



Anna's Gift

Emma Miller

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No one in Seven Poplars, Delaware, expects Anna Yoder *ever* to marry. Among her six pretty, petite sisters, big and plain Anna feels like a plow horse. But then Samuel Mast, the handsome widowed father she has secretly loved for years, asks if he can court her. Surely Anna has misheard—Samuel has his pick of lovely brides! She's convinced he seeks a wife only as a mother for his five children. Or could a man like Samuel actually have a very romantic reason for wanting Anna by his side forever?

Anna's Gift Details

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Author : Emma Miller

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From Reader Review Anna's Gift for online ebook

shms says

This was something different from my usual reads and it was refreshing in its simplicity, and I'm not referring to the Amish ways, I mean the romance. They liked, loved each other but finding the way to each other isn't so straight forward with family, community and their own doubts getting in the way.

The context of the Amish faith which I know very little about was at times confusing, and that's a reflection of my ignorance nothing else, but faith is faith whatever the belief system. It had moments, especially at the start where it would lose me and I had to force myself to keep reading but as I finished the book I realised I'd quite enjoyed it.

Janice says

I read this on the Kindle

I am working my way through this series & this is the 3rd book in the series

I enjoyed this book, in it people was not kind about Anna who believes she fat & ugly which Samuel don't believe & neither does her family & they all tell her she has beauty inside & out

Her Aunt Martha well she not too nice & as the wife of a Deacon i surprise at her also that the deacon don't say more

It worth reading & i do feel if you want to read the series you should do it in order i will be starting the 4th one shortly

Laura says

Title: ANNA'S GIFT

Author: Emma Miller

Publisher: Love Inspired

October 2011

ISBN: 978-0-373-87699-0

Genre: Inspirational/Amish/romance

Anna Yoder never expects to marry. Anna has six pretty, petite sisters, and Anna is big, overweight, and plain. Even her mother tells her so. Anna is accepting of her future, even when the handsome widower she's long admired appears to be calling on her mother. She's not sure how she feels about him being her step-dad, but she accepts it.

Samuel Mast is only eight years younger than Anna's mother, but it's not her mother he's calling on, though everyone thinks it is. It's Anna. No one is more surprised than Anna when Samuel announces his intentions to marry her so she could be a step-parent to his five children. Anna is flattered, but sure it's a misunderstanding. After all, handsome Samuel has his choice of pretty brides.

When Anna finally becomes brave enough to share with a few friends about Samuel's surprise proposal, no one believes her. They all think Anna is making up Samuel's interest. Anna's already low self-esteem takes a beating. Will she ever accept Samuel's proposal as real, and take the love that is offered?

ANNA'S GIFT is one of the better Love Inspired books I've read recently. I enjoyed getting to know Anna and Samuel and the secondary characters in this book. The story is well written and the plot line is believable, even though Samuel is quite a few years older than Anna.

ANNA'S GIFT is the third book in Ms. Miller's Amish series Miriam's Daughters but it easily stands alone. Amish romance fans won't want to miss this book. Discussion questions are included at the end of the book. \$5.75. 217 pages.

This is my copy of the book, no review was required or requested.

Judy & Marianne from Long and Short Reviews says

Originally posted at: <http://longandshortreviews.blogspot.c...>

She'd admired Samuel from afar, but knew he'd never be interested in her. So when he asks her about courting, she gets so excited and embarrassed she falls off the ladder and douses both of them with the blue paint she was using. How can she ever look at him again?

Ms. Miller has written a very pleasant Amish tale about those who live "plain" and have certain rules to follow regarding appropriate behavior and courting. Her main character, Anna, is a large woman. She's big-boned, she likes to eat, and she has rather plain features. She knows she should choose a husband, but she wants to find love, not just a mate. Ms. Miller makes her a warm, kind woman who is good with children, but finds words wound her soul when people speak badly about her.

