



## Mattie's Pledge

*Jan Drexler*

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A Tender, Poignant, and Heartwarming Glimpse into the Amish Migration West from Pennsylvania

Mattie Schrock is no stranger to uprooting her life. Even as her father relocated her family from one Amish community to the next, she always managed to find a footing in their new homes. Now as the Schrock family plans to move west from Somerset County to a fledgling Amish settlement in Indiana, she looks forward to connecting with old friends who will be joining them from another Pennsylvania community--friends like Jacob Yoder, who has always held a special place in her heart.

Since Mattie last saw Jacob, they've both grown into different people with different dreams. Jacob yearns to settle down, but Mattie can't help but dream of what may lie over the western horizon. When a handsome Englisher tempts her to leave the Amish behind to search for adventure in the West, will her pledge to Jacob be the anchor that holds her secure?

Tender, poignant, and gentle, "Mattie's Pledge" offers readers a glimpse into Amish life in the 1840s--and into the yearning heart of a character they'll not soon forget.

## **Mattie's Pledge Details**

Date : Published September 20th 2016 by Revell (first published September 2016)

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Author : Jan Drexler

Format : Kindle Edition 384 pages

Genre : Amish, Historical, Historical Fiction, Christian Fiction, Fiction, Amish Fiction, Inspirational, Romance, Historical Romance

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## **From Reader Review Mattie's Pledge for online ebook**

### **Kathleen says**

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This is the second book in the Journey to Pleasant Prairie series, and can be read as a stand alone. I have not read the first book, Hannah's Choice, and had no difficulty with the storyline or characters.

I enjoyed this beautifully written novel with well developed characters, descriptive settings, several subplots intertwined within the major plot, drama, suspense and hints of romance.

The Amish characters were all likeable, but Mattie and Jacob were my favourites. Mattie was helpful, appreciative of nature, fun loving, adventurous, attractive and had wanderlust. Jacob was dependable, knowledgeable, trustworthy, mature, handsome and hard working.

I highly recommend this page turner book and give it 5 stars.

Thank you to Jan Drexler for researching and writing this authentic sounding novel about fictionalized Amish families moving by wagons westward from Pennsylvania to Indiana.

Thanks to NetGalley and Revell for an advanced readers copy of Mattie's Pledge in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Amy says**

Mattie's Pledge is the second installment from the Pleasant Prairie series. I found the story to be unique and refreshing to read a different Amish book. I enjoyed it and look forward to continuing the series.

5 stars

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### **Diamond Jones says**

I really enjoyed reading about Mattie and her family's journey. Mattie, her Family and friends decided to leave Pennsylvania in search of a better life in Pleasant Prairie. Mattie instantly became my favorite from the beginning. She had dreamed so often about traveling to other especially with her childhood crush family coming along. You are taking through every step, detour and emotions throughout this book.

Mattie found herself and danger a couple times throughout her Journey. Even after her Pledge to Jacob she still couldn't come to terms with settling in one place. She wanted to explore the world and kept wondering off to explore.

I loved all of the Characters in this book. Mattie's Pledge is book two in the Pleasant Prairie series so reading about the family and how they grew was great.

I also loved Mattie's sister Naomi. She was the exact opposite of Mattie and I wanted to know more about her character.

Can't wait to read book three and to revisited the family again now that they have settled into their new homes and lives.

Awesome book & A MUST READ.....LOL!

\*I received this book free from the publishers for my honest review\*

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### **Brittany says**

Mattie's Pledge was a very enjoyable addition to the Journey to Pleasant Prairie series. It is book two, however, I believe the story is easily understandable even if you have not read book one.

I liked reading about all of the various situations and challenges these travelers encountered. Without giving away anything too specific, I will say that a few times I was frustrated with people's reactions in this story. One situation was when some members of the Amish community did not believe Jacob had witnessed some people behaving unlawfully. Also, Mattie's naive take on situations and her confusion regarding the choices she had to make also wore on me a bit, even though I liked her. The historic details were so interesting without being heavy handed. I was happy with the way the overall story played out and with getting to revisit the characters from book one, Hannah's Choice. I'm looking forward to reading book three in the series.

