



A Simple Song

Melody Carlson

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Katrina Yoder loves to sing, but her Amish parents view singing as vainglory and a sin. Katrina's best friend, Bekka, is convinced Katrina should try out for American Star, a televised singing competition that Bekka has been secretly watching. Katrina resists the temptation until her father's health worsens. He desperately needs a surgery the family cannot afford. Katrina decides she must go against her parents' wishes to win the money needed to help her father. But how will she handle herself as an Amish teenager out in the world?

Teen girls will be swept into the excitement as Katrina ventures out of her quiet Amish world to become a reality television star. Will she be successful? And will she be accepted back into her community when it's over?

A Simple Song Details

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Author : Melody Carlson

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Genre : Amish, Christian, Fiction, Young Adult, Christian Fiction, Amish Fiction

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From Reader Review A Simple Song for online ebook

Victoria Goodbrand says

I really enjoyed this book. I want to read more of Melody's Amish fiction! I also read another one that I really enjoyed as well, these are well written, and a light read. I have seen some of Melody's other teen books and they do not sound anything like her adult fiction. Overall this was an enjoyable book!

Abby Johnson says

Read this for Reading Wildly - we're talking about gentle fiction and I wanted to read a book by Melody Carlson who writes a lot of teen Christian fiction. This is not a book meant for me, necessarily, but it would be a good choice for tweens and teens looking for gentle fiction or fiction with strong Christian themes. There's a strong message about being true to who you are and following what you believe, even when others are telling you that it's not cool or that you won't succeed that way. Also, although it is Christian fiction, it definitely has appeal to kids who are not necessarily looking for CHRISTIAN fiction. Because Katrina is Amish, her Christian messages are not evangelical but just part of her being true to herself.

It's a rather simple story and everything wraps up super neatly. It's like a Hallmark Channel movie in book form, which is fine for folks who are looking for that.

Maureen Timerman says

This story begins as the Yoder family is burying their Grandmother. We then discover the secret of her hidden life. She gives part of that life as an inheritance to her Granddaughter Katrina.

Katrina just happens to take after her Mammi in many ways. She has the voice of an Angel, just as her Mammi had, only she didn't know. When her friend Bekka introduces her to a solution to earn money so that her Dad can had much needed surgery.

Bekka has been secretly...again a wayward Amish girl, watching American Star. Will this be the answer to Katrina's prayers? Can she use her talent to help her Dad? If she goes out into the English World, will she stay? If she wants to return, will the community accept her back?

What a dilemma Katrina has, can you imagine a young sheltered Amish Girl, arriving in the big city. Never having been in even an elevator before! We get to see it all through her eyes.

Enjoy this rather different Amish story, set in Ohio and Hollywood, I did!

I received this book through the Revell Blogger Tour, and was not required to give a positive review.

Lindsey Silvestrini says

When I first read this I didn't even realize it was classified as Teen Fiction and actually really enjoyed A Simple Song despite my long retired teen status!

I've always enjoyed Melody's style of writing and this book is no exception. When Katrina Yoder nurtures her love of singing, she knows it is considered "vainglory" in their Amish culture. But she can't seem to get

it out of her head or heart. As others hear her and realize what a real gift she has, they encourage her to pursue it.

Even though she's on rumspringa (a time of exploration for Amish teens) she can not be convinced to pursue her dream of singing until her father needs an operation that he can't pay for. The opportunity presents itself to audition for American Starr where she could win enough money to help her dad. She battles whether she should honor her Amish upbringing or take advantage of the chance to help her dad.

I felt like I was watching American Idol reading all of the scenes from American Starr because of all the parallel's and the obvious connections. As a fan of the show, it was fun to read these chapters from an insider point of view.

As all teens struggle with, English and Amish alike, there are constantly decisions where the right answer is not obvious. Only through prayer and seeking wisdom can the right decision be made. What is the "right" decision for Katrina? Is it more important to follow the rules a hundred percent or help her family in a way only she can?

I really enjoyed the though processes Katrina had and the in depth character she was at such a young age. I wish all young people truly took their faith to heart and let it guide them instead of being guided by the world.

A Simple Song is a great book for teens to read and will leave them with a powerful positive influence. But even if you are well past your teen years like me, you will enjoy this read and take something away from it.

Sharon Chance says

I just adored this book!

Melody Carlson is a brilliant inspirational author, with over 200 books to her credit - but I feel she really knocks it out of the park with this sweet story of a young girl following her dreams and trying to help her family.

Carlson shows she had really done her research into the singing contest reality shows with "A Simple Song." Her character of Katrina, an Amish songbird who enters one of the country's top singing contests in order to help her family and finds herself out-of-place in the big city, is so well-created. Readers will empathize with her on her journey from her small town home to the bright lights of Hollywood and experience right along with her all the scary and exciting things that come with the whole "contest" atmosphere. I loved all the background descriptions that Carlson includes in this story, giving it the believable feel that makes this story such a joy to read.

