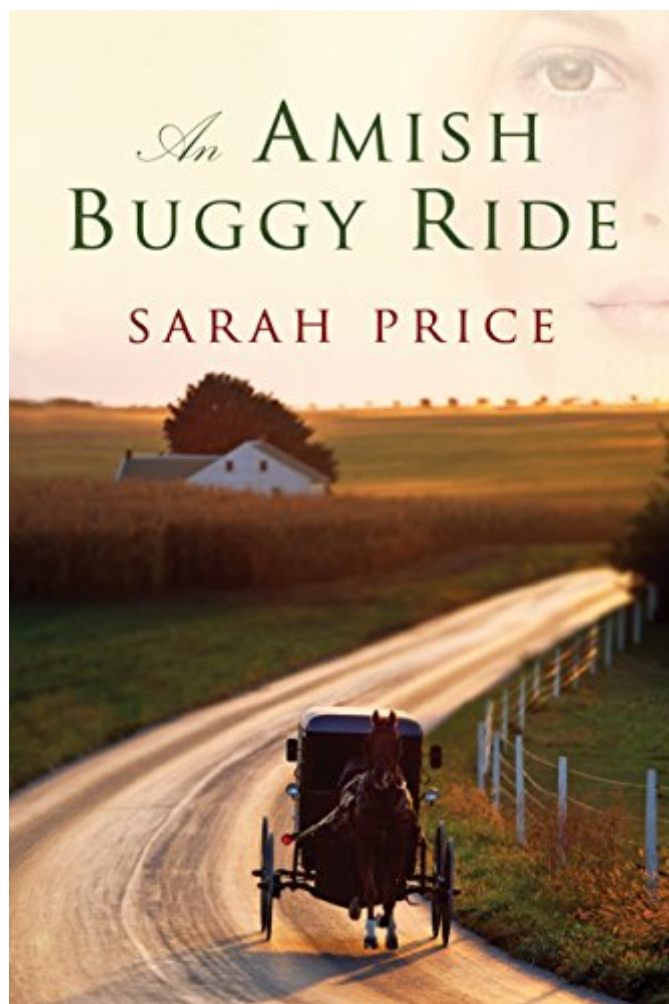


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An Amish Buggy Ride



Synopsis

Quiet and soft-spoken, Kate Zook is the responsible eldest daughter in an Amish family and prides herself on fulfilling her role. Then, one fateful snowy night, she uncharacteristically speaks her mind—and unwittingly plays a part in a horrible accident. Wracked by guilt over her role in the tragedy that left her brother David injured, Kate devotes herself to his care, going so far as to take on his chores in the fields. Even so, her brother's resentment toward her grows, and David torments Kate, making her increasingly isolated life even more difficult. Though Kate's parents have emotionally withdrawn, someone outside the home takes an interest in Kate and notes her clear grief. Samuel, a local boy, has recently returned from a wild rumschpringe—the Amish term for exploring the wider world—and recommitted to his community. Intrigued by Kate's gentle yet loyal ways, he begins to fall in love with her. But tensions rise as he refuses to put up with David's rage. As Kate's heart begins to stir and cry out for happiness, she must rely on faith to find forgiveness or risk losing out on love.

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Customer Reviews

I've read a lot of Amish romances---they are my go-to guilty pleasure reading. This one was different

than any others I've read, and I liked it very much. What was different? I've been trying to put my finger on that. One big difference was that the personalities of the main characters were very much individual. Kate, the main female character, is very, very shy. Her family doesn't quite seem to be part of the mainstream. They seem like quirky people a bit. Her youngest sister is far more outspoken and a little bratty than any other Amish child I've read about, and the book explains that she is a bit spoiled. Her love interest's family also stands out, as being more happy-go-lucky and understanding of their children than other Amish families I've read about. These aren't just surface differences---the book is almost more like a psychological study than a romance, and it's very well done. I also noticed that the English world doesn't play much of a part here. Unlike so many Amish romances, nobody seems tempted to leave the Amish or to bring the English world in. There is very little talk about longing for the conveniences of the outside world---the Amish world is just presented as how things are. I'm going to seek out more books by Sarah Price. She writes in a quietly compelling way I found very pleasing.

The Zook family has suffered heart wrenching tragedy, not once, but twice. The oldest daughter, Kate, takes on responsibility and guilt for both life-changing events, feeling that she could have, and should have prevented both accidents. Samuel Esh shows interest in Kate but her feelings of guilt and shame prevent her from allowing herself to believe that he may want anything more than simple friendship. The Amish countryside is portrayed with picturesque descriptions of farms and fields that line the country roads. As the seasons change the atmosphere comes alive with new growth in the spring, to the fields being harvested in summer. Each of the characters in this story are carefully defined, solid and relatable. Their emotions are tangible and shaped with sensitivity and poignancy. "An Amish Buggy Ride" is a beautifully told story that intensifies much like a musical composition, building in intensity as a crescendo to the grand finale. I was swept away in this inspirational story and felt it become a part of me. I will undoubtedly read this book again and again. I highly recommend "An Amish Buggy Ride!" I've been reading Sarah's books since she began writing, with her first book, "Fields of Corn." Those early books were filled with depth and detail. Her most recent works have become outstanding in their depth of character and the wisdom she imparts. Scripture and spirituality are blended into these beautiful Amish stories in a most natural inspirational process. Disclaimer: Thank you to Chautona Havig for gifting me with a copy of this book, with no expectations for a review. All opinions expressed are honest, my own, and no monetary compensation was received for this review.

In that unique voice of hers, Sarah Price has penned a heartrending but lovely story of romance, secrets, guilt, and shame — under the guise of a seemingly perfect Amish community; overflowing with colorful daffodils, robin red-breasts, and sparkling, fish-filled rivers. Kate is a lovely young Amish woman, whose life and the lives of her entire family were changed the night a terrible tragedy took place. Feeling responsible, Kate's life consists of helping her father run the family farm, attending church, and helping her aunt with her new baby. After all, how could she possibly go to singings, laugh, and be social as if nothing had ever happened? Her life is made even more miserable by the guilt piled on her by an obnoxious family member and the obvious darkness hovering over her family. When the handsome and friendly Samuel Esh comes into Kate's life she has no social skills, but slowly begins to open up as a rosebud in the summer sun. However, she knows deep down she can never have Samuel for she has greatly sinned, not once but twice — In her own exquisite style, Sarah Price has once again penned a unique "out-of-the box" Amish tale guaranteed to captivate the reader from page one! Ms. Price masterfully writes of an Amish community — where the consequences of keeping dark secrets are as far reaching as the ripples in a stream, and where love hides a multitude of sins! An Amish Buggy Ride is truly a wonderful story of romance and redemption, and one that made me cry because of the stark reality of the storyline. Not your typical cookie cutter Amish read — be sure to put this one at the top of your wishlist!

An interesting book. As I was into the fifth and sixth chapters, I was struck by how serious, sad and without any joy showing in any of the characters. As I continued reading, the somber tone of the story did not let up. It was not until the last couple chapters that any type of happiness came forward. I read it all in one sitting and would recommend it to others with the caution that it is not like other Amish stories I have read.

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