



## Rachel's Garden

*Marta Perry*

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**Rachel's Garden** Marta Perry

**An Amish widow must rely on her faith and the kindness of her close-knit community as she mends her broken heart in this compelling novel in the Pleasant Valley series.**

It has been almost a year since the Amish community of Pleasant Valley lost Ezra Brand to a tragic accident. Since then, his wife Rachel has struggled to raise their three children and run their dairy farm...

Rachel's friends and family have come forward to help. But all of their constant advice, however well intentioned, puts undue pressure on Rachel. And when Ezra's best friend, Gideon Zook, asks her permission to build the greenhouse that Ezra had always promised her, she finds his presence too painful a reminder of the past.

As spring turns to summer, and Rachel puts her heart into growing the plants that have always brought her joy, can she discover the courage to embrace new beginnings?

## Rachel's Garden Details

Date : Published March 2nd 2010 by Berkley Books (first published March 1st 2010)

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Author : Marta Perry

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## **From Reader Review Rachel's Garden for online ebook**

### **Susan says**

I love this series. Well written Amish fiction is my all time favorite genre. Not only was this entertaining but also soothing to my soul. I listened to the commercial audio book provided to Talking Books for the Blind. The performance was excellent and enchanting. I listen to all I can by this author.

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### **Alyssa White says**

I really loved this book and I hated to put it down to read another book for someone, but when I picked it back up I was back in love again. This book touched my heart so much - the story between Rachel and Gideon was so lovely and I could not get enough of it. Envious of their story I was, am.

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### **Sylvia says**

I loved this book!! great story!! 1st time reading this author!! will read more of her books!!

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### **Patsy Mellen says**

I love reading books about the Amish. Don't know how true to life they are but if it's somewhat close I'm happy. Second book in the series of six.

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### **Shirley Chapel says**

So far this series has touched my heart. In book two of the Pleasant Valley series Rachel , who has recently became a widow is struggling to keep her dairy farm and support her three young children. She's so deep in her grief that she can't open her heart to the possibility of going on with her life without Ezra. Gideon Zook is still in grief over the loss of his late wife and unborn child. He carries a lot of quilt and blames himself for her death. He refuses to forgive himself and won't open his heart to the possibility of a new love in his life. To make matters worse he was Ezra's best friend and was with him when he died. Gideon also blames himself for Ezra's death and wonders why he was spared when his best friend died. Can these two hurting people ever let their hearts heal and move on with their lives? Can Gideon forgive himself and find happiness in his life again? If you like Amish Fiction or Christian Fiction you will enjoy the Pleasant Valley series by Marta Perry. This series so far has had the ability to completely draw me into the story. I highly recommend it if you haven't read it already.

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### **Maryn says**

I'm almost a little embarrassed to say that I read this. I'm not (ever) a romance reader, but this is the second year I've helped judge the local Romance Writers' Guild contest and this is one of the books. Although I knew what was going to happen right from the beginning, the story was good, the dialogue believable and the portrayal of the Amish people was flattering. I'm actually tempted to go back and read the first book from the series...but don't tell, okay?

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### **Kristina says**

This was a wholesome read. It is continuing on the story with Rachel. Her husband dies and she being a widow in the Amish community, is subjected to her brother in law's care. Her husband's friend, Gideon, helps her build a greenhouse her late husband's birthday present for her. However, he ends up taking care of her and making improvements to her farm that her brother in law wants to buy. She is being pulled into what decision would be best for her and her family concerning the farm. She doesn't want to sell it cause it's her husband's legacy for her children. Along the way Gideon and Rachel spend time together and realize what they are to each other and realize they mean more than thought possible.

It's a slow virtuous love story but that is Amish life. They value those requirements of courting. So don't expect a passionate embrace. Their relationship is a simmer.

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### **Barbara says**

A lovely story about friendship, family responsibility, a sense of community, romance, and overcoming guilt with forgiveness. This is the second book in the series, but can also be read alone, although it is nice to have all of the background. Some of the family conflicts were different than those normally found in Amish novels.

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### **Colette says**

This is the 2nd "series" of Amish books I've read (the other being Beth Wiseman's Daughters of the Promise) and I find them very refreshing and heartwarming. Sure they are predictable, you know the main characters will finally admit their love for each other and live happily ever after, but how they get there is what makes the stories so heartwarming. In this story, Rachel's husband died in a horrible accident which his best friend survived. Rachel is determined to save the family farm for her children although she is pressured to sell it and move in with her parents. Both Rachel and her husband's former best friend both have grief to overcome but find they have far more in common than just their grief.

