



Wonderful Lonesome

Olivia Newport

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In a struggling Amish settlement on the harsh Colorado plain, Abbie Weaver refuses to concede defeat to hail, drought, and coyotes, even as families begin to give up and return east. The biggest challenge of all is the lack of a spiritual shepherd and regular worship. When Abbie discovers the root of a spiritual divide that runs through the settlement, she faces her own decisions about what she believes. She must choose between a quiet love in her cherished church, passion with a man determined to leave the church, or imagining her life with neither.

Wonderful Lonesome Details

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From Reader Review Wonderful Lonesome for online ebook

Rachel says

This was an interesting novel about a struggling Amish settlement in the plains of Colorado. Not only has drought brought serious financial difficulties to the small number of families trying to build an Amish community there but the lack of a minister and church services are wearing on the settlers' spirits, especially as there is a serious difference of opinion on an essential spiritual question preventing the small Amish community from truly coming together in unity. Through all of this, Abigail Weaver must make choices between the man she passionately loves and the church she can't imagine life without. I thought that the novel was fairly well written and that the characters were interesting. However, even though I enjoyed the novel overall, there was one major turning point in the plot that was based on a certain character's action that felt highly inconsistent with how that character had been portrayed up to that point, and the author certainly could have brought about the result that she wanted without being so inconsistent with that character.

Wendy says

BACK OF THE BOOK BLURB

(taken from Amazon.com)

In a struggling Amish settlement on the harsh Colorado plain, Abbie Weaver refuses to concede defeat to hail, drought, and coyotes. When Abbie discovers the root of her Amish church's spiritual divide, she must choose between a quiet love in her cherished church, passion with a man determined to leave the church, or imagining her life with neither.

MY REVIEW

An interesting story about some of the first Amish moving west and finding out that most of the good things they read/heard ended up being untrue. Abbie really fell in love with the country and had faith that the church would grow, not everyone felt the same way. When some of the families make decisions that upset her, she still didn't give up, even when her family was giving up, she still held on strong to that faith. Have you ever been told that you have to change your mind and give up on something that you feel in your heart God has told you this is where you need to be, this is what you need to be doing? What did you do and what do think Abbie will do?

A good historical fiction about the Amish trying to move on and not only their physical and emotional fight but also their spiritual fight to follow God's will. It looks like this is going to be a good series. I already have the second book, "Meek and Mild" which I will be reading soon and a the third in the series "Brightest and Best" comes out in August of 2015, looking forward to that one too. I read this first book in e-book format.

Michelle Robinson says

The ending of this book makes no sense, in terms of what we see of the person Rudy throughout. It is so incongruous with who we have been told he was that it falls flat and ruins an otherwise interesting read.

None of the people behave in ways that one might believe real people would.
I find this book to be pretty disappointing overall.

Kristine Morgan says

Olivia Newport tells the story of Abigail Weaver and Willem Peters in *Wonderful Lonesome*. Based on an actual Colorado Amish settlement in the early 1900s, *Wonderful Lonesome* is quite different than most of the Amish fiction in the market today. I would say it is more like Dale Cramer's *Daughter* or Caleb Bender trilogy than Lewis' or Brunstetter's works.

Abbie is a single woman who does the housekeeping and baking for the widowers and bachelors in her small community. With only 12 households and no minister the community must decide how to proceed. Should they continue to look for a minister? Should they disband and go back east? Or should they surrender their beliefs and join the Mennonite church? To complicate matters the county is experiencing a serious drought. Each family will have to decide what "Gotte's wille" is for them. Willem would like for Abby to marry him, but she will not join with him in exploring the Mennonite faith.

This book makes one think about what is most important, faith, family or community. The decisions each family makes affect all of the other's lives. I believe anyone interested in the Amish or in Historical fiction would enjoy this book.

I received this book from the publisher in exchange for my honest opinion. I was not required to offer a favorable review.

Kav says

A different kind of pioneer story. It is 1914 but Colorado is still a wild, relatively unsettled part of the country. Land is cheap but not without challenges as a small group of Amish settlers soon discover. This whole story fascinated me on so many levels. The historical facts for one -- the author based the settlement on actual Amish endeavors in the area at the same time and she deals with a lot of 'big' questions. The conflict that stems from those concerns -- both personal and as a group -- compelled me to keep reading.

No worries if you are not an Amish fiction fan. This isn't 'that' book. If you like pioneer stories with a good dose of grit, you'll like this novel. It's about living a dream -- willing a dream actually and what you do when that dream starts crumbling right before your eyes. Do you let it go or hang on for all you are worth? And at what cost? Not just to you, but to those you love.

Told through multiple viewpoints *Wonderful Lonesome* is a sombre tale that will haunt you long after you close the book.

Rosemarie says

This was an interesting novel by Olivia Newport, the first in a series. The main character, Abbie Weaver, moved with her family to be part of a new Amish settlement in Colorado. The farming is difficult, and they have no bishop or minister to lead their fledgling congregation. Abbie is determined to encourage everyone to not quit and go home, but to make the settlement work. Yet, meanwhile, the man she thought she'd marry, is not as settled in their faith as she thought. Abbie has so many decisions to make!

