



Falling to Pieces

Vannetta Chapman

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In this first book of a three-book series, author Vannetta Chapman brings a fresh twist to the popular Amish fiction genre. She blends the familiar components consumers love in Amish books—faith, community, simplicity, family—with an innovative who-done-it plot that keeps readers guessing right up to the last stitch in the quilt.

When two women—one Amish, one English—each with different motives, join forces to organize a successful on-line quilt auction, neither expects nor wants a friendship. As different as night and day, Deborah and Callie are uneasy partners who simply want to make the best of a temporary situation. But a murder, a surprising prime suspect, a stubborn detective, and the town's reaction throw the two women together, and they form an unlikely alliance to solve a mystery and catch a killer.

Set in the well-known Amish community of Shipshewana, *Falling to Pieces* will attract both devoted fans of the rapidly-growing Amish fiction genre, as well as those who are captivated by the Amish way of life.

Falling to Pieces Details

Date : Published (first published September 20th 2011)

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Author : Vannetta Chapman

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Kara says

Falling to Pieces by Vannetta Chapman

Review by Kara Grant

to this day, this remains one of my FAVORITE vannetta chapman books!

Not your usual Amish buggy ride! (from the back cover)

My Review

Wow, what a DELIGHTFUL book! I have had the pleasure of getting to know Vannetta Chapman on facebook and have been eager to read her book for a while now. I highly recommend chatting and connecting with authors on facebook. It's a chance to know what they like, how to pray for them, and it's both a treat and a blessing to do so. Falling to Pieces was soooooooo worth the wait for me! It is one of my fave reads for 2012 and one of the best Amish books I've read! Chapman brilliantly brings the Amish and the English together in this cozy mystery from the first page and keeps the reader both intrigued and delighted throughout.

Daisy Powell is enjoying her day with her garden and her dog Max when there's a disturbance nearby and the next thing you know someone finds her dead. However, she is mentioned throughout the story and Chapman keeps her memory alive in such a way that her character is felt in a loving and honorable way. Enter Callie Harper, Daisy's niece, who arrives from Texas to sell the quilt shop she knows nothing about. She is determined to get closure about the aunt she barely knew and get back to Texas to restart her life. Little does she know that God has another plan for her right there in Shipshewana.

Deborah Yoder is the one to find Daisy's body. Now she has to find a way to continue selling her quilts with best friends Melinda and Esther when she hears about Daisy's niece moving in. Will Callie agree to help with this business arrangement or will she really sell the shop?

I love how Deborah and Callie meet and it was lovely watching their friendship develop throughout the story. Callie is broken in so many ways, but as she gets to know this quaint town and its charming community, healing comes in ways she didn't expect. Watching Callie fall in love with Shipshewana, its culture, and the people there was a delightful journey for me to experience. I enjoyed this book in such a way that it literally was a cozy atmosphere for me to read. I felt at home with Callie, Deborah, Esther, and Melinda as if I was there with them trying to place together clues as they do quilts. I laughed with them, I felt their pain and losses, and I understood their reactions to everything.

Chapman has created a story with genuine characters that you immediately fall in love with and don't be surprised if you find yourself cheering for Callie and Deborah along the way! Callie's personality reminded me of Chapman also; they are both loving, humorous and spunky women that will pull you in and keep you wanting more.

There are references to eBay, the internet, and Paul Revere.

This book is not just for those who enjoy Amish fiction. No way...this book is for anyone who loves a good

mystery, unexpected situations, an amazing dog, romance, starting over, friendship, and a community that helps its own and embraces newcomers. I'm soooooo looking forward to A Perfect Square, the sequel, and more of these characters that both entertained me and touched me. I was hurting about something and every time I picked up this book, it was just the story I needed that both encouraged and helped me forget my own little world. Vannetta Chapman blessed me tremendously with this book and I highly recommend it for anyone experiencing changes, adjustments, loneliness, or just a different kind of adventure. You will be pleasantly surprised and when you finish reading, the characters in this story will stay with you as if they'd been your friends all along. Please visit Vannetta Chapman at her website to learn more about her books, her quilting, or just to get to know her better: <http://www.vannettachapman.com/> and <http://www.facebook.com/#!/VannettaCh...>

I want to thank Zondervan for sending me a paperback review copy. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions expressed are my own.

Mayda says

Callie has inherited her aunt's quilt shop in a small Amish community. Her plans to sell the shop are halted, at least temporarily, when an Amish woman and her two friends approach Callie to honor a verbal agreement they had with her aunt to sell their quilts. Quite soon, things begin to happen. The quilt shop is again open and flourishing, the women are becoming friends as they get to know each other, and then the obnoxious local newspaper editor is found dead by Callie, who becomes a person of interest to the police. Callie and her new friends team up to catch the real culprit, but, being amateurs, soon need rescuing themselves. Author Vannetta Chapman has penned a story that combines the Amish community and the English world in a interesting way to produce a delightful and gentle mystery. The first in a series, this entertaining novel will leave the reader wanting to read the next one.

