



Called to Be Amish: My Journey from Head Majorette to the Old Order

Marlene C. Miller

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Called to Be Amish: My Journey from Head Majorette to the Old Order Marlene C. Miller

Fewer than one hundred people have joined the Old Order Amish and stayed since 1950. Marlene C. Miller is one of them. In this rare memoir, Marlene recounts her unhappy and abusive childhood, how she throws herself into cheerleading and marching band, and how she falls in love with Johnny, the gentle young Amish man who helps her lace her ice skates. Against the wishes of both sets of parents, Marlene and Johnny get married and begin a family. Follow the author on this unusual journey to find out how God's love called her out of bitterness and depression and into the warm embrace of her new Amish community. Accompany her as she dons an Amish dress and prayer covering and gets baptized. Learn how she endures the strain of ten children, a hundred-acre farm, and accidents and tragedy, and find out how she comes close to walking away from it all. Turning Amish has proven to be anything but plain and simple for this former majorette. But nearly fifty years later, Marlene is still living out God's call as an Old Order Amish woman. "

Called to Be Amish: My Journey from Head Majorette to the Old Order Details

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From Reader Review Called to Be Amish: My Journey from Head Majorette to the Old Order for online ebook

Eve says

Disturbing. Marlene left abuse to be abused by a closed cult like Old Order Amish community. I felt terrible for her 10 children and both her and her husband. Pressured by family tradition, love of her husband, whose relatives would not accept Marlene, nor their son, she converted to a life of hardship, guilt, children raising other children, horrible accidents, basically living in the dark ages with so many rules, it took her years to learn them.

Marlene may have thought she shared her love of God, but all I saw was a hard, horrible cult whose treatment of children and women is deplorable.

I am from Northern Indiana, near Elkhart, Goshen, Shipshewanna, Nappanee, and have know several children of "ex" Amish, who choose to love and marry outside the Amish community and to seek education past 8th grade. They never joined the church so were not banned, but their family was never accepted. Is that God's love? Really? Marlene loved her high school years, being in a band, baton and her life. She would deny all her children possible joy of life not subjected to toil and guilt. Sad and disturbing on so many levels.

Deanne Patterson says

When head cheerleader Marlene starts dating Amish man Johnny she never imagines she would become an Amish woman herself. After dating Johnny for 3 years Marlene marries Johnny at age 17.

This is a nonfiction book telling about the transformation from Englisher to Amish woman . Very interesting book about the Amish life of Marlene and Johnny as they raise their 10 children.

Personally I think big families are wonderful my husband and I are raising 12 children ages 24 down to 5 years old.

Tammy Roberson says

Not what I expected

Without spoiling the book for others, I expected more detailed explanation of what being Amish is, how that is different from similar religions, and then what lead to this move.

I felt like this was just a basic autobiography, and I only finished because it was a book club selection. Very disappointed.

Beth says

I received this book from Litfuse Publicity for no charge in exchange for my honest review of this book. The opinions expressed here are my own.

Book Description:

Fewer than one hundred outsiders have joined the Old-Order Amish—and stayed—since 1950. Marlene C. Miller is one of them.

In this rare memoir, Marlene recounts her unhappy and abusive childhood, how she throws herself into cheer leading and marching band, and how she falls in love with Johnny, the gentle young Amish man who helps her lace her ice skates.

Against the wishes of both sets of parents, Marlene and Johnny get married and begin a family. Follow the author on this unusual journey to find out how God's love called her out of bitterness and depression and into the warm embrace of her new Amish community.

Accompany her as she dons an Amish dress and prayer covering and gets baptized. Learn how she endures the strain of ten children, a hundred-acre farm, and accidents and tragedy, and find out how she comes close to walking away from it all. Turning Amish has proven to be anything but plain and simple for this former majorette. But nearly fifty years later, Marlene is still living out God's call as an Old Order Amish woman.

My Thoughts:

Called to be Amish is a wonderful non fiction book by Marlene C. Miller, one of only 75 people allowed to convert to Amish in the United States. As a huge fan of Amish Fiction, I have spent lots of time researching the facts about the Amish life so when this book was offered, I couldn't pass it up. This book is part of a series of books called Plainspoken: Real life stories of Amish and Mennonites, published through Herald Press. This is a real look into the Amish and the journey of Marlene Miller's life from Head Majorette to an Amish wife and mother. Told from Marlene's point of view she opens up about her life from birth until now. She talks about her unhappy childhood and finding herself in doing cheer leading and marching band throughout school. She also goes through her relationship with Johnny, an Amish boy who offers to help her lace her skates at their first meeting. Marlene and Johnny find themselves having a baby and wanting to marry but neither family approves of this. Even with all the differences and cards stacked against them they do marry and from there their lives begin. As they navigate parenthood and marriage, Marlene finds herself bitter and depressed, treating Johnny as Marlene's mother treated her Dad, her, and her siblings. As she stands at the sink with this realization she begs God for help and from there she and Johnny work to come back into the Amish community. Marlene recounts her life with 10 children, a 100 acre farm with animals, hard times, and sad times. She gives her account of her almost leaving the Amish, Johnny, and the children but again God helps Marlene see her life and the good in her life. The journey from English to Amish is not an easy one and Johnny and Marlene's lives were very hard many times throughout their marriage but after 50 years they are still together, living as an Amish couple.

