



# Murder Tightly Knit

*Vannetta Chapman*

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**Murder Tightly Knit** Vannetta Chapman

**In a town where Amish and *Englisch* mingle every day, a grisly murder leads to mutual suspicion. Can Amber and Hannah find the killer before fear unravels the community . . . or he strikes again?**

Even before she heard of Owen Esch's death, Hannah Troyer knew something was amiss at The Cat's Meow yarn shop. The store has been closing at odd times, the ever-dependable Mary isn't always at her post . . . and an *Englisch* man has been seen loitering around back.

Now, as leaves of brown, gold, and orange blanket Middlebury, Indiana, Owen lies dead on the Pumpkinvine Trail. The only clues to the murderer's identity point in two very different directions—one of them leading right to The Cat's Meow.

The police call in a federal investigator, but Hannah and Village manager Amber Bowman are in no mood to wait for them to figure out what they already know—that no one from the Amish Village could have killed Owen Esch.

Amber and Hannah will need to work quickly to solve the murder mystery and bring harmony back to the Amish community.

## Murder Tightly Knit Details

Date : Published December 6th 2014 by HarperCollins Publishing

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Author : Vannetta Chapman

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# From Reader Review Murder Tightly Knit for online ebook

## Mayda says

An unusual murder sets Hannah and Amber on the detecting path again. But this cozy almost seems to dwell more on the relationships of the characters with each and with their faith than the actual mystery. Still, it is an entertaining cozy, and the interactions between the Amish and the English are interesting.

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## Amanda says

I liked this book better than the first one in the series. It was a fun cozy mystery to unwind with at the end of a stressful teaching day.

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## Dale Harcombe says

Three and a half stars

While out on the Pumpkinvine Trail early one morning Owen Esch is murdered by a crossbow arrow by what appears to be an Amish man. But is he really or is he one of the Englisch who also live in the area. Moments before he died, Owen had been on the phone to Mary at the Cat's Meow. Even though police are on the case, Amber Bowman and Hannah Troyer are following their own theories about who murdered Owen and why Mary has been behaving so oddly recently. Added to this Hannah's beau Jesse is less than impressed that his brother has come home and wondering if that event has anything to do with the murder of Owen. Surely not! But Jesse cannot shake the suspicion that the two events are somehow related. Is he right? You will have to read the book to find out.

I enjoyed the setting, learning more about the Amish, the characters and the way the story was woven together. It is a cosy mystery, so no overt sex scenes or crude language. There is also romance. I enjoyed catching with Amber and her new husband Tate, Hannah and other characters from the first book Murder Simply Brewed. I also liked the friendships and the way characters looked out for each other. But of course not all families are as happy as they may at first appear. This is an enjoyable read without being overly taxing. Good fun. Recommended for those who like cosy mysteries.

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## Rhonda says

This return to Pumpkinvine Trail and another murder brings with it many questions. Amish are suspected as well as Englisch! I just love seeing Amber happily married to Tate in An Amish Village Mystery's book 2. I think readers will enjoy seeing the place the homeless Veteran has in this book as well. Amber is out to solve another murder and keep her village quiet and safe. She may irritate a few others in the process and many will still be in danger.

I rate this book a definite 5 stars! I was on the edge of my seat and I never figured out who committed the crime until it was revealed in the book.

I received a free pdf version of this book from netgalley in exchange for my honest review.

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## OpenBookSociety.com says

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/mu...>

Brought to you by OBS reviewer Kayt

Murder Tightly Knit is the second in An Amish Village Mystery. It can be a stand alone read although the first is just as good and worth the time for sure. The quaint town of Middlebury, Indiana has a mix of Amish and English and they truly work together. Village manager Amber Bowman is delightful and the glue that holds the village together. Her young coffee shop manager, Hannah Troyer is Amish and has the town's citizens in her best interest. When young Amish man is found dead, these two work together to get to the bottom of his demise.

Word comes that the deceased Owen Esch was interested in joining a local survivalist group and that brings in a federal investigator. Amber and Hannah work together so things can settle down again. They know it has to be someone not from the town. They know no one would hurt anyone or anything. With the surprise appearance of Jessie (Hannah's boyfriend)'s brother, he becomes the number one suspect. They have to hurry to find the killer before things really get bad.