Bev Haynes says

Fantastic Mystery!

What an enjoyable story. The characters felt like they were my friends. The mystery was breath taking and I didn't figure it out until it was revealed.

Kathryn says

A pleasant enough story with a light mystery and likeable characters.

Sarah Price says

I liked Vannetta Chapman's style of writing very much. The story line was different, especially given that it

takes place in an Amish community. It took me by surprise that it wasn't very "Amishy" (by my standards) but that did not detract from my enjoyment of the story. I'll be purchasing more books by Chapman.

Andrea says

Easy to read and enjoy! Enough suspense to keep you guessing! Life is full of changes and doesn't always go the way you think. Sometimes God has better unexpected plans! Callie experienced this as well as finding her new "normal" life. She had a few twists and turns in her path.

Loraine says

I loved this "cozy mystery". The main characters, Esther, Deborah, Melinda, three Amish women, and Callie an Englisher who comes to take over her aunt's quilt shop upon her death, all find themselves involved with the police in mystery, murder, and mayhem. When Callie is accused of the crime, the three Amish friends come to the aid of their new Englisher friend. Looking forward to more "cozy mysteries" from this author.

Laura says

Title: FALLING TO PIECES

Author: Vannetta Chapman

Publisher: Zondervan

September 2011

ISBN: 978-0310330431

Genre: Inspirational/contemporary/mystery

Deborah Yoder is an Amish woman, married, with five children. But she has two friends who are both needy. One has lost her husband, and is relying on the community for support and care, the other has a seriously ill child and needs a lot of money for medical care. Deborah and her friends start stitching quilts which they sell locally at Daisy's Quilt Shop. But then the unthinkable happens and Daisy dies of a heart attack while tending her garden.

Callie Harper has inherited her aunt's quilt shop and that inheritance turns her life upside down. Already reeling from losing her husband and the death of her baby, Callie doesn't want a quilt shop in the middle of Shipshewana, Indiana. She needs to start looking for a new job where she belongs—in Houston, Texas. Callie has no intentions of reopening her aunt's store, and Deborah has no intentions of taking no for an answer.

But then, due to circumstances out of her control, Callie learns she'll sell faster if it's open. Deborah talks her into selling the quilts on eBay. And that move has several in the community upset. But then a murder occurs and Deborah and Callie try to set aside their differences and try to solve the mystery...

FALLING TO PIECES is the first book in Ms. Chapman's Shipshewana Amish Mystery series. Technically, this is not an Amish fiction since the main character is English, not Amish, but there are Amish in there—such as Deborah (and her friends.) I love the setting. I had the opportunity to briefly visit

Shipshewana once, and would love to go again sometime.

Ms. Chapman has a unique idea here, using the popularity of a Amish tourist attraction as a setting for her cozy mysteries. She did keep me guessing with whom the murderer might be, which is a good thing. If you are looking for a mystery to read, then pick up FALLING TO PIECES. Don't judge this book by it's cartoonish cover. An excerpt from her second book in this series, A Perfect Square, is included at the end. \$12.99. 332 pages.

Regina Jennings says

Falling to Pieces by Vannetta Chapman is about Callie Harper, pharmaceutical rep from Houston, who inherits her aunt's quilt shop in Shipshewana, Indiana. Callie knows less about quilting than I do, but the Amish women in town rely on the shop to sell their quilts to the tourists on market days. Completely unfamiliar with the Amish, this thoroughly modern, conceal-and-carry approved woman (if you don't know what that means you aren't from Texas) is surprised to find herself accepted into the community. She's just beginning to fit in when she gets crossways with some residents for selling the quilts on the internet.

And this is where Vannetta Chapman really gets crafty.

This isn't your typical agrarian book where the women stay in the kitchen and on the farm. No, these Amish ladies are entrepreneurs, and when someone is murdered they turn into amateur detectives.

How do the peaceful, non-violent Amish deal with a murderer in their midst? How do they handle neighbors who don't share their ways? I think one of the reasons this book appeals to me is that it shows the cooperation between the Englishers and the Amish. In Chapman's Shipshewana there's no artificial division between Christians. Everyone functions as part of the community.

Although the mystery is solved by the end of the book, I wasn't ready to leave Shipshewana. Thankfully, two more books are planned in this series. Isn't that wunderbaar?

It's come to my attention that the FTC wants reviewers to disclose any connection between themselves and the product being reviewed. I bought this book for full cover-price even though there was a 20% off sale on Saturday. I was that impatient. Vannetta is a friend of mine. We ate lunch together once, but we went Dutch. I'll keep you posted on any other potentially scandalous connections.)

Cindy says

Amish mystery by an author who has done several. Two are audiobooks. I like her writing style. All are available in local libraries.