I received a complimentary copy of this book. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

You can read this review on my blog at:

<https://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.c...>

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### **Staci says**

In this second book of the Journey to Pleasant Prairie, we travel along with Mattie, her family and other Amish families from Pennsylvania to Indiana. I loved that the author drove (rather than walked as the characters did) the same journey to better illustrate the geography. While I most "felt" the swamp part of the journey with the mosquitoes feasting on the travelers, the entire journey was well described.

Main character Mattie craves adventure and wants to continue further west than Indiana. She questions whether it is the right choice for her to stay with her family in Indiana or continue further west.

Mattie's Pledge is filled with budding romances and a villain too. It was an enjoyable story and I look forward to the next in the series.

My gratitude to Rel of Relz Reviews and publisher Revell for a complimentary copy of the novel. I was not required to post a review. The opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Maureen Timerman says**

As this story begins we are back in the Lancaster Pennsylvania area and with the Schrock family, and we are with another daughter Mattie and her desire to see this country.

As the story opens the family is busy getting ready for their journey to the new Amish settlement in Indiana, and the hopes of abundant farm land at affordable prices. We are with the family and friends when the old

friends from another community arrive to go with them to their new homes.

Jacob Yoder remembers Mattie from their old settlement and is so fond of her, you can see the sparks fly, but Mattie isn't sure she wants to end her journey at Indiana, the mountains and ocean lay ahead and she wants to see it all. Will Mattie ever get over her restless wandering desire or will she leave with a handsome stranger that seems to pose danger.

This is a glimpse into Amish life in our country back in the 1840's, and life is a bit rough traveling in wagons across our States. I will tell you once you open the cover of this book, you will be quickly turning the pages to find answers.

I received this book through Net Galley and the Publisher Revell, and was not required to give a positive review.

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### **Kav says**

Amish meets Little House on the Prairie - a seriously wicked combination. Drexler has captured the pioneering spirit of our ancestors in the heart of Mattie Schrock. And an Amish girl with wanderlust makes for an interesting conundrum. She's always looking towards the horizon, yearning to find out what lies beyond...but will those discoveries feed her soul and fill the empty place in her heart?

Childhood friend, Jacob is the exact opposite. He's looking forward to buying land in Indiana that will serve his family for generations. So we have a hero who finds freedom in making roots while the heroine is looking for freedom by pulling up roots. Not an optimal situation for a love story so be prepared for some angst. Especially when a mysterious Englisher comes onto the scene.

And, oh my goodness, the history!!!! We're talking a wagon train of Amish venturing west from Pennsylvania and all the complications and dangers that go along with that. There are so many twists and turns that I might have gone into a bit of a reading frenzy. I was gobsmacked more than a time or two. I do so love being astonished by an adventurous plot.

And while this is Mattie's story, we also get a few different character perspectives and the bonus of a secondary love story. All in all a sublime combination that will engage the most discerning of readers.

My thanks to Baker's Publishing Group for providing me with a copy of this book.

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### **Marilyn says**

Mattie's Pledge is an attention-grabbing story. We find the Yoder family and other characters, which readers met in Hannah's Choice, starting their migration from Pennsylvania to Indiana. The reunion of the Schrock family with the Yoder family was welcomed along the way, especially by Mattie so she could reconnect with Jacob Yoder. Mattie's goals for life were different than Jacob that caused her actions to be unacceptable at times by Jacob and others.

Mattie's Pledge is more than your typical Amish genre story. This book is filled with historical events of the migration of the Amish across states to settle in a new area. This story is filled with adventure, unexpected twists and turns when three Englisher continue to sneak around their camp to only steal from them. How will

the leaders of this cover wagon train be able to protect and advise all without someone being harmed? Will Jacob's mother be able to stand the extended journey? Who will truly find their place and happiness in the new settlement?