"A Simple Song" is listed as being a "young adult" novel, and it is perfect for that age grouping, but as an "adult," I also enjoyed this lovely tale. I highly recommend this delightful story to readers, young and "more mature" alike!

Melanie says

Review on Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/review/R3F2EJX3...>

Review on my blog (to be posted 2/17): <http://christianbookshelfreviews.blog...>

A Simple Song was better than I had expected. Amish Fiction is not a genre I read often, because the blurbs/stories usually don't interest me, but I'm glad I finally read this one.

The story was interesting and fun. I really liked the singing competition aspect to A Simple Song. It reminded me of American Idol, which I think was the point, so it was neat to get a glimpse into what it might be like to be a contestant.

While I had thought A Simple Song was going to be very predictable, I was glad when some things didn't turn out as I had originally expected. I didn't, however, like the ending. I don't think this book is a part of a series, so I felt the ending shouldn't have left certain questions unanswered.

Overall, I enjoyed A Simple Song. Not everything in the story seemed believable to me, but it was still a fun read in spite of that. If you typically enjoy YA and/or Amish novels, you might like A Simple Song. It was a quick, easy read.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention/review it on my blog. I was not required to give a positive review, only my honest opinion - which I've done. All thoughts and opinions expressed are my own and I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. 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."

Laura says

Title: A SIMPLE SONG
Author: Melody Carlson
Publisher: Revell
June 2013
ISBN: 978-0800722258
Genre: Young adult/Amish

From Amish country to Hollywood, Katrina Yoder is in for the ride of her life!

Katrina Yoder loves to sing, but her strict Amish parents view her singing as vain. Still, Katrina's best friend, Bekka, is convinced Katrina is good enough to try out for American Star, a televised singing competition that Bekka has been secretly watching. Katrina has a good voice, but really--try out for a TV show? Her parents would probably disown her!

But when her family faces a crisis, it seems to Katrina that the competition might be the way to get the money needed to cover the emergency expenses.

How will Katrina handle herself as an Amish teenager out in the world? Is she truly good enough to win? Will her parents ever forgive her? And will she be accepted back into her community when it's all over?

A SIMPLE SONG is a really cute story about a young Amish girl at the beginning of her rumsprunge. She has a beautiful singing voice but is afraid to use it because it is considered vainglory. But then her grossmammi dies and Katrina learns the shocking news that her mammi had once been Englisch and sang as

lead female singer with a folk song group, with several hit songs.

What made Mammi turn Amish? Why did she give up music? To find out the answers, Katrina gives into her friends' pleas and tries out for American Star... but mostly she wants to win for the money to pay for her Daed's surgery. But will her parents take the money, since its tainted? Will Katrina return home afterwards? Will she even be welcomed? To find out, you must read A SIMPLE SONG. A good book for young adults about Amish. \$12.99. 288 pages. 5 stars.

Meagan Myhren-bennett says

A Simple Song: A Novel
By Melody Carlson

When her father's painful injury, which keeps him from working, threatens to take away her family's livelihood Katrina is forced to make a decision that takes from her family, her friends, and her community. Can the voice that she has been given truly be a gift from God or is it from the devil so that she will seek vainglory and the English world?

What 17 year old girl wouldn't be tempted by the thought of wealth and fame? There are some who wouldn't and Katrina Yoder is one of them. Katrina puts herself out of her comfort zone, but only to help her father and her family through a physically and emotionally difficult and trying time.

I have to say I really dislike Aunt Fannie and her attitude towards her injured brother-in-law. But I'd also like to know why she feels like that towards that family, as she phrases it.

I like Aunt Alma, but when Katrina wanted to stay true to her Amish beliefs in how she dressed I think Alma could have been more supportive and understanding. But I assume that Alma was just as overwhelmed by the situation as Katrina was. Sometimes ignorance and outside pressures can force us into uncomfortable situations and compromises, but that inner voice that makes us uncomfortable is speaking to us for a reason.

I like the fact that Katrina was a Godly influence on her new friend Breezy by her helpful nature and her stand. We don't know how we will affect those around us by our behavior so we should always be true to our beliefs and faith in God. Katrina was an influence of goodness to those she befriended at the American Star competition and to those watching on television.

But while she is away from her community Katrina learns about the woman who was her Mammi (grandmother) and how she spent her non-Amish years. Sometimes the discovery of another's pain or joy brings into focus what is truly important in our own lives and A Simple Song is just such a story.

I was provided a copy of this book by the publisher Revell in exchange for my honest review.

Available June 2013 at your favorite bookseller from Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group.

Ibjoy1953 Hannabass says

MY THOUGHTS ON THIS BOOK

An Amish young lady on American Idol? Well, in this book its called American Star and Melody Carlson writes a sweet heartwarming story that will touch your heart in many ways. Katrina loves singing, and she has been secretly watching American Star and wanting a chance to be on the program, but is she good enough? Katrina's friend is positive she is, and encourages her to try out. But what will Katrina's parents say? And what will this Amish community think? When Katrina's dad falls ill and in need of surgery, Katrina has a new reason to join American Star, to provide money for her dad's much needed surgery.

