sister goes missing. Phoebe makes a promise to God that she'll marry Micah Graber, who has had his eye on her for years, if her sister is returned safely. If Micah has his way, the wedding will come sooner than later. Will her sister come home and, if so, will Phoebe marry Micah, though her heart is not in it at all? Is it possible for Ben to show her that God is in control and He has different plans for Phoebe?