Carrie Pagels says

Callie is a young widow who comes to Shipshewanna after her beloved aunt dies. Auntie owned a quilt shop and several Amish women are reliant upon her to sell their quilts. One of the women has a significant need for the funds as she has a child with a rare illness. Callie is a spunky woman from a big city in Texas suddenly in small town Indiana. A real fish out of water. But as the story progresses one senses she was a goldfish swimming in the ocean who needed to be in a tank, required the cozy closeness that provided. Lovely job of dropping that into the story over time. The Amish quilters are lovely women, each with distinct voices that are also unlike most other Amish stories I have heard.

Callie hasn't gotten over the loss of her husband, in fact doesn't even share this with her new friends until very late in the book. She is an endearing character despite her prickly behavior, which furthers the story line, especially when she becomes the prime suspect in a murder. This is not a romance but there are a couple of romantic possibilities. By the end of the story we have a real possibility for a boyfriend in the next book, which I am looking forward to reading/listening to!

This was a great Christmas season listen because it a) has an easy tempo b) has an excellent narrator (amazingly she sounds almost exactly like the real Vannetta Chapman!) c) it's like having a girlfriend in your room with you telling you the story d) while it is a suspense/mystery it has a cozy feel and is not knuckle whitening – I mean who needs that this time of year? It has a soothing quality to it despite the suspense and the murder mystery. It may be one of the first women's fiction reads I've read in a long time, but Vannetta's book almost defies genres.

I plan to listen to this book again sometime as I really liked it and it has the qualities of a repeat listen - great voice, characterization, and pleasing story line.

Bibliotherapy: Loneliness, estrangement, grieving, child with a rare disease, and friendships.

Formats: I listened through <http://audible.com> and it is available in paperback, ebook (e.g., Kindle), and audio.

Susan says

Excellent. Can't wait to read more books by this author. I really enjoyed the friendship between the Amish characters and the Englisher. I would love to live in a world like this.

Chrissy♥Dev says

This is a book that i wouldnt normally pick up to read, since i won it i decided to give it a try. Man did i ever judge a book by its cover. because it said Amish i thought it would be boring by i surprisingly wrong. This book was full of adventure, excitement and a lot of action and drama.I am so glad that i won this book on Goodreads, it helped me open up my horizons on different types of books.

Summary:

Callie Harper moves to Shipshewana not for a new life but to fix up and move things after her aunt dies. What she doesn't expect is the hospitality and the new friends she will come to care for. When she moves there she wants to leave as soon as possible, Callie questions how people can live without cell phones and cars. Until she meets Deborah and she changes her perspective on life for an Amish. Since Callie is the new stranger in town all eyes are on her, people wonder who she is? Deborah first befriends her because she wants her to keep the quilt shop open so the proceeds will help her friends. When Callie and Deborah decide to auction the quilts on Ebay, the news paper editor in town Mr. Stakehorn belittles her shop and says that she tries to convert the Amish and change their ways. When Callie confronts Stakehorn they get into an argument where she tries to get a retraction. Later that night Callie goes to meet Stakehorn at the newspaper gazette and finds him dead. Now the police and people in Shipshewana community think she is the killer. Now her and Deborah must find out who the killer is to save her shop and clear her name.

Cathy Daniel says

I read this book in one day! I could not put it down. I love the characters & the storyline (also appreciated it wasn't gruesome even for a murder mystery) but oh this is so much more than a mystery! It's about friendship & God's will & the good things He has ahead for us :) I love the potential for romance that it ended with and I have my definite opinions on that! Oh and I also loved how spunky Callie is. She's no wimp! I can't wait to start #2!

Samantha says

I'm still not sure why Christian fiction so heavily features the Amish. Is it so hard to envision a life dedicated to God with the inclusion of electricity? Anyway, Shipshewana, where this series takes place, is just down the road from where I live, so I took the bait.

Sure, there is a little too many facts about Shipshewana and Amish lifestyle forced into awkward dialogue, but I had few other issues with this story. The narrator was actually my biggest difficulty. The prologue of this book begins with an elderly resident of Shipshewana who witnesses the beginning of a crime before she dies of a heart attack. The voice of the narrator fits this character perfectly. Unfortunately, the rest of the book features said lady's 27 year-old niece who comes to take over her estate. I couldn't get out of my head that I was listening to an old lady's voice until something jarring would happen, like a young guy flirting with her.

Along with the typical cozy mystery stuff, the main character, Callie, is dealing with more than the loss of her elderly aunt. It is slowly revealed that she has encountered much loss and grief in her life and has never known how to handle it. Instead, she has buried it deep beneath a tough Southern girl exterior. She comes from Houston & isn't quite sure what to make of Shipshewana, which is like no other town with its Amish population and crowded market days.

Debra is an Amish woman who immediately befriends Callie due to her previous relationship with her aunt. Most Amish novels give one the feeling that all Amish are happier, more devout, and all around better people than us Englishers, but I didn't get that quite as much from this. Debra has a gas powered washing machine and refrigerator and doesn't come across quite as 18th century as some Amish characters.

An enjoyable light read, Falling to Pieces made me want to read more and find out how stubborn but broken Callie is put back together.
