



Huckleberry Hill

Jennifer Beckstrand

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"A delightful voice in Amish romance. Sweet and funny." --Emma Miller

With their thirteen children grown, Anna and Felty Helmuth are ready for their next adventure. That means trying their hands at matchmaking--because what could be more fun than igniting love when it's right--and undoing mismatches when they're wrong. Now Huckleberry Hill just might turn out to be the most romantic spot in Wisconsin. . .

Lia Shetler is resigned to being a spinster. She's too tall and sturdy to ever be marriageable--so says her overbearing dat. Instead, she's helping her pretty, spoiled sister Rachel secure the perfect husband--the Helmuths' grandson, Moses Zimmerman. But the more Lia sees of Moses' gently teasing ways and quiet understanding, the more she wishes he could be hers alone. . .

Moses knew his grandparents couldn't resist trying to find him a wife. But he never expected it would be the graceful, sensible Lia--a woman who is tall enough to look him in the eye, and honest enough to make him question a promise holding him to his past. Now both will need the kind of miracles only faith and courage can bring to finally reach for a lifetime of happiness. . .

"A delightful cast of characters in a story that overflows with Amish love and laughter." --Charlotte Hubbard, author of *Autumn Winds*

Huckleberry Hill Details

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From Reader Review Huckleberry Hill for online ebook

Deanna says

Enjoyed this book, even though I wanted to choke Rachel most of the time! ha. ha Jennifer Beckstrand is a new author to me and I am really enjoying her books and look forward to book 2 in this series.

Sojourner says

Huckleberry Hill is a contemporary inspirational romance by Jennifer Beckstrand, the bestselling author who delivers gentle love in a harsh world. It is refreshingly sweet, and the adorable characters peopling the story will make it a memorable one.

The first book in the projected The Matchmakers of Huckleberry Hill series, Huckleberry Hill introduces the players in the story as Jennifer paints a sweeping canvass of the characters as she only can. As a result of her painstaking efforts, one is able to easily identify or relate with the characters and the unfolding story. Readers who read this book will not want to miss the next installment, Huckleberry Summer, and the third one, Huckleberry Christmas.

Lia Shetler is not your average next-door-girl. Age is fast catching up with her, and she is fast heading toward the wrong side of a marriageable age. Carrying a scar from a burn, she is tall and her parents have already resigned her to being a spinster. But Lia is kind, good-hearted and embodies all the virtues an Amish girl should possess. She has a heart of gold. Her younger sister Rachel is beautiful, spoiled and the family is on the lookout for a suitable husband.

On the other side of the story is Anna Helmuth, affectionately called Mammi, and Felty Helmuth, also known as Dawdi, who together have raised thirteen children over the course of their journey of over eighty years. They are both God-fearing and deeply cares for their family. Anna is worried about the personal life of her grandson Moses Zimmerman, who she finds is miserable. And she is determined to find him a wife. But Moses is equally determined to wait for his fiance Barbara, who left him and the Amish community three years ago. He's loyal and believes that she will return and marry him someday. But Anna wants Moses to find a new love, and his lost happiness again.

Believing that it is designed for them to scheme for the good of Moses, Anna sets her sight on Lia and arranges with Lia's father for Lia to spend the summer with their family on Huckleberry Hill in Bonduel, Wisconsin. Lia is invited to help out around the Helmuth's home. Despite the attraction he instantly feels for Lia, Moses is a hard nut to crack, and refuses to open his heart to Lia. As for Lia, though she has no inkling of an idea of the arrangement made between his father and Anna, she is surprised at herself for instantly liking the handsome and courteous Moses.

Moses and Lia become fast friends and enjoy their time together. Lia is also finally at peace with herself, and her time at Huckleberry Hill proves to be a good escape from her harsh and cruel father, distant and uncaring mother, and self-centered sister Rachel. But will her dysfunctional family leave her alone? Prodded by her father, Rachel spends much time conniving and planning to steal Moses from Lia. Though not wielding deathly weapons and blazing sound of guns may not be heard, Rachel and her parents make the perfect villain in the book.

Huckleberry Hill is a heart-warming story that will make you smile and laugh out loud even if you are on your own. The story will soak you in, and the characters and their goodness will melt your heart. It is a story brimming with hope and love.