When the truth comes out, it is a surprise for everyone. The mystery in Murder Tightly Knit is well written and suspenseful. Vannetta Chapman's writing style is smooth and enjoyable. I love Amish mysteries and her books are among the tops. The characters are well written and well developed. The town is pleasant and inviting. Newly married Amber is a joy to read about. The courting of Hannah and Jessie is adorable and romantic. This is truly a pleasant and enjoyable read.

I would recommend this series and this book to anyone who enjoys Amish mysteries, cozy mysteries and pleasant, well written novels. The interaction of Amish and English is engaging. Murder Tightly Knit is a delightful Amish mystery, full of wonderful characters, action and intrigue. This lovely novel is a hit for anyone who enjoys a good cozy too. I am anxiously awaiting the next in this wonderful series.

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## Ivonne Rovira says

Seventeen-year-old Owen Esch, newly returned to the village of Middlebury, Ind., has decided to join the church of his Amish forebears. However, he apparently had one more *Englisch* (non-Amish) concern. He's murdered while making an early-morning call on his cellphone while on a desolate wooded path. Fatally shot with an arrow, Owen's death cast suspicions on the Amish who live cheek-by-jowl with their *Englisch* neighbors and colleagues.

Hannah Troyer, young and Amish, and Amber Bowman, Hannah's 45-year-old *Englisch* boss, begin to nose around Esch's death. Amish Mary Weaver received Esch's last phone call while she was working at The Cat's Meow, the village's knitting shop; however, Mary's hiding something, and her behavior's quite odd. (Although shouldn't that be The Sheep's Bleat or something? What do cats have to do with knitting? Unless to chase the skeins of yarn?) At the same time, an FBI agent suspects that a local survivalist militia might

have had a hand in Esch's death. So who killed Esch at daybreak on that cool, crisp morning?

Sounds intriguing, right? Well, no, not so much. The title *Murder Tightly Knit* must have been meant ironically because a tight Amish cozy this is not. The book, at 372 pages, would have been much improved with the elimination of the subplot involving the black-sheep brother of Hannah's beau. For literally half the book, Jesse Miller broods and worries about whether his older brother Andrew, who has abandoned the Millers time and time again, is really home to stay. The cardboard-character Andrew Miller clearly is an attempt — albeit unsuccessful — to add some much-needed tension to this meandering novel. And the constant melodramatic references to a murder the previous spring were simply annoying: "It was a fine fall day. [Hannah] was not going to spend it hashing the events of Ethan's death yet again." **Don't believe her!** She and everybody else in this novel can't *stop* shuddering, whispering, and shaking their heads over that terrible, terrible murder last spring. Such a thing to happen in their peaceful Amish town! And how foolish they were to trust an unnamed somebody! But *Gotte'swille*, we'll all get through! Sheesh! I would refuse to read the first book in the Amish Village series, *Murder Simply Brewed*, simply to spite the author, but I wouldn't have had to anyway, since Vannetta Chapman drops hints the size of elephants as to what happened, so I don't need to. Chapman clearly thought she'd pique her readers' interest in the debut book so much they'd have to buy it; instead, the constant carping almost made me give up on *this* book — forget about picking up the first one!

Chapman could also use a primer on pacing and characterization in novels. Chapter 47 ends with the discovery of the identity of the murderer— really, the only good part of *Murder Tightly Knit*. Does Chapman build on that? Of course not! Chapter 48 picks up *two weeks later* and deals not with the mystery, but with one of the main characters, Amber Bowman, philosophizing on the evil in the world — even in peaceful Amish country! — and on how much she loves God and her husband. Then there are updates on what's happened, lots of telling since that's easier than showing. As to characterization, the FBI agent, introduced to try to add some tension to the novel, is more cardboard than a cereal box. FBI agents can be stubborn and they can be evil; however, they're not utterly clueless like Ronald Shaw. And when a character exists in a novel merely to be annoying (Shaw advances the plot not at all), a good editor should have prevailed on the author to excise him.

