



## A Ready-Made Amish Family

*Jo Ann Brown*

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## **The Amish Nanny**

As temporary guardian of two sets of young and energetic twins, widowed minister Isaiah Stoltzfus needs a nanny immediately. Keeping the kids happy and safe while also trying to run his blacksmith shop is becoming impossible. So when Clara Ebersol arrives to help, Isaiah is relieved. Able to soothe, teach and delight the children, Clara feels like family. Love-shy Isaiah knows that recently jilted Clara isn't looking for marriage, either. But with matchmakers—including four young *kinder*—on the job, Isaiah and Clara may soon find their hands clasped in matrimony.

## **A Ready-Made Amish Family Details**

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Author : Jo Ann Brown

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## Carmen says

*She started to stand but wobbled. When Isaiah put a steady hand on her back, she almost jumped out of her skin at the thud of awareness slamming into her so hard that, for a moment, she thought she'd fallen on the hard floor.*

In a highly unlikely scenario, the widower Isaiah minister-cum-blacksmith-cum-firefighter becomes the temporary guardian of TWO sets of twins when his best friend and his best friend's wife die in an accident. A boy set and a girl set. Having trouble keeping the children out of trouble, he seeks help and gets Clara.

Clara has two problems, really: her asshole father who shames her if she is not perfect and beats her if she defies him, and the fact that she was jilted by the man she was planning to marry - who sent her a letter saying, "I'm married now to another woman I've fallen in love with. So I'm breaking things off with you! Good luck." But, you know, in a more polite way. So she is hurt and not on the best page with men.

Okay, let's break this down:

### THE GOOD

- The twins are cute. They have been told by someone not to laugh, and it has smothered them. Watching their antics and seeing Isaiah and Clara try to puzzle out who fucked up the children's minds is interesting. One child needs glasses (you can see on the cover) and another ends up (view spoiler)
- Clara is great with the children, and I like how Isaiah slowly falls in love with her.
- The characters are sexually attracted to one another. I thought Clara was going to have a heart attack at every innocent touch of Isaiah's.

*Isaiah's work-roughened fingers brushed against her skin, sending heat along it.*

*As soon as he took Ammon upstairs, she pushed out of the rocker. She gripped the top of it, her knuckles turning white, as she fought for equilibrium. She couldn't react like this every time a casual touch brought her into contact with Isaiah.*

Isaiah, though, seems to mainly focus on how pretty her hair is... like all the men in these Amish novels. Admiring any body part below the neck would be too sexual, I guess.

- Clara's abusive father contrasted with Isaiah. When the twins defy Isaiah, Clara braces herself for the anger and pain she knows is coming.

*Clara wished she knew what to say to stave off the angry words that would be coming next. Her daed would never allow her to defy him. The one time she'd been foolish enough to try, Daed had punished her severely. The pain from being lashed with his belt had worn off long before her fear of what would happen if she angered him again.*

She tries to diffuse the situation, but of course Isaiah is not going to beat the children or even verbally hurt them. He is a kind, gentle, patient man. Which is SO HOT. And Clara realizes that she doesn't have to worry about him hurting the kids when they defy him. She doesn't have to worry about him losing his temper. Ah, gentle fathers are the best! My mother used to always say so. And this man is a gentle father, unlike Clara's asshole dad who is a real piece of work.

- Some tiny kissing.

*He released her hands and framed her face with his large hands.*

*His mouth found hers, silencing any protests before they could form, though she didn't want to be anywhere but with him. His kiss was gentle, and she curved her arms around his shoulders as he deepened the kiss until quivers rippled through her. How could she have thought his kiss would be like anyone else's? It was beyond wunderbaar.*

*When he raised his head, she remained where she was. She traced one of his pale brows with a single fingertip. He smiled before pressing his lips to her palm. That was sweet, but not what she yearned for. She drew his mouth to hers. He held her close until she couldn't guess if the frantic heartbeat was hers or his.*

*He lifted his mouth away again. This time abruptly. The softness vanished from his face as dismay filled his eyes. Standing, he didn't look at her. "I'm sorry, Clara. I shouldn't have done that."*

Oh, tear out her heart, why don't you?!?!?