Our hero is Samuel. His wife died several years ago and he has five children. He should be getting married again, but he just wasn't ready for it yet. Then his sister sends his youngest daughter home and he knows she needs a woman's touch. He also has had an interest in Anna for some time.

The conflict arises because Anna isn't sure she wants to be courted. She'd love to have Samuel as her husband, but surely he couldn't love her. She's too fat and too tall. Maybe he just wants a wife to take care of his five children?

My favorite part of this story is how her friends and family try to make Anna understand that she is someone special in her own way. All beauty isn't external. Ms. Miller patiently and diligently weaves the story's way through Anna's internal insecurities and shows that even the Amish can have sharp tongues.

The author wrote a very good tale that kept me reading until I finished it. I was afraid that Anna was going to shy away like a young, flighty horse. Ms. Miller had me hooked from the moment Anna dropped the blue paint on Samuel and I had to see how this story was going to end. It was a good, smoothly flowing tale where all the characters learned a few lessons on the way.

Ms. Miller has written several other Amish mysteries. Why not check them all out? And do read this one, it's very good!

??Trea says

This book was exactly what I needed when I read it! It was well written and engrossing. Anna was a very easy to identify with character, even with her all consuming self doubt! I liked Samuel for Anna, he appreciated her beauty, both inner and outer, even when she herself doubted her outer beauty next to her sisters or when being teased. They were an unlikely couple, with a significant age difference, yet they didn't let that or the disapproval of others stop them. My main complaint with this book was that it had both an abrupt ending and a few abrupt "jumps" forward, that made the story a bit disjointed. All in all, it was a great read!

Jae Roth says

Slow and unnecessarily angsty. At several points I wanted to slap the heroine and tell her to knock it off.

Diana McVicker says

This is a wonderful series!!

Rachel Brand says

GENRE: AMISH ROMANCE
PUBLISHER: STEEPLE HILL/HARLEQUIN
PUBLICATION DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2011
RATING: 9 OUT OF 10

In the latest addition to Emma Miller's Hannah's Daughters series, Anna Yoder finds herself receiving a surprising marriage proposal. After watching all of her older sisters marry and leave the family home, Anna longs to be swept off her feet by a suitor, but believes this will never happen since she doesn't have the pretty face or slim figure of her attractive sisters. So when handsome widower Samuel Mast asks her to marry him, Anna can't help but wonder if he's only interested in finding a mother for his children. As much as she enjoys spending time with Samuel and his children, teaching the girls to bake and cooking for his family, Anna isn't quite ready to say yes. With the whole community speculating his proposal, she needs to know whether or not Samuel truly cares for her before she can make a decision. Soon, Samuel finds that he's having to go through the motions of teenage courtship – and getting to know his potential bride a lot better!

Having read Courting Ruth, the first novel in this series, a couple of months ago I was pleased to have the opportunity to catch up with the Yoder sisters again. Although I skipped on to the third book in the series, I can't say that I felt like I'd missed anything vitally important to the plot. As with all Love Inspired novels, Anna's Gift is designed to be read as a standalone novel, although readers who are familiar with Emma Miller's books will enjoy seeing brief appearances from previous characters. There are also some new additions in this book, as Anna's younger sisters return from caring to their aging grandmother, and the sisters, grandmother and an elderly aunt return to Delaware to move into the Yoder home.

While I don't think that I enjoyed Anna's tale of courtship as much as Ruth's, it was still a very sweet story. Anna was a very endearing character, and the development of her relationship with Samuel made a very fun read. This book had two of my favourite contrivances – snowstorms and children. When the community is struck by heavy snow while Anna's mother is out of town, Anna finds herself spending a lot of time with her Samuel and his family, who are their closest neighbours. While normally an unmarried Amish couple wouldn't be allowed to spend so much time together unsupervised (Samuel's children and Anna's learning disabled sister would not count), this set-up allowed for Anna and Samuel to get to know each other better before Samuel broached the subject of married to Anna's mother. It's not until later in the book that they have a proper courtship, which is a strange experience for both of them – Anna having never had a suitor before despite being older than the other courting teenagers, and Samuel having been previously married. It was interesting to read about a couple in such a situation, as few Amish romances have this set up of an older, widowed man marrying a much younger woman.