Lastly, I understand that Christian fiction will involve frequent invocations of God. However, while I accepted — and expected — frequent references to *Gotte'swille* from the Amish, the religiosity of the *Englischers*, no matter how devout, was simply unrealistic. And I found offputting the heartfelt relief that African-American Pam Coleman (another cardboard character) did not subscribe to any charismatic denomination, surely included to reassure Chapman's white target audience. Actually, it was offensive. And dissing Pentecostals, who might actually overlook this book's flaws, seems short-sighted on Chapman's part.

At 200 or 250 pages, with the subplot involving prodigal son Andrew Miller, FBI agent Ronald Shaw, and the drumbeat of horror over the murder from *Murder Simply Brewed* eliminated and a good editor to help Chapman work on pacing, this could have been a tight, nicely paced cozy; instead, the glacial pace, the meandering plotting, the relentless religiosity even from the *Englischers*, and the — *dum! dum! dum!* — melodrama over last spring's murder doom this novel to mediocrity.

Skipping *Murder Simply Brewed* in no wise interfered with my following the storyline, but perhaps readers who read the first book first might enjoy *Murder Tightly Knit* more than I did. But I doubt it.

In the spirit of full disclosure, I received this ebook from NetGalley and Zondervan Fiction in return for an honest review.

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## Elsi says

When Owen Esch is murdered on Pumpkinvine Trail near Amish Artisan Village, suspicion falls on several people in the town of Middlebury, Indiana. As police struggle to discover who committed the murder, Amber Bowman and Hannah Troyer set out to discover exactly why Owen was killed and why he was calling Mary Weaver at the Village's yarn shop just before he died. After Andrew Miller is arrested, Amber and Hannah put their heads together, following clues and using their knowledge of the both the Amish and *Englischer* communities to free Andrew and identify the real killer.

When I requested a review copy, I didn't realize that it is the second book in Vanetta Chapman's Amish Village Mysteries series. Although I have a very strong preference to read books in order, it turns out that this book works well enough as a stand-alone. There are references to a murder which occurred in the prior book, but the reader is not left confused or wondering about the relationships between the characters. (Which can happen when you jump into the middle of an established series.)

***Murder Tightly Knit*** has several things going for it. At its core, this is a cozy mystery where the author does everything right. Author Vanetta Chapman tells a wholesome story, which is to be expected coming from a publisher of Christian fiction. There are references to faith and church and the Bible and God, but it's all done with a light hand and I didn't find it the least bit intrusive. And, you might even find ***Murder Tightly Knit*** shelved with the romance novels, though the romance is a slowly simmering undercurrent to the main storyline. With all that said, read it for the mystery.

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## Tina Watson says

Murder Tightly Knit is an on-your-toes page-turner till the end!

I have read Vannetta Chapman's non-mystery Amish books, but this was the first time for me reading one of her Amish mystery books. I for one am not much on reading mysteries but Vannetta Chapman has changed that for me. I look to read her Amish mystery books in the future.

Yes, I read Murder Tightly Knit out of order in this series, Amish Village Mystery. I was not lost in being able to follow along in reading Murder Tightly Knit.

Murder Tightly Knit is a mixture of Amish and Englisch, a person who is not Amish, characters living and working in the same town. A few citizens are involved in Vannetta Chapman's fictional Amish murder mystery, whether it's murderer itself, solving the mystery, law enforcement, victims, witnesses, co-workers, family members, etc. The famous questions Who? and Why? will be answered in this edge-of-your-seat-page-turner!

I received a free complimentary copy through NetGalley in exchange for my honest review. This review is one hundred percent my opinion.

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## **Barbara Thompson says**

I love Murder Tightly Knit and it's a fabulous book. The realism of the characters and situations added with great details and descriptions made me feel I was part of the storyline. No matter how hard I tried, I could not figure out what was ahead, who did it, and was surprised at the end. I also enjoyed the sweet romance happening in the book. I've always loved and enjoyed reading Author Vannetta Chapman's books, but Murder Tightly Knit brought her writing up to a new level for me. I highly recommend reading this book. If you haven't read any of this author's books, you are missing some fabulous books and reading one of the greatest authors. I'm looking forward to the next book.

