



# Leah's Choice

*Marta Perry*

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**Leah's Choice** Marta Perry

**The first of three Amish-set novels in which a woman's faith must guide her through challenging times.**

All of Pleasant Valley seems to think the newcomer from Lancaster County is the perfect match for Teacher Leah. After all, so few new families come to their separate Amish community, and fewer still unmarried men. Daniel Glick is a widower with three young children to look after? Clearly he's in need of a wife.

Daniel's past haunts him. Though he cannot miss the beauty in Leah's bright eyes and patient ways, he also sees a reminder of his pain-filled marriage. Leah, too, has a burden to bear. Years ago, she was engaged to Johnny Kile, and she was heartbroken when he decided to leave the Amish community. Since then she has immersed herself in teaching, forgetting any hopes of having her own family. When Johnny returns, seeking reconciliation, Leah must decide between two pathways, either of which will completely change her life.

## Leah's Choice Details

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Author : Marta Perry

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## **From Reader Review Leah's Choice for online ebook**

### **Shelby says**

I was pleasantly surprised by this book and author. Will definitely read the rest of the Pleasant Valley series.

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### **Kav says**

I've read a couple of books in the Pleasant Valley series and am happily backtracking to catch up on the ones I've missed. Leah's Choice is the first book in the series and Marta Perry has created such an enthralling Amish community! I love the way she includes so many fascinating details about the culture and the people, including Pennsylvania Dutch words and phrases. It's easy to grasp their meaning in context, but a glossary is included at the end of the book as well.

Leah has found her calling in the schoolroom. She is steadfast in her faith and her future until she's unexpectedly challenged by two very different men. Widower Daniel has moved into the community to give his traumatized children a fresh start but he has mixed feelings when Teacher Leah shows a special interest in Matthew, Elizabeth and Jonah. She sees needs in his kinner that he doesn't want to acknowledge. Lots of emotional undercurrents bring an edge to their developing romance as Daniel harbors secrets under the false assumption that he can handle it all. If that isn't enough angst, Leah is confronted with the return of her first love, Johnny Kile (who I wanted to purse whomp on more than one occasion!)

A powerful story that explores the deeply rooted need to belong -- a theme that plays out in various ways in the lives of different characters. The kind of story that captivates a reader right to the soul stirring end.

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### **Shirley Chapel says**

I'm not going to do the regular type of review for Leah's Choice like I usually do for most of the books I've read. This book was written in 2009 and I'm sure that a lot of you will have already read it and indeed the entire series. But what I would like to say is that from the start I was totally drawn into this story. I was very moved by this book.

Leah's Choice is Marta Perry at her best. I have read a lot of her books and this one is my favorite. A writer recently pointed out in a review she did on a book that she had read, that to give a five star for a book meant that she was completely drawn into the story. A five star book had the ability to make her forget about time because she was so into the story it was like she was there with the characters. That's what this book did for me and it deserves my five Stars. I will be reading the other books in this series for sure and for certain !  
Awesome book Marta Perry.

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### **Kristina says**

This was a quick story for me. I grew up in Central PA around Lancaster so I know some about Amish life

since I lived near them. But if you don't know their culture or heritage I can see some people not liking these stories.

It is not a passionate love story, it's very culture driven. And very slow in expressing feelings but that is the way. However, it was written well and it moved along quite nicely. So I did appreciate that. You basically get to know the community of Pleasant Valley. Leah is a schoolteacher and basically an old maid, at 28.. shock, so when newcomer Daniel Glick comes to town as a widower everyone wants Leah to marry him. So it's basically a story of them falling in love and really understanding marriage for themselves. And the book does talk a lot about the time when 18yr olds go out into the 'English' world before they choose to be fully Amish or not. So it is paving the way for the trilogy.

If you want to know more about this culture, there are other great stories as well but this series does it well. Quick and easy read.

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### **Sandy says**

It was a very special book, read the series and enjoyed it very much.

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### **Emily Ste says**

My first jump into the Amish Inspirational world.  
So incredibly worth it and I'm sorry I waited!

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### **Danni says**

fun

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### **Fv says**

Leah is one of the meanest girls Marta has ever written about.

She is so rude to her former beau, who chooses to help find a cure for the sick Amish children. The illnesses coming from cousins marrying cousins.

She is rude to him from the beginning, to the last scene I read with them two in it. She blasts him at the research center for giving her praise for her work, which she finally decides to do. But through out the book, she praises her mother, sister, friend, the little daughter of the 'hero' and others, including herself.

She treats her old beau like he is less than a dog. Also, she is unkind to her sister and treats her like she feels her sister has less brains than a snail.

Then the 'hero', he is so wishy, washy through out the book. And I don't mean one day to the next, it is one

minute to the next. He likes what she does one minute, then gets upset with her, not trusting her, because of his thoughts, gives her a mean look, or says something, and turns away.

This is the way abusers treat the ones they claim to love. One minute all is well the next they are doing something wrong and gets mad or irritated.

It is ironic, I ended up reading this book last in line, of the series. It is probably a good thing, because I would not have read any of the other well written novels in the series, if I had read this novel about a mean heroine and a wishy washy abusive hero, first.

Amish piousness is fully shown in this novel, they are better than any other group of humans, not because of their faith in God, but because their faith in wearing suspenders, driving wagons and wearing lace on their heads. The faith in the lifestyle, over the love of God, is clear for any who read this book.

In fact, I have not been able to finish it. Since reading the other in the series, I know who she ends up with. But an abuser doesn't change their ways, nor does someone that is so mean change her ways, as the rest of the series try to make us believe.

My advice, skip this book, jump to the next in the series, save time to read another book, that is more becoming to these style of books.