Deanne Patterson says

I absolutely loved meeting the characters in Huckleberry Hill, The Matchmakers of Huckleberry Hill #1 by Jennifer Beckstrand. The author writes a very appealing Amish story.

It's been 3 years since Moses has seen his ex-fiancee, Barbara. She left the Amish community and became worldly. He has agreed to wait six months for her to make up her mind if she would return to the Amish community or stay in the English world. 80 year old grandparents Anna and Felty are done raising their 13 children and feel a little matchmaking help is needed for their grandson, Moses. In their opinion he is miserable. They hire an Amish girl, Lia to help them around the house and farm. Her father thinks she is tall and non-marriage material he sends her to help Anna and Felty but also sends her marriage age sister, Rachel. Lia, according to her father is to do the chores to give Moses a chance to fall in love with and court, Rachel. The more time, Lia spends with Moses the more she falls in love with him herself. Being used to getting her way, Rachel can't understand why Moses is not falling at her feet in adoration and does outlandish things to try to get his attention thinking he is teasing her like the boys back home do and is really interested in her. Shocked, Rachel finally realizes Moses is not interested in her but Lia.

I am looking forward to reading the second book in the series, Huckleberry Summer.

I recommend this to all lovers of Amish fiction.

Lola says

Grandma Anna is at work trying to marry off her grandson, Moses. She invited Lia to spend the summer to "work" for her in hopes that a romance will start with Moses & Lia. Unfortunately, along comes Lia's pretty sister to stay also & she goes at it full speed ahead to get Moses' attention.

Their father has always said that Lia will be an old maid because she's too tall & plain to get a husband. He favors sister Rachel because she's petite & pretty.

Rachel is also conceited & self-centered, having been pampered by their father.

Several men have already wanted to marry her but she thinks none of them are good enough for her.

So the battle begins for Moses' affections.

Cindy says

Good story, and lots to hold the attention (besides the romance); however, Lia was much too perfect and Rachel was much too flawed! It got a bit ridiculous actually. I may read the second, but I sincerely hope the talented author makes her characters more real. I've never met anyone as perfect as Lia and I wished she would screw up once, just to show how REAL she is. I appreciate the cultural differences with the English, but felt the joke about Delaware being empty of Amish was just "plain" wrong :) There are many here! This Author, I felt, has the talent to develop her characters more. Her storytelling is excellent! I expect and hope to see more good things from Ms. Beckstrand.!

Ibjoy1953 Hannabass says

MY THOUGHTS ON THIS BOOK

Lia Shelter thinks she is helping to secure a husband for her sister, but the more she spends time with Moses Zimmerman, the more attracted they are to each other. And Moses' grandparents are on their matchmaking trend to find a wife for him! But which sister will it be, Rachel or Lia?

I just love Moses' grandparents Anna and Felty Helmuth and their matchmaking! They are so adorable, with Anna trying her new recipes and Felty singing and checking out license plates to find all of the states! These two elderly people make their home a pleasant and comfortable place for their family to visit. Lia was a sweet young lady and Anna seemed to see her for who she was. Lia's parents are jerks, or so I think they are because they think the sun rises and sets in their daughter Rachel, and for Lia, she is treated like a maid, and treated like she is worthless! I got so irritated at them!! But that aside, I loved the calm and warming home of the Helmuth's and the things they did to encourage Moses and Lia! Reading this made me miss my own grandparents and all of the sweet memories of staying at their home. Author Jennifer Beckstrand is an amazing writer and I love reading her stories. I can't wait to read more of this precious couple and the other grandchildren that are in line for their sweet matchmaking. I highly recommend the Matchmakers of Huckleberry Hill Series and this first book, Huckleberry Hill!

I received this book from the author, Jennifer Beckstrand 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.

Valerie says

A nice romantic story set in the Amish community. It is nice to see their ways and the grandparents are a hoot. I enjoyed the banter between the characters. The main characters are Moses, Leah and her little sister Rachel. I liked that the author mixed up the biblical sisters situations in this story.