I received a complimentary copy from the publisher and author in exchange for my honest review. This review is one hundred percent my opinion.

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## **Elizabeth says**

Murder Tightly Knit ( An Amish Village Mystery book 2 )

By: Vannetta Chapman

Wow, when I think Vannetta Chapman has written her best, then she comes alone and pours us another one even better. Its like the first cup of espresso coffee is good , but the next one is even better. She mixes mystery, Amish, English, yarn, and even romance all together to give us the perfect blend. When you start reading Murder Tightly Knit you do not want to put it down till the last page. You will meet several of the same characters that you met in Murder Simply Brewed. Vannetta starts you off on your toes as a murder happens at the first. A body , Owen Esch is found dead on the Pumpkin Vine Trail in Middleburg Indiana. Now this is one of Middleburg's Amish. All is wondering who could have killed Owen. Everything points to one of their own. The police have suspect and is arrested. Amber Wright is the manager of The Amish Village and Mary Weaver runs The Cat's Meow Yawn Shop. Mary is acting really strange. Andrew Miller has just returned to Middleburg after being gone for a while. Jesse is Andrew's brother and he is not to happy with Andrew coming home. Amber Wright and Hannah Troyer just can't sit around and not do anything with a killer on the loose, and the killer could be one of their own people. They have got to help find the killer. There are several people whom lives are in danger because of Owen's death. So grab you a cup of coffee or soda and prepare to read for awhile. Vannetta will keep you guessing who the killer is till the right page is read. Loved Murder Tightly Knit and can't wait for the next book in the series, Murder Freshly Baked.

I was given a copy of this book by the publisher, Zondervan and the author for my honest review, which I have given.

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## **Nike Chillemi says**

The main characters are very well developed, and so are a number of secondary characters. Good job there. The author really knows the Amish setting and culture. The story opens with an ghastly crossbow murder and I was hooked. We have two women amateur sleuths, one Amish (Hannah) and one Englisher (Amber, non Amish). I liked both characters. The story was a bit slow for me, but then again it's a mystery set in Amish country...not in an urban setting where detectives pound the pavement.

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## Jalynn Patterson says

### About the Book:

In a town where Amish and Englisch mingle every day, a grisly murder leads to mutual suspicion. Can Amber and Hannah find the killer before fear unravels the community . . . or he strikes again?

Even before she heard of Owen Esch's death, Hannah Troyer knew something was amiss at The Cat's Meow yarn shop. The store has been closing at odd times, the ever-dependable Mary isn't always at her post . . . and an Englisch man has been seen loitering around back.

Now, as leaves of brown, gold, and orange blanket Middlebury, Indiana, Owen lies dead on the Pumpkinvine Trail. The only clues to the murderer's identity point in two very different directions—one of them leading right to The Cat's Meow.

The police call in a federal investigator, but Hannah and Village manager Amber Bowman are in no mood to wait for them to figure out what they already know—that no one from the Amish Village could have killed Owen Esch.

Amber and Hannah will need to work quickly to solve the murder mystery and bring harmony back to the Amish community.

### About the Author:

Vannetta Chapman is author of the best-selling novel *A Simple Amish Christmas*. She has published over one hundred articles in Christian family magazines, receiving over two dozen awards from Romance Writers of America chapter groups. In 2012 she was awarded a Carol Award for *Falling to Pieces*. She discovered her love for the Amish while researching her grandfather's birthplace of Albion, Pennsylvania. Visit Vannetta's website: [www.vannettachapman.com](http://www.vannettachapman.com) Twitter: @VannettaChapman Facebook: VannettaChapmanBooks

### My Review:

As with all of Vannetta Chapman's previous murder mysteries, we are eased into suspense and intrigue somewhat slowly after the murder takes place. The concentration being on getting down to the business of locating the killer and figuring out the motive. In *Murder Tightly Knit*, we are once again drawn into this community. In the beginning, you really sense the true spirit of love and friendship. The Amish and the English alike work side by side, usually in a good, amicable fashion. But what is astounding, is that even in a very close knit community such as this one there is still evil lurking about around every corner.