Great story about the founding of an Amish community.

Melody says

I enjoyed reading Wonderful Lonesome. The story was good, and the twists and turns in the plot kept me turning pages until the very end. I really liked that this was both an Amish fiction and an historical fiction book.

However, the main characters, Abbie and Willem, took a while to grow on me. At first, I found them very stubborn and they kind of annoyed me.

I'm also unsure about how I feel towards the ending... I liked the conclusion of the story, but I didn't like what happened with Rudy. (view spoiler) It kind of came out of nowhere, and at that point, I thought this was the author's way to wrap up the story quickly. Turns out, the story was nicely finished.

Overall, I enjoyed the book very much, and I will be checking out the other Amish Turns Of Time books.

Katrina Epperson says

Olivia Newport has written a story about faith, hope and love. The Weaver family has moved from Ohio to Colorado with great hopes of helping establishing a new community of Amish. The author weaves a story set in 1914 and brings to life the characters with her imagery and dialogue. Colorado is advertised as the land of opportunity. Land was cheap, beautiful scenery were things that interested the Amish a lot. What they really didn't understand was the hardships that would be faced with moving to a new climate. We are introduced to Abigail Weaver and to be honest I didn't really like the character at first, but as the story progressed I found that I admired her greatly. She is a young woman of great faith and lots of determination. She never stops encouraging members of their small settlement and does what ever is necessary to help anyone. The settlement has had the hardships of hail, wind, drought and illness, but the lack of a minister is a strain that is taking a toll on them. Abigail remaining faithful to the original reason for the move was what kept her going. Will she be able to follow the path her heavenly father has for her or will she follow her earthly father in his beliefs?

I had never read this author before, but will certainly read more books from her. I would recommend this book to anyone. I was given this book from Barbour Publishing for a honest review without outside influence or bias as stated above.

Jeffrey says

After about 20 pages I thought "another plodder." I'm glad I stuck with this because it turned out to be one of the best of this genre I have ever had the pleasure to read.

It zeroes in on a new, small, and impoverished Amish settlement near the high plains town of Limon Colorado and follows the struggles of the dozen families trying to survive the droughts, snow, hail and wild animals that plague their lives.

Young Abby Weaver is the daughter of one of the leading families and her leadership, faithfulness and devotion to the Amish faith make her a truly admirable heroine. Two young men are vying for her hand in marriage, both with visions of their own. Abby's own feelings are ambivalent and she cannot decide who her life's mate should be.

Tireless Abby does everything she can to encourage the struggling settlers to stay one more season but slowly, some of the families give up and return to their former eastern communities. But it is not just the elements that are causing families to leave. Abby uncovers a spiritual secret that is deeply dividing the families.

How can a story, so quiet on the surface, evoke such powerful feelings of empathy, hope, and heartbreak in the reader? It is the author masterfully interweaving the "quiet desperation" into the relationships of the settlers with dramatic suspense.

Abby, in the face of disappointment, abandonment, and loss, stubbornly sticks to her Amish faith in God that He will provide, even though no Amish minister ever comes to their settlement. The nearest house of God is Mennonite, meets in Limon, and Abby worries about their teachings.

Dear readers, this story will grab your heart and not let go until the surprising final page.

Nat Kidder says

A young Amish lady tries to save her struggling and dysfunctional Amish settlement in western plains. Skillfully written, with a sympathetic main character, but the story doesn't really get going until halfway through.

Shirley Parker says

Spell bounding

I was taken back somewhat with the main female character. She was strong willed. Outspoken. And opinionated. She differed from other Amish female characters and I had to remind myself even tho she is Amish, she is a human being who held fast to her upbringing. I enjoyed the book but I seem to tire of her attitude at times. But that's me, Abbie and I are 2 different personalities. Good book.

Jessica says

Wonderful lonesome is about a small Amish settlement in the rain belt of Colorado. Unfortunately, this area of Colorado has had a drought for five years and in a good year the rain fall is about half of what the Amish in the Midwest would expect. Needless to say, the Amish families present are having a very hard time meeting the needs of their families and the community. Some sort of dispute between a visiting Bishop and the men of the community have stopped ministers from visiting the community for over a year. The drought and lack of church services has prevented additional families from joining the community and caused some of the families to cut their losses and return to the Midwest.

The main character is Abbie Weaver and she is the cheerleader of the community. Despite the very significant obstacles facing each family, Abbie continues to encourage them to stay the course. She is loved by two men in the community and is attracted to each for different reasons. When the man she loves make choices that split them apart, will Abbie find happiness with the other?

I thought that this was a well written novel. The author does a good job immersing us in the trials of the community and the characters. I did not connect well with Abbie, however, and felt that the story plodded along because of it.

I received this novel free through a Goodreads giveaway.

Denise says

3.7? I enjoyed the uniqueness of this story; how it focused on the theological differences within an Amish community. The two male characters were easier to understand than the lead female, and I found the ending a bit abrupt. I may read more of this author, but I wasn't drawn in enough to continue her Amish novels.

Louise E. says

This was the most boring book I've ever read. I have no interest in reading any more of her books.

Rachel Antzak says

I read about 25% of the book and felt it was too boring to continue.