Gail says

Cute love story

What a cute story about grma/grpa Felty and Anna Helmuth finding it necessary to help their grandchildren find their spouses. It is so cute how they know who is best for their grandson Moses, he just needs to figure that out. He is rebounding from his love leaving their Amish community and he is trying to remain true to her until she returns. But grma brings Lia to their community to help her with home chores which coincides with her grandson's schedule as he helps his grandparents on their farm. But Lia is tall and had been taught her whole life she will not find a spouse because she is too tall - but is excellent in everything else. Problem - her physically beautiful sister is a spoiled brat and favored by dad. Causes quite the problem for everyone - plus frustration for the reader because there is a lack of communication between everyone, and felt so bad as

to how Lia's dad treats her. But sure love the ending!!

Carol Nicolas says

Anna Helmuth is an elderly Amish woman with a penchant for matchmaking. She tells her patient husband, Felty, that they need to do something to help their poor grandson, Moses, to find a wife. So Anna decides that she needs an assistant – after all, she's getting too old to do all the housework, and she has heard good things about Lia Shelter.

Lia is twenty four years old, too tall, and has a scarred hand. In her parents' eyes, that makes her unmarriageable. Never mind that she can make the best pies in the whole Amish community, she works hard, and she is gentle, kind, and unselfish. Her parents have assigned her the unpleasant job of caring for her beautiful but spoiled and obnoxious younger sister, Rachel, and they won't even consider Lia's dreams to become a midwife. Lia feels trapped and downtrodden. But when her parents send her to Huckleberry Hill in Bonduel, Wisconsin, to assist Anna Helmuth, Lia's life changes dramatically. Suddenly she is appreciated for all her hard work, and she has the opportunity to study and become a midwife. And that good-looking grandson of theirs makes her pulse race.

Moses Zimmerman's fiancé left him and the Amish church for the big city life, but she still keeps her claws hooked deep with weekly letters and promises that someday she's coming back. Moses is twenty-four, heartbroken, and he knows he needs to make a fresh start. When he goes up to help his grandfather, Felty, on their farm, he meets Lia, and he is smitten. She's just the right height for him, she's beautiful, and she's kind. He longs to get to know her better and to have a piece of one of her famous pies. Maybe he has found the one person who can help him forget his painful past.

But when Lia's parents find out that she might have a beau, they send Rachel to the farm, with instructions to Lia that she is to help arrange a match between Moses and Rachel. Lia is torn between obeying her parents and following her heart. And Rachel is determined to have Moses, no matter what it takes.

I loved this book! The strictures and beauty of the Amish life are portrayed realistically and sensitively. The characters are fully developed, and I enjoyed the sweet romance between Lia and Moses. I loved the humor and upbeat feel of the book, as well as the description. But the best part of this book is the characters, all working within the structure of their way of life to achieve happiness. Anna is loveable, irrepressible, and kindhearted. She won't quit until she's got her grandson married to the right girl. Felty is this silent, tolerant figure in the background who lets the women do all the talking and then surprises everyone with his wisdom. He is amazingly tolerant of his wife's terrible cooking. Lia is an amazing person with so much promise, but she can't see who she really is because of the way her parents treat her. She has dreams. She wants to be a midwife, and she studies hard, but she has been raised to think of herself as a servant to her sister, and she is conditioned to obey her parents first. Moses shows his kindness and thoughtfulness in many ways. He sees both Lia and Rachel for who they really are, but he is not sure how to get what he wants without hurting someone. And the way things are going, he may never get a piece of Lia's pie. The midwife is a strong, outspoken woman who is not afraid to follow her own ideas. I wanted to throw something at Lia's parents for how they treat her. And Rachel is dreadful, the perfect villain for the story. She deserves a much worse fate than she gets in the end.

This contemporary inspirational romance is the first of four books about Huckleberry Hill. I can't wait to read the next one.

Dawn says

One of the best written books that I have read in a long time. Follow Lia, her sister Rachel, Moses and his grandparents, Anna and Felty. This book gave me a full range of emotions from anger, to happiness, to sadness and shock. At times I wanted to smack the characters, or shake them to there senses. This book is for all who think they are not worthy of someones love because they are different. There is always someone who loves your difference.

Jessica Sanderson says

Read this book!!