It seemed like a somewhat average day, the day that Owen Esch decided to go on a hunting excursion just before work, but unbeknownst to him, today he would draw his last breathe. The death scene in my opinion was quite sad in this addition to the series. I was hoping that Owen wouldn't die, so I wasn't so thrilled with him being the victim. But I read on and as always with all of Vannetta's books she transports you to somewhere unknown and before long you are family as well, when you read of the lives of the characters she creates. I love how she is able to take you right to the heart of the story and involve the reader in the lives of

her characters. It takes real talent as a writer to accomplish this.

There is also some other strange happenings that we are soon made aware of as Mary keeps meeting with a strange man and noone knows him or knows why she is so secretive lately. But just like always we have two ladies that don't want to sit around and wait for the police to get on board, so Amber and Hannah set to work to solve this mystery.

**\*\*Disclosure\*\*** This book was sent to me free of charge for my honest review from the author and through my participation on Vannetta Chapman's Street Team.

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## **Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower) says**

If you're like me and you sometimes think (for a millisecond or two) about trying to solve one of those "Unsolved Mysteries" or "Disappeared" cases on your own, then you're going to love these books!

One thing I enjoyed so much about Murder Simply Brewed was the friendships between the Englisch (non-Amish) and the Amish residents of the area. It's even better in Murder Tightly Knit since these relationships are much more established after the events in book one. A wonderful reminder that we don't have to remain isolated from each other simply because we worship differently.

I just love these characters, and I am happy to say that unless they were killed off or arrested in book one they are all back in Murder Tightly Knit :) Elizabeth, Amber's secretary, gets a little more page time in this book, as does formerly homeless veteran Preston, and I could not be happier! Also Amber's new assistant manager Pam is a hoot, and these three make excellent additions to the "regular cast" that we met in Murder Simply Brewed.

The mystery will keep you on the edge of your seat and have you second-guessing your own Sherlocky skills from beginning to end (well, at least until the point where Amber herself knows whodunit). The romance is sweet and gentle and honorable - everything that's good about love. Murder Tightly Knit is a delightfully cozy mystery that celebrates faith, friendship, and romance. The series is a must-read for any one who loves Amish novels or mysteries.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for my honest review.

Read my full review here: <https://readingismysuperpower.wordpress...>

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## **Janice says**

I read this on the kindle

This is the 2nd book in the series

I enjoyed this as it had a good plot you wasn't sure if people were as they say I liked the way in it that the

murderer gave their thoughts without letting you know who it was

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## **Victor Gentile says**

Vannetta Chapman in her new book, “Murder Tightly Knit” Book Two in the Amish Village Mystery series published by Zondervan gives us another adventure with Amber Wright and Hannah Troyer.

From the back cover: In a town where Amish and Englisch Mingle every day, a grisly murder leads to mutual suspicion.

Can Amber and Hannah find the killer before fear unravels the community . . . and before he strikes again?

Even before she heard of Owen Esch’s death, Hannah Troyer knew something was amiss at The Cat’s Meow yarn shop. The store has been closing at odd times, the ever-dependable Mary isn’t always at her post . . . and an Englisch man has been loitering around back.

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Amber and Hannah need to work quickly to solve the murder mystery and bring harmony back to the Amish community.

Welcome back to Middlebury, Indiana and The Amish Village where it is peaceful and quaint and everyone lives together amicably. Well, normally, that is, when there isn’t a murder. Amber and Hannah have their hands full with this one. Owen was killed with a crossbow arrow through his chest. This is quite a mystery. The police have a suspect, in jail, but that can’t be right, can it? There definitely is a murderer on the loose and if he is not stopped then there will be more murders soon. And, somehow, it all points to someone in the community, but who? “Murder Tightly Knit” is going to keep you flipping pages as you get involved with this mystery and try to figure out who the murderer really is. Ms. Chapman has done an outstanding job in giving us a first class mystery where she really puts Amber and Hannah through their paces. I am so looking forward to the next book in this series.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Zondervan for this review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission’s 16 CFR, Part 255: “Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising.”

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