Being an American Idol fan, I really enjoyed A Simple Song, and Katrina's journey through this talent contest. Since the Amish do not like their children singing English songs, it was interesting to see how the author pulled this off. Katrina was a sweet teenager who spent her rumspringa doing what she could to help her dad and her family financially. With characters that were believable and encouraging, and a plot that was interesting, enjoyable, sweet, and heartwarming, you will enjoy this new book from one of my favorite authors, Melody Carlson! I think this would be a wonderful book for your teen or tween daughter to read! Why not pick up a copy today! You will not be disappointed!

I received this book from the publisher Revell to read and review. 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 55.

My Book Addiction and More MBA says

A SIMPLE SONG by Melody Carlson is an inspirational Teen Fiction. Join Katrina Yoker and her friend Bekka, on a journey of faith, secrets and discovery. From Amish country to Hollywood is a long journey from home, the things that are familiar for two teenage Amish girls. "A Simple Song" is a heartwarming tale of a young girl's desire to sing, her path, and the community she loves. American Idol meet the fictional singing competition American Star. A great read for older teens and young adults, but certainly a good read for anyone who enjoys Amish reads. Received for an honest review from the publisher.

"Available June 2013 at your favorite bookseller from Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group."

RATING: 4

HEAT RATING: SWEET

REVIEWED BY: AprilR, Review courtesy by My Book Addiction and More

Rhonda Gayle says

What a wonderful book! I love the connection to music as I also find great joy and stress-relief from singing! Amish do not encourage singing English songs or singing with instruments or even with "great joy and feeling". I can not imagine singing any other way and so I can see how it was so difficult for Katrina. This book was a fun, light read and gave me a good deal to smile about!

I received a free copy of this book from Revell Publishing in a giveaway. Thank you so much!

Maggie says

If you've ever watched American Idol, I think you would enjoy this book, whether or not you're a "young adult". It is another view on a craze that swept our nation, except for those that don't watch television, listen to the radio, or even sing songs besides hymns. I really enjoyed learning about how the Amish viewed such things as revealing outfits, things that we take for granted as just being there. I also gained a lot of insight into some Amish traditions and laws through this book, including the one of too much pride, or "vainglory".

Another aspect to the Amish family dynamics was very interesting. Katrina is accompanied by her spinster Aunt Alma, who has her own dilemma to deal with. She faces being shunned to make sure that Katrina is safe but to also be able to experience the English world. Maybe I missed it, but I'm not sure what happened to situation in the end when she returns home before Katrina. I'd like to read more about Aunt Alma, but perhaps that's a subject for an adult Amish novel.

Melody Carlson does an excellent job of showing the contrast between the modern world and the Amish world that voluntarily stays stuck centuries behind the English one. I think anybody, teen or adult, who is interested in the Amish world would benefit from reading A Simple Song or any of Carlson's YA Amish books. I'll eagerly be awaiting the next book from Melody Carlson - a real master of the Christian fiction genre.

I received a copy of this book in exchange for a review.

Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says

About this book:

“Katrina Yoder loves to sing, but her Amish parents view singing as vainglory and a sin. Katrina’s best friend, Bekka, is convinced Katrina should try out for American Star, a televised singing competition that Bekka has been secretly watching. Katrina resists the temptation until her father’s health worsens. He desperately needs a surgery the family cannot afford. Katrina decides she must go against her parents’ wishes to win the money needed to help her father. But how will she handle herself as an Amish teenager out in the world?

Teen girls will be swept into the excitement as Katrina ventures out of her quiet Amish world to become a reality television star. Will she be successful? And will she be accepted back into her community when it’s over?”

Series: As of now, no. :(

Spiritual Content-

(It’s an Amish book.) Katrina puts her life in God’s hands.

Negative Content-

true to her beliefs. She was able to make and help her new friends, and still be quite competitive just by being herself. The producer also made it possible for her to meet one of the trio that sang with her grandmother all those years ago - so even though her grandmother had passed away, she was able to learn a lot more about her. I think this also helped her to make some of the decisions that she did.

If you have a daughter who is convinced that she is the next "Voice" or "American Idol" then I think she would enjoy this book. While I am sure that it doesn't come close to the 'behind-the-scenes' of the real show, it might give them something else to think about as to why they want to compete, and what they are willing to compromise to get their dreams.

Rachel Bernatowicz says

Melody Carlson is the queen of Christian girl YA and this book, her newest, did not disappoint. I was very impressed that Katrina, the main character (as much as her personality kind of grated on me at times) did stick to her beliefs and stand up for what she thought was right. I found some of the other characters pretty entertaining as well. Plus, one of my favorite songs is mentioned and sung by Katrina- never a bad thing.

This is a light, straightforward book perfect for summer reading- the kind of book Carlson excels at.