Jan Drexler is an outstanding storyteller drawing from her ancestry roots of the Amish and their movement from the east toward the central plains of America. The characters are well developed with true to life issues during this historical period. Their faith and love for God kept them grounded and focused on what truly was important for them. I look forward to reading Naomi's Hope, book three in Drexler's series Journey to Pleasant Prairie

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### **Lori says**

what a wonderful read!

I loved Mattie from the start. She has a terrible thirst for wonderlust. I enjoyed watching her characters get from uncertainty to finally realizing what she wants out of life ! it's a shame it took a man like Cole Bates to make her see the truth of things! Mattie also loves to be with her friends around the campfire when they are traveling west.

Jacob is a pretty interesting guy himself.

Afraid to let himself love because he's afraid of losing that person to death. Jacob for sure learns this lesson the hard way after almost losing Mattie to an Englisher the hard way for sure and certain!

Cole Bates wants everything that everyone else has by stealing whatever it is they have. In some weird way I kind of liked Cole. It wasn't his fault the way he was raised. But he did get caught stealing one too many times was therefore; caught and punished and I think the punishment for horse thieving is a hanging.

All in all, I enjoyed this story because it was different from the norm Amish genere that I usually read. I love how they went West because unlike them I got to travel all the way to San Diego, California. We followed the old Oregon Trail which is now interstate 70! I learned this when visiting the Kansas Historic museum. I was totally floored!

When reading this story I felt like I was traveling with the Amish to see a new land but I also didn't know there was swampland

Bottom line, I lived Jacob and Mattie's story and I loved to know that they have a happy ending! I won't say what that is because I don't want to give it away!!

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### **Laura says**

First, the disclaimer. "I was provided a free copy of this book. All opinions are my own." That done, MATTIE'S PLEDGE is a gripping story. Mattie is adverturous and anxious to see what is over the next hill. Behind each tree. And like most of us, disappointed when we see more of the same. More trees. More hills. More...whatever. Jacob has never noticed a girl until Mattie. He is calm, controlled, and collected and he is faithful to what he wants. His stability to Mattie's flightiness was refreshingly real.

I wanted to scream at Mattie for some of the decisions she was making even while I applauded Jacob for working behind the scenes to do what he believes was the right way.

The faith message wasn't really strong. It was more general, praying and live right this way, but not a whole

lot more. The story itself was very well told, like I said, gripping. I \*had\* to keep reading to see what happens next. Had to find out -- does Jacob's mamm survive? What happens with Cole? Does Abraham ever settle down? And Naomi... my heart aches for her and I cannot wait to read the next book in this series.

This book wasn't so depressing as the first book in this series, *Hannah's Choice*, it was more hopeful with plenty of tension mixed in. Ms. Drexler is a talented author I fell in love with from her biblical fiction and like even more with this book. If you like historicals, wagon train books, and Amish, you will love *MATTIE'S PLEDGE*. Highly recommended.

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### **Cheryl says**

Author, Jan Drexler paints a nice story of Amish life with this book. I was transported to the Amish community and what life was like for Mattie and her family. For this reason alone is why I kept reading this book until about the mid-way point. What I did not understand is why Mattie had to have so many guys interested in her. I mean I can understand have two guys fighting for Mattie's affection but three when I already know that the other two guys are just thrown in the story to complicate things felt like filler to me. Although, I grew weary of Jacob not speaking his mind regarding his feelings towards Mattie. I knew how much he cared for her and I found myself screaming for him to profess his love to her. In addition, due to his experience with outsider's I felt that he did have a place to speak his mind regarding his concerns about Cole to Mattie. While I found Mattie to be sweet and kind, her naïve attitude wore on me as well. Between the combination of all of these things is the reason why I could not continue with reading this book. Yet, if you took away these issues then this book is a good read. I would read another book by this author featuring her Amish characters.