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### **Larisha says**

A wonderful story about friendship and how love forms in so many ways.

I enjoyed getting to know a bit more about the characters featured in the first book, Leah's Choice, and especially getting to know Rachel, Gideon, and Ezra's sweetheart younger brother, William.

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### **Jane says**

I loved this book and it came at a time I needed some encouragement and uplifting. This family sure had it's share of troubles. Rachel was dealing with loss of her husband, in-laws butting into her life and telling her what was best for her, parents trying to get her to move back home with kids, and much more. I have dealt to with all those problems except losing my husband and my kids are grown.

But boy could I relate to having in-laws try to rule my life while married.

Also Gideon, who was best friend of Ezra - Rachel's husband, did his best to fulfill his promise to Ezra to build a greenhouse for Ezra. He didn't count on falling in love with Rachel. He also was dealing with loss of his wife and a baby. I know all about grieving for 2 years over the loss of a baby and medical problems.

I loved the scriptures and struggles because at times I have questioned God and wondered about his plan too. Amish are real people with real problems just like everyone else just because they have their own idea of how to live. Even though their community is strong on faith, they still struggle through their beliefs just like us.

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### **Lisa says**

I would give this book a 3.5. Rachel's Garden is another Amish story, the second in a three book series about the people who live and interact in the village of Pleasant Valley. I had read the first and third books in the series so I was already acquainted with most of the characters and was happy to visit with them again. All of Marta Perry's characters are well drawn and most are sympathetic. The plots of her books tend to be very similar. I knew how the book was going to end by the time I got to the third or fourth chapter. If you want to read it to learn about Amish life or to meet wonderful characters, the lack of plot shouldn't be a drawback, however.

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### **Laura says**

Title: RACHEL'S GARDEN

Author: Marta Perry

Publisher: Berkley Books

April 2010

ISBN: 978-0-425-23236-1

Genre: Inspirational/Amish romance

Rachel Brand is struggling to survive after the tragic death of her husband, Ezra. Now, Rachel and her three children are forced to make decisions they don't want to make. Should they sell Ezra's farm and move home with Rachel's parents? Or should she try to keep Ezra's dreams alive?

Rachel's friends and family come forward to help. Ezra's brothers are maintaining his milk cow herd, and Ezra's best friend, Gideon Zook asks Rachel's permission to build the greenhouse that Ezra promised Rachel. But Gideon was involved in the same accident that claimed Ezra's life, and his presence is a reminder of all Rachel has lost.

But without the income from the plants Rachel sells to the community, she may be forced to sell the farm and have no means of supporting her family. Or, would it be wiser to take her greenhouse and let Ezra's brother buy the farm? Can Rachel find the courage to make her own choices?

RACHEL'S GARDEN is the second book in Ms. Perry's Pleasant Valley series, but it easily stands alone. Readers might find it helpful though to understand a bit about Rachel's brother, Johnny, and her friend, Leah, both of whom are in the first book.

I enjoyed getting to know a bit more about the characters featured in the first book, Leah's Choice, and especially getting to know Rachel, Gideon, and Ezra's sweetheart younger brother, William. I hope that sometime in the future, Ms. Perry will have William as a hero in a book.

A glossary of Amish terms, a preview of Ms. Perry's third book in the series Anna's Return, coming in June 2010 are included at the end of the book. Don't miss RACHEL'S GARDEN if you are looking for a good Amish book to read. \$14.00. 329 pages.

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### **Dawn Leonard says**

This is the second book in Marta Perry's Pleasant Valley series about Rachel, a widow. She struggles to keep her farm and build her garden and its related business. Who is trying to sabotage her efforts? Good mystery to this book and a good story as well. Although this is part of the Pleasant Valley series, you can read one without reading the others. It was great to see Leah from the previous book in this as well and to see what has happened in her life since her book. To understand all of the characters better, you should read the other books. I like how Marta Perry introduces the next book's character in the previous book.

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### **Cynthia says**

I enjoyed the second book in this series as much as the first one. Lots of Amish detail, good characters, fun dialog in the dialect of the Amish of PA. (I assume - I don't really know first hand but I think the author did her research). Rather predictable romance development but I like that. If I am reading a romance novel I want the romance to flower despite the obstacles. I feel cheated when the author goes for the 'realistic' ending like the "Mr. Darcy Broke My Heart" "Jane Austen Ruined My Life" books. I'm shallow that way.

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