



A Winter Heart

Annette Blair

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A WINTER HEART, A Sexy Amish Historical Novella

Hannah Peachy has nurtured a winter heart since she lost her family in a carriage accident she caused. Caleb Skylar struggles with the horror of his wife's suspicious death, and his six-year-old daughter's memory-induced nightmares. When Caleb aimlessly pulls up stakes and leaves his home forever, Anyah Peachy, the spirit of Hannah's earthbound twin, leads him straight to Hannah. But how can two bruised souls accept love as a reward for their transgressions?

First appeared in the anthology *The Mammoth Book of Ghost Romance* under the title "Jonquils in the Snow"

A Winter Heart Details

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From Reader Review A Winter Heart for online ebook

Tom Elder says

Annette Blair. Amish

A Winter Heart.

This religion has always intrigued me why? I don't know maybe because of their simple way of life and the fact that they help each other through the hard times. Hannah has lost her husband and the rest of her family, she meets up with Caleb and his daughter Susie, he lost his wife in mysterious circumstances . Can these two lost souls have a future together, can Hannah bring up Calebs six year old daughter. This story will brighten up your heart and soul.

4 stars. 13 November 2014.

Jane says

What I enjoyed the most in *A Winter Heart* was the way the author dealt with the grief of both main characters and Susie. Yes they were Amish and had certain beliefs but they were also two people that had suffered the anguish of the death of a spouse and in her case her twin sister and unborn child. Caleb was dealing with the way his child of five deals with grief from the loss of her mother.

When they started talking about the people that had passed and the guilt caused by the deaths; they found they could help each other, as they understood what the other one felt and had suffered. Add the ghost of Hannah's twin, her angry father, the bishop and lots of love for a good story.

Dottie says

I received this book as an ARC of the "Once Upon a Bride" Anthology in exchange for my honest review

Caleb Skylar is running from his past. He pulls up stakes and moves to the small town of Sugar Creek Ohio with his young daughter. Hannah Peachy has been mourning the loss of her family for two years. Can these two people find redemption and love?

I have to admit that I was a bit skeptical at first. After all, how many "sensual Amish romances" are there really? How many of those are truly enjoyable? This author tells a convincing story. I give it 3/5 stars only because the storyline could have used a little more development. I would've liked to have read more about these characters. This story could've easily been adapted for a full length novel.

Kathleen Fitting says

A romance novel.

The story line of the book was very interesting. I did not like how she wrote in-depth about the sexual

aspects of it. I do not feel that this is how the Amish feel about it.

Kathy Bunbury says

Poignant, beautiful story of love and loss

Simply, but beautifully written in keeping with the Amish background and the period in which this takes place. I liked the easy way this story unfolds, but felt the sadness and guilt of both characters. I think I will look for more books in this genre and by this author.

Sandra says

A short novella that I couldn't put down. Living near the Amish, and knowing several as friends, this book shows more than what most people think about them. A warm, loving romance, while sensual shows the Amish do have wonderful marriages, despite the strict life they live. There are exceptions, some times, but you wouldn't know it. Being a reader of Amish fiction, I really enjoyed reading Annette Blair's book, and look forward to others. A gentle and heart-warming read!

From Amazon:

A WINTER HEART, A Sensual Amish Historical Novella.

1873, Ohio Amish Settlement, Sugarcreek. The ghostly spirit of Hannah Peachy's identical twin leads a lost widower and his child to her sad sister's door. Hannah Peachy has nurtured a winter heart since her family died in a buggy accident she believes she caused. Caleb Skylar struggles with guilt over his wife's death and his six-year-old daughter's memory-induced nightmares. Can two bruised souls accept love as a reward for their transgressions?

Lynda says

This is a novella book and I now know that if I ever see the word "Sensual" along with Amish to skip and not read.

According to the author she "researched" the Amish, "interviewed" the Amish, "walked with them", ... All the verbs were past tense. She also writes "*I didn't know about the Christian Romance Market, so I wrote Sensual Amish Historical Romances, where love between a man and a woman is expressed.*" I believe you get what she means by *expressed* .

I had skipped over several free temporarily books on Amazon marked Amish Sensual Romance but finally decided to try one. I won't be trying another.

Be aware that below is a spoiler.

I give it two stars because she writes pretty well. I liked the idea of these main characters in the book and it wasn't until Caleb, supposedly a strong Amish man of faith who would do anything for his daughter, came up with how he will persuade Hannah to marry him. Actually he has to come up with a way to get her father,

the Bishop, to okay the marriage.

The idea is so anti-Amish, I wonder who Ms. Blair talked to in the Amish community. He tells her father on a Sunday when the church service is about to be held that Hannah is pregnant. By him. Hannah has to do a kneeling confession. I really had a big problem with this solution as this is one sin that can definitely be called for a shunning of both parties. And Caleb is new to the community. Hannah's father is so strict and always has been. Caleb knows this. It's just a stupid thought that a strict parent is going to overlook this.

In the same service where they are "forgiven" and then MARRIED without bans. Her big punishment. She can't have a wedding dinner. Really???