There were two very realistic issues explored in Anna's Gift, the first of which related directly to Anna's character. Not being slender like her sisters, Anna has always felt unworthy of a man's attention, which is further proven by the fact that none of the boys in her community are romantically interested in her. So when Samuel expresses his desire to marry her, Anna can't help but wonder if he just wants someone to cook, clean and look after his kids. After all, who would want her – practically an old maid, a bit larger than the other women her age and clearly been on the shelf for a while? Her aunt and cousins don't make matters easier for her but continually suggesting that Samuel could never want her for who she is, making Anna more worried about whether she's about to enter a marriage of convenience. While the concern over marrying someone for comfort rather than love is one often discussed in Christian novels – particularly historical romances – few realistically portray a young woman's anxieties over whether her appearance makes her deserving of a husband. As someone who was always a bit too gangly and skinny as a teenager, with the added bonus of glasses and braces, I can sympathise with Anna's worries over her looks, and I'm sure many other readers will find this makes her a relatable character.

The third book in the Hannah's Daughters series also sees the return of Anna's younger sisters, along with her grandmother and great aunt, opening up the floor to explore another very relevant issue – dementia. While it's never overtly explained what illness Anna's grandmother suffers from, or whether it is indeed Alzheimer's, all of the women in Anna's family have to adjust with their grandmother's steady decline. From making inappropriate comments to strangers in the supermarket to believing that her son is still alive, she takes her toll on the Yoder family, particularly Hannah, who her mother-in-law is always finding fault with. I found the treatment of Anna's grandmother very touching, especially seeing how the Amish make caring for their elderly relatives a priority in their lives. This part of the story will particularly resonate with anyone who has witnessed a family member struggling with dementia or Alzheimer's, and some of the grandmother's escapades will definitely put a smile on your face!

Not all Christian romance readers are fond of the shorter, category novels from Love Inspired, but I do encourage fans of Amish fiction to give Emma Miller's series a try – you might find yourself pleasantly surprised! Anna's Gift would make the perfect stocking filler for the romance fan or an introduction to the genre for a teenage girl. I thoroughly enjoyed the latest instalment in the Hannah's Daughters series and definitely hope to see more from Emma Miller in the future.

Review title provided courtesy of Steeple Hill at Harlequin.

Marcy says

Very touching story!

Alice says

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Anna Yoder was a big baby when she was born and turned out to be a big lady in her adult life. She always thought herself as really plain....not as beautiful as her petite sisters. she is a great cook and great with children....Samuel's children to be exact....all 5 of them.

Great story. Moving on to #4.

Linda says

I really enjoyed this book...it is so very good. I will be reading the next book in this Series.

I give this book 5/5 Stars.

I highly recommend this Series - it is really good and it is Amish Light Romance Series.

Judy says

Anna's Gift by Emma Miller

Anna Yoder feels that she is the ugly one in her family. With her beautiful thin sisters around her, Anna compares her large plain self to them. She was teased about her weight as a child and now at age twenty-one, she knows she may never be loved. She has secretly admired Samuel Mast from far back already. He seems to be courting her Mam and she cannot imagine him being her step-father. On the other hand she knows such a handsome man would never look her way.

Samuel has waited for two years until Anna turned twenty-one and so he would have the courage to ask to court her. He sees her inner beauty and believes this is the woman the Lord has given him. They are both Amish and carry the same beliefs. He has five children though and he wants a wife who will love them as her own. Little Mae has been with his sister since she was only a few months old. When Freida died he could not take care of the babe. Now that she is with him she sees him as a stranger.