I was actually really surprised that he kissed her at all. I did NOT see that coming. It was sudden. Sudden tiny kissing!

## **THE BAD:**

- Clara's asshole dad never gets his comeuppance. I was mad. I was expecting some kind of confrontation and resolution either between him and Clara or him and Isaiah, but nah. Really irritating, I wanted him to get shut down.

- This is a little God-heavy for me. I don't mind reading Christian romance novels, but if they go on and on and on about God I get a little tired. You can make your characters strong Christians and mention God a few times. But there's no reason to discuss God and praying all the time. I want to read about two people falling in love. Their relationships with God can be in the background, fine. But if you make their relationship with God the forefront and their love a side-note, I'm not going to be happy.

- The 'reasons' these two convince themselves that they can't be together is ridiculous. They are obviously in love / falling in love with each other and they are like, "No, I have a failed relationship in my past. I can never love again." You can do this and make it convincing, but Brown fails here. Instead they just come off as pathetic. You COULD make this really heart-wrenching and convincing. But she doesn't. It's a fail.

- Are there ANY Amish books without a scary fire that threatens to kill at least one main character? I'm starting to think that there aren't.

## THE UGLY

No ugly here.

## How's the sex, Carmen?

No sex. Two or three kisses. Not very well-described, but better than what I have been getting in Amish romance lately.

Tl;dr - Not a total failure, but this is too heavy on the God aspect for my tastes. Also, I wish Brown had handled their 'my painful past' plotlines better. As it is, it comes off as pathetic and whiny or as an excuse for the author to keep them apart until the end of the novel. I'd give this two out of five stars.

## ROMANCE CATEGORIES:

Amish Romance  
Contemporary Romance  
Inspirational Romance  
Virgin Heroine - I'm assuming. Never discussed.

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## Dawn says

This book will bring a smile to your face. Clara and Isaiah are not looking for love or want others to be a matchmaker. Isaiah is the guardian over two sets of twins after their parents are killed. His brother finds Clara to help with taking of them while he works. The twins, two boys and younger twin girls are a handful but Clara finds herself falling in love with them. She is recovering from a love that married someone else and Isaiah has never grieved over his wife's death. The children have not grieved over their parents death either. When a near tragedy could cost them every thing including the love for the children and each other will a blessing be given their way.

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## Carmen says

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### **Joann Sledz says**

A very heartwarming story

I really enjoyed this book

Well written,

First book I have read written by JoAnn Brown and I will be reading more.

I hope a second book will be written about this ready made family.

I believe God crosses people's paths for a reason and in this book, JoAnn Brown show how two non-related adults care for two sets of orphaned twins.

As they struggle with losses in their own lives.

Their paths were all crossed for a reason

A perfect title

A Ready Made Amish Family

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### **Kathy Enfield says**

#### **Great reading.**

It made me laugh and it made me cry. What more can you ask for in a good book. I loved it.

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### **Jess F. (From Me to You ... Book Reviews) says**

"3.5 out of 5 stars. As a way to escape her recent heartache, Clara agrees to become a nanny for two sets of twins who lost their parents and are now living with the widowed minister (Isaiah) in their district who was also the twins' father's best friend. Both Isaiah and Clara have past hurts they are trying to overcome and they are needed to help these precious kids to get over their loss too, as best they can. Living in close proximity to help raise the children brings these two closer together and meddling matchmakers seem to be plotting all around, but what will it take for Isaiah and Clara to really overcome their fears and open their hearts up for one another for good?"

This was an intensely sweet novel about overcoming loss of love and loved ones. You get to read about how this mismatched family..."

Read more of this review and a TEASER here:

<https://frommetoyouvideophoto.blogspot.com/2018/01/made-grade-amish-hearts-series-book-5.html>

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