I found this book to be just awesome! Marlene's transparency about her life and her thoughts throughout her life is a huge testimony to God's love and His plan for life. Marlene worked very hard for almost her whole life, struggling through many hardships and perseveres, actually ends up gaining so much. Marlene's story is one of inspiration, her journey to finding God and how she clung to God throughout the good and bad. I found myself completely drawn in with this book from the first page until the last. I laughed and cried through this book, finding inspiration in Marlene's struggles, gains, and her faith. As I read this book I felt like I was there with Marlene watching her life and found myself able to relate to many parts of her life and her feelings. The story is told from Marlene's unique voice and I loved her complete honesty about her life, good and bad. Marlene's faith and trust in the Lord gives me hope. This book spoke to me on many levels and Marlene's story will stay with me for a long time. I am excited and curious about this Plainspoken series, this unique series giving a look into the real life stories of the Amish and Mennonite people. I really hope to read the rest of the books in this series, finding solace in these faithful people. I loved reading Marlene's story and hope to read more from her! I highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys reading and learning about the Amish, you will not be disappointed.

I give this book 5+ STARS.

Sandra Devault says

Called to Be Amish gives a rare glimpse into the life of the Old-Order Amish. Reading this memoir was like sitting down with a cup of coffee and talking to an old friend who you are eager to catch up with. Marlene opens up and deeply shares about her life: The good, the bad, and sometimes the ugly. The questions to the author at the end are a must read - very interesting and informative. There are yummy, must try recipes included as well.

Marlene shares and explains many of the Amish traditions in Called to Be Amish. Her writing is not polished like other authors, however, this gives the memoir authenticity. The reader feels as if they are right in the midst of Marlene's life watching the events as they unfold. She shares her beliefs as if she was having a conversation with you; she is not preachy or trying to convert you to her way of thinking. Marlene is just sharing her story with you. It felt like a privilege to get to read her story.

What shines through in Called to Be Amish is the love of Christ shown by Marlene, her husband, and most of her husband's family. The sacrifices Marlene made to show her love for Christ and how her life changed after her conversion really makes it inspiring and very encouraging. This book inspired me to take a hard look at my life; at what is important and what I am willing to sacrifice for Christ.

I give Called to Be Amish 5 out of 5 stars. With so many television shows and authors who are neither true to the Amish nor their culture, it was refreshing to read a book that accomplished both. You will walk away from this book knowing your life has been enriched by reading it.

Thank you to the Litfuse Chicks for a free copy of Called to Be Amish in return for my honest review. No monetary compensation was received and all opinions stated are my own.

Laura says

First, let me preface this by saying I am not a fan of memoirs. I don't care. I guess I got drawn in by the kapp on the cover of the book and decided to read it. Ms. Miller was a majorette, and we learn every detail she can remember of her life from before she became Amish. The story is rather disjointed as it starts with her getting into her wedding dress and discovering the wedding is off to the story of her birth. It was quite a bit into the book before she shares why Johnny called off the wedding and how they did end up marrying, after all.

I remember years ago, an Amish woman wrote a daily diary for Country Living magazine. The diary entries at the end of this book were interesting and reminded me of the ones that were published in Country Living. I enjoyed reading them, an intimate look at an Amish day from sunrise to sunset. I have no idea if Ms. Miller wrote the ones I remember or not, but they were similar in style and voice to the one included in this book.

If you are interested in the life story of a woman born English who marries an Amish man, the struggles to convert and adjust, and the continued real life difficulty of such a "plain" life, then pick up a copy of

CALLED TO BE AMISH.

Kathleen (Kat) Smith says

Each time I read an Amish book or watch a television show about the Amish, I am in awe of their lifestyle. The simplicity of keeping to their faith, while working hard with the modern conveniences we find in our homes like electricity and air conditioning and the love of their community. While most shows on television portray an exaggerated form of Amish living, most are a far cry from what really goes on. They live their lives much like we do, but their faith is what sustains them in trying times.

In the book, *Called to Be Amish*, author Marlene C. Miller takes readers into what is it like for an English girl raised in an abusive and unloving home and finds love in an Amish young man who laces up her skates once winter day. Knowing the mixing faith cultures that are very different is challenging enough but this true life story is how Marlene eventually made that transition to willingly give up the life she knew living among the English to embrace the Amish way of life. She wasn't pressured into making that decision, since the Amish don't encourage English people to join the Old Amish order unless that can be sure the decision is one made from the heart and not by love for a man.

It shows not only the difficulties on both sides, English and Amish alike that come from learning a new language, a new way of life, and the hard work that truly goes into making a life among the Amish which is far from simple. From learning how to do without modern conveniences like a phone or electricity, to how to learn how to handle driving a horse and buggy, setting up for a home church at your home, dealing with death, and celebrating a wedding. It is far from simply wearing a plain dress, apron and kapp, it is appreciating the life God has chosen for you, accepting God's will for whatever happens in life and never truly being alone because you have the strength of an entire community behind you.

I received *Called to Be Amish