Anna quickly falls in love with Samuel's girls but the boys are mean and don't want their dad to marry her. Anna does not want to marry without love but she doesn't know if there will be another chance for her. With her cousin whispering things like how could he care for her and how she's only needed for her household skills, Anna's decision becomes harder.

When her Grossmama and Aunt Jezebel come to live at their home it adds more tension as her Grossmama seems to dislike her mam and is mean to her. When all is said and done, can Anna ever see herself through the eyes of someone who loves her or will the reflection in her mind keep her from finding happiness?

**Received through NetGalley for review.

Abbie says

Anna is just 21 and able to marry yet she feels she is fat and figures no one will ever want to marry her. She secretly has a crush on the the widowed neighbor named Samuel. Anna thinks he is going to court her mom(he is 16 years older then Anna). So she is shocked when he asks to court her!

Samuel has been a widow for 4 years and is ready to find a new wife. Even though Anna is only 21 and he 36 he can't help but be drawn to her. Will he be able to convince Anna he loves her and does not just want her as a caregiver for his children?

This book was well written and I enjoyed reading it but the subject of Anna hit a little to close to home. I am over weight myself and it really bothered me how the people in this book treated Anna. Considering how excepting the Amish are they came across as mean and down right nasty in this book at times. I have read other books about "Plain" Amish girls but this one was the worst in my option. I was glad that Samuel saw Anna for the wonderful girl she was. I admit the huge age difference between the two felt weird at times in this book. I liked both characters and the writer did a good job of exploring the difficulties that would come from such a big difference in age.

Over all this was a good book. I hope to go back and read the first two books as well. I really liked the writing style and also how well developed the characters where.

<http://abbiesreadingcorner.com/2011/1...>

Ausjenny says

I just finished this book and really enjoyed it. Anna is bigger than her sisters and has been teased all her life for being big. Samuel lost his wife 4 years ago and everyone thought he wanted to court Anna's mother. Right from the beginning this book had me hooked. Samuel wants to court Anna but Anna thinks he could only want her to look after his children and cook and clean for him. He is quite handsome and she doesn't think he could love her for herself. I really felt for Anna in a world where so many people look at the outside and not the inside Anna feels she is unattractive and that no man as good as Samuel could love her for herself. I love the way Emma told Anna's story and showed her insecurities. So many of us feel we are not pretty enough or good enough or even worthy of being loved by someone which makes Anna a character many of us can identify with. I know I do. I have have been teased for my looks and told I am fat even by people in the church and it does hurt and stick. What I love is how Emma tells Anna's story and shows readers how kind hearted and loving she really is. I also love how Samuel's story was told and we see just why he loves Anna so much. This book deals with self image, love and perceptions. This was a wonderful book and the best I have read from Emma so far.

Andrea Guy says

Anna's Gift is part of the Love Inspired mini-series Hannah's Daughters. It is a sweet love story between a widower and a younger Amish girl.

I've read a lot of Amish books this year and this one stands out among them, because it really was a simple love story. There was conflict but it was normal conflict that is experienced in day to day life whether you are Amish or an "Englischer."

Anna wasn't the typical romance novel heroine. She's fat. Yup, I said it, fat. Sturdy is what many of the characters called her. She considers herself to be very plain, but she has a heart of gold. She's forward thinking but not so much so that it would be considered bad in regards to her faith.

There's a lot of interaction between families in this story and a lot of problems between family members with jealousy and just regular life stuff. I'm glad Emma focused a lot of Samuel's children as well as Anna's grandmother who came to live with them from Ohio. Her grandmother, Lovina is a true character. She's a woman with early onset Alzheimer's and it really is a struggle to deal with her. Anna does well with her and grandma is wonderful with Samuel's youngest daughter Mae.

Watching this couple really start to fall in love, even when Anna had misgivings about letting him court her was a delight. You saw love in its purest form. This is definitely a must read for anyone that adores Amish fiction. I also look forward to reading Emma Miller's next book.