She & Caleb with his daughter drive home with just a little stop on the way where Caleb does a frontal "grabbie" WITH HIS DAUGHTER IN THE BUGGY! Oh please! Then they team up to get this little girl who hasn't slept through the night for two years go fall asleep. Hannah is going to show her how to make cookies, cook a great big wedding feast, and clean house.

ALL THIS ON A SUNDAY! The Amish do not work on Sunday. They do not cook on Sunday. By this time I was skimming the rest of the novella.

What the author has done is write a standard heavy *sensual* romance novel and use the Amish as her characters. Apparently she thinks using some German words, putting Hannah as the one-room Amish schoolteacher, driving in buggies. Writing an Amish romance book is more than that. These two people are Amish. Both have taken their "vows". Both have been hurt tremendously by the death of their prior spouses who never loved them.

That does NOT mean they've thrown out the Ordnung with the dirty dish water.

Sarah says

This story was really too short to feel a strong attachment to either Caleb or Hannah. Their past marriages were certainly tragic and made them understandably shy of committing again but the relationship wasn't well developed at all--clearly rushed. Nothing was ever clearly resolved with Susie's nightmares/screaming tendencies nor was there any explanation on Hannah's father's kindness at the end.

Thom Swennes says

Caleb Skylar flees with his daughter Susie after the death of his wife as the memories and ghosts of the past become too much for him. He is being guided by the mysterious vision of a prancing and twirling young girl. He doesn't understand the apparition but is nevertheless comforted by it. She leads him westward from his abandoned home in Pennsylvania to (hopefully) a new one in Ohio. When his hallucination stopped at Dovercrest Farm, he knew this would be their new home. Hannah Peachy, also of the Amish, wants to sell her farm for the same reasons Caleb fled from his; bad memories. She too had recently buried the two only worthwhile people and the farm (indeed the entire community) served as a constant daily reminder of her loss. When Caleb and Hannah meet, the reader is in no doubt that the two are meant for each other; the only task yet remaining is to convince them of the obvious. The mystery, wholesomeness and old world values of the Amish are tastefully exposed and presented. Love, loss and guilt are the driving forces behind this beautiful domestic story. In the time setting of the tale (1873) the lifestyle differences with the outside world

are not as radical as today. The same can be said for the family values. I find the story both refreshing and inspirational and feel sure many others will share my opinion. A Winter Heart is sure to work its magic on all that read it.

Anna says

The actual story ended at about 65% on my kindle, making this more of a short story than a novella, I think. And, for once, I think it could have used a bit more space --- everything happened awfully quickly.

That said, I really enjoyed what was there. Just like many of us wouldn't want to read historical fiction that hasn't had the racism and other issues of the day removed, most Amish books are too Christian for my taste. (Yes, you can laugh now, Heather.) This more mainstream version was much enjoyed.

Michelle (Champ) says

I liked the story, I did. What I didn't like was the setting. This did not need to be Amish. It needed to be set in the 1800's or something like that. I did not think the characters spoke (most of the time) like Amish.

If you want a quick love story this is it. There is a sex scene, just so you know.

Betty Strohecker says

This is the first story I've read by Annette Blair, and I really liked it. It is listed as an Amish historical because it is set in 1873. After the tragic death of his wife, Caleb Skylar pulls up stakes and travels from Pennsylvania to Ohio with his six year old daughter who has terrible nightmares about losing her mother. Hoping to start a new life and put aside bad memories, Caleb arrives at a farm house where he feels led to stop. After knocking on the door and getting no answer, he sees a woman kneeling in a graveyard across the way. There he meets Hannah Peachy who has suffered the loss of her family in a carriage accident that she feels she caused. Hannah is selling the farm and has moved to a small house down the hill. Caleb is so drawn to this home that he immediately offers to buy it. So begins the relationship of two people struggling to overcome personal tragedy, forgive themselves, and find hope in the future.

Although this was a short novella, Blair quickly brings the reader into the story and makes you care about these characters. Their story is simply, but believably told with heartfelt emotion. I didn't want to put it down. One annoying aspect was the mix up of names and times on a number of occasions - examples : Hannah's last name and two weeks for two months. It happened enough to be bothersome, but was easily corrected in my mind. I would encourage better editing and hope such errors are not indicative of Blair's work, as I would like to read more by her. I did not let these mistakes affect my rating.

NRuffo says

This was my first Amish read. I enjoyed the story and the depth of the characters. I liked the love and care that Caleb and Hannah showed toward Susie and each other. Both having experienced loss, they were able to

grasp the emotions and needs of the other. I got a little irritated with the choppiness of some of the conversations, especially in the first chapter. It seemed to smooth out a little towards the end. Maybe it's the dialect?

I received a free review copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Dianne says

This book was good as a novella however would have been great had it been a full length novel. I think this book would have been incredibly good if it had been longer, giving the author more time for character development and the storyline. Nevertheless I did enjoy this book. It was a sweet romance with an equally sweet HEA ending.

VELMA JOHNSON says

This is the third book of the author's I have read, and each one of her books make me enjoy her writing more.