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### **Paula-O says**

this is a series "Journey to Pleasant Prairie" book #2, *Mattie's Pledge* written by Jan Drexler

I like reading about prairie stories but Mattie was a challenge, she was always searching never content. Jacob Yoder was an old friend that she has known from childhood and she trusted him. He was the one constant that helped ground her.

Now the family is moving again to another amish community in another state across the prairies. She has always dreamed of going west ...farther west.

This book will take you into the mid 1800's amish lifestyle. Times are tough and the trip west is very rough. On this journey Mattie will meet a charming english man who is a sheep in wool clothing if you get my drift. He charms Mattie with tales of the West each time they happen to meet, trying to entice her to leave her amish community and go with him.

I enjoyed learning from Jacob about the sheep he took with them on their journey and the tenderness he had with the children. Mattie stole my heart and I yearned for her to find happiness and to lose the wonderlust she always seemed to have....life took many turns for her until she knew in her heart of hearts that she would always be amish, she could not leave her family and then to be content.

Thank you to Jan for a wonderful story, I read and reviewed with my honest opinion .

I look forward to reading the next book in this series.

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### **Connie Lynch says**

Mattie's Pledge continues the Schrock family story as the move west from Pennsylvania. The Schrock family encounter many perils, just as the wagon trains moving west. The one peril they did not plan on was Maggie's infatuation with an Englisher rogue. Will the family make it to their destination? Jan Drexler has written a wonderful story, set in a wonderful period in time, this journey is so amazing I cannot wait for the next release in this journey west as the Schrock family learn to live in a new land.

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### **Brandi (Rambles of a SAHM) says**

I am quite fascinated by the stories of people that have crossed the United States by covered wagon. In Mattie's Pledge, Mattie Schrock and her family along with several others have decided to leave their current home in Pennsylvania to make a new life in a small Amish settlement in Indiana. There are mixed feelings about the move. Some like Mattie's mother are reluctant to go because it means leaving not only her home but some loved ones. Others like Mattie and her father are excited to embark on this new adventure.

Without being tedious Jan Drexler has given us a glimpse into how long and arduous such a journey can be. There are hidden obstacles and some that are right out in the open taunting the determined travelers. There are also personal obstacles to overcome.

Our human condition tends to always think of the grass being greener on the other side of the fence. Mattie has an inner struggle that inevitably comes to a head and allows her to decide what is really important in life. I and many others will be able to relate to her struggle.

This is book two in the Journey to Pleasant Prairie series but I think it could easily be read as a stand-alone novel. I read and enjoyed book one, Hannah's Choice, and I think I enjoyed Mattie's Pledge even more because I knew the background of many of the characters. If you have time to read both books I think you'll feel like it was worth it.

I received a copy of this book to facilitate my review.

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### **Karla says**

Firstly, I must admit that any book that deals with history is NOT my favorite!! However, the enjoyment I found reading Jan Drexler's second book in her series, "Journey to Pleasant Prairie" surprised me!! Through this tale, I learned a great deal about the Amish in earlier times and was surprised at some of the historical facts of which I was unaware.

This sweet romance captured my attention and I enjoyed from beginning to end. The plot moves slowly at times, however that gave me time to reflect on new facts that I had learned as well as understanding the rather complex relationship between Mattie and Jacob. As the wagon train of Amish travel west from Pennsylvania, attempting to find a better life, they encounter many unexpected complications and surprising dangerous situations. There were surprise events, yes, sometimes frightening, occurring when you least

expect it.

The characters were realistically and well described. Mattie was a favorite character with whom I quickly and easily identified, as she met her challenges head on, and showed her strength of character. The perspectives of several different characters in this story gave us even more to think about. I enjoyed how they intertwined within the story of Mattie and Jacob.

I am looking forward to Jan's next book!! I have high expectations!!

This book was a gift from the publisher. The opinions and thoughts expressed are my own. .

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