I cannot believe how wonderful this book was! I loved to hate Rachel. Oh how spoiled that girl was! Thank goodness for Moses' support of Kia. She certainly needed it...time for book 2!!

Gloria says

Huckleberry Hill by Jennifer Beckstrand (Kensington Publishing) is as appealing as the delicious pies described within its pages. Huckleberry Hill is located in remote Bonduel, Wisconsin. That is where twenty six year old Moses Zimmerman's delightful and loving grandparents, Felty and Anna Helmut live on a farm. Moses is tall, handsome, kind, and owns his own cheese making operation, yet he is still single. He's been waiting three years for his old Amish girlfriend to return from jumping the fence to turn English. Sweet Grandma Anna has decided it's time to play matchmaker and get Moses a wife.

In response to Grandma Anna's request, Lia Shetler comes to stay the summer to help Anna and Felty at Huckleberry Hill. Little does Lia know that Grandma Anna has a secret plan for Lia to marry Moses. Lia is almost six feet tall and struggles with the teasing she has received over her height and she feels certain she will always remain a spinster. Slowly but surely, Moses finds his heart turning to Lia. He doesn't want to admit this to himself or Lia. Lia as well finds herself drawn to Moses.

All is going according to Grandma Anna's scheme until Lia is called home to help with a relative's funeral. Lia's beautiful yet incredibly spoiled and selfish younger sister, Rachel, decides she wants to visit Huckleberry Hill and meet this handsome and successful Moses and marry him herself. Rachel only knows getting what she wants, regardless of the cost to others. Lia and Rachel's father have always coddled Rachel and given in to her demands, so Rachel is the one to travel to Huckleberry Hill after the funeral.

Eventually Grandma Anna is able to get Lia back to Huckleberry Hill as well, but which girl will Moses prefer? Or will Moses still pine for his old Amish girlfriend turned Englisher?

Jennifer Beckstrand has pulled all the elements of a great Amish book together. This book features comforting Scripture, fascinating characters, interesting conflict, dreamy romance, frequent humor, unexpected extremely bad food as well as mouth-watering pie, making it immensely readable and definitely not ordinary. Readers should plan on blocking out time to read this straight through, as they will not be able to put this book down. Huckleberry Hill is the first book in The Matchmakers of Huckleberry Hill series.

Huckleberry Summer continues the series and will be available June, 2014. Jennifer's previous series, Forever After in Apple Lake is also extraordinary reading in the Amish genre.

Laura says

: I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Felta, Anna, Moses, and Lia. This was a charming story with irresistible 80-something year old matchmakers. I read this book series out of order, reading Huckleberry Spring first, and I was so charmed by it I went and put HUCKLEBERRY HILL and Huckleberry Christmas on my list of books to check out from www.paperbackswap.com. and I loved this one, HUCKLEBERRY HILL just as much as I did Huckleberry Spring.

Ms. Beckstrand is a very creative writer, and I loved some of the humor she inserted as well as the crazy concoctions that Anna cooked. I didn't like Rachel at all, and don't understand why everyone seemed to think a delicate Amish woman was a good thing. She was as lazy as Lia was busy--and she was a conniving woman as well.

I am definitely going to see if I can get my hands on the others in this series. They are HUCKLEBERRY HILL, Huckleberry Summer, Huckleberry Harvest, Huckleberry Christmas, and Huckleberry Spring.

Edith G Shearer says

This was a great story. I hope these were made up people.

Great story. It was hilarious most of the time. It was enjoyable to read. This was hard to put down. Very good flow to the story. This author is another one of the best storytellers. I highly recommend this and anything this author writes. Enjoy!!!!!!!!!!!!!!?

Sean says

Not a fan of Huckleberry Hill

Amateur writing, shallow/underdeveloped characters, main characters wallowing in an annoying and entirely unnecessary amount of self pity, OBVIOUS and predictable plot (which is fine, but the attempted "twists" in the plot didn't make the story line any more interesting or less obvious. The romance and connection between the two main characters unfortunately was not strong enough to hold my attention and ignore these glaring issues - instead it leaves me to wonder why there were more of these books published in the series? I read it to the end hoping it would get better and it didn't; I will not be bothering with the rest of this author's publications.