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## **Christy says**

I won't lie...I had the hardest time finishing this book. Literally, it sat on my nightstand for probably 6 months after I had read 100 pages, and couldn't go any further. I couldn't seem to relate to any of the characters, and the parts of the story I wanted to know more about (particularly the medical testing/genetics issues) were mentioned the least. But somehow, somehow, I decided to pick it up and dust it off, and attempt to finish it.

Obviously, I reached the end or I wouldn't be writing this review. :o) And believe it or not, it did get a little better. It took me a few pages before I could get back in the swing of things as I tried to remember all the characters and how they were related to one another. Once I got all that figured out, I had a great time with the last two-thirds of the book, and had it read in little more than a day.

Unfortunately, though, the ending left a lot to be desired. I suspected how the story would end, and was afraid that the ending would be rushed, and sure enough...it was. Yes, Leah had a "choice" in the end as to which proposal she'd accept, but neither proposal seemed to fit with the other serious events happening in her life.

I'd like to read some of Marta's other books, because while I like her story concepts, the Amish community seemed like it might have been too simplistic of a setting. I found myself craving more emotion, more descriptions, more life, and while a small spark of them seemed to appear toward the end, it just took too long to get to them. Those who enjoy simple stories with happy, tidy endings would probably enjoy this book as well as the others in the series.

3.5 Stars

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## **Arminzerella says**

When Leah's first love left their Amish community for the English world, she thought she would never love again. Now, Johnny is back – researching genetic disease among the Amish – and he needs her help. Leah, now a teacher, is torn between her former feelings for Johnny, and her new feelings for Daniel, who is new to their community and comes with a lot of baggage (3 children from a former marriage, and little tolerance for the English way of life and Amish people who have contact with the outside world). Slowly, Leah's ways begin to win Daniel over. Simultaneously, Leah realizes that her place is with her people (the Amish community), and with Daniel.

This inspirational romance falls a little flat. While the whole community tries to play matchmaker to bring Leah and Daniel together, neither of them wants anything to do with the other. Daniel thinks Leah may be too worldly (her connections with the English and her former fiancé make him wary), and Leah thinks she's supposed to be an old maid. Leah, sensibly, realizes that Daniel's opinions about the English will make any relationship between them very difficult (maybe even impossible). Yet, suddenly they're overcome with feelings for one another? Although each is passionate in their own way, their attraction to one another is not particularly well-developed (I sure didn't feel it). I just didn't care much about their relationship.

What was really interesting were the details Marta Perry included about Amish life and beliefs, and the genetic diseases that affect the small Amish communities. I'd have loved to know more about those. For instance, the Amish tradition of rumspringa is pretty interesting - where parents allow their teenage/young adult children to take the time they need in order to decide whether they want to become full members of the church and the Amish community. A few years ago I ran across a documentary which made it out to be Amish teens gone wild – experimenting with all the things that have been forbidden to them. Leah's rumspringa was not at all like that, mostly because she's already in love with someone in the Amish community (who later leaves her and the Amish ways behind), but her sister Anna makes a lot of mistakes and decides to leave and see something of the world. This desire to know more and be more is in Leah, too, but it only receives a brief mention. Exploring that conflict might make her a more complicated/realistic character.

This was an ok read, but wasn't engaging enough to make me want to seek out the rest of the series.

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## **Alyssa White says**

So far I'm happy that I picked this series up. Book one in this series was just lovely. The main character had a lot on her plate and she had to figure out life around it. Each chapter left you wanting more and the ending was perfect.

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## **Drebbles says**

After Johnny Kile broke both their engagement and her heart, Amish school teacher Leah Beiler decided she'll never get married and has dedicated her life to her work and the children she teaches. Her close-knit Amish community, however, isn't convinced that Leah is meant to remain single and when widower Daniel

Glick, who has three young children, moves to town, the entire community tries to play matchmaker. Leah is not sure of her feelings for Daniel, feelings which are further complicated when Johnny reappears in her life. Daniel has his own issues - he is tormented by events from his past that he is afraid will haunt him for the rest of his life. Leah has a choice to make - what will it be?

While I found it a bit slow at the beginning, by the end I had a hard time putting down "Leah's Choice" because I wanted to find out what was going to happen to Leah and Daniel and Johnny. Author Marta Perry has created some very believable characters and situations. While the Amish setting means the romance is "sweet" Perry never sugarcoats Amish life and the struggles the Amish go through. Leah often questions her faith having lost Johnny to the English life during his Rumspringa and fears she may also lose her younger sister to the English life - fears she tries to keep from her mother who is recovering from cancer. Leah is also concerned with the health issues of the Amish children brought on by years of Amish marrying into the same families, especially so since her brother is marrying into a family affected by those health problems. Daniel is an equally complicated person - his story has a heartbreaking twist that makes him an even deeper character, if a bit stern and rigid at times. The romance portions are nice done, although there's little doubt about who Leah will end up with. I suspect (hope) that Johnny will develop more as a character as the series goes along. While Leah's story is wrapped up by the end of this book, this is the first book in a new series so some plot lines are left open - one in particular will keep me buying future books so I can find out what ultimately happens to one of the characters.

"Leah's Choice" is a nicely done romance set in the Amish community and fans of Amish romances and sweet romances will enjoy it.

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### **Leah says**

probably the best amish book ive ever read. i actually really enjoyed it.

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### **Barbara says**

This is an interesting look at Amish life through the eyes of a teacher who lost her fiancée to the English way of life. Many choices face Leah, and she is very confused for quite a while. She seems to feel responsible for the welfare and choices of her entire family. When she is faced with a romantic choice, will she make the right decision? I enjoyed this book and intend to read more of this series.

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### **Tammy Rhoades-Baldwin says**

An easy read with interesting characters and plot. I found it enjoyable to learn more about the Amish way of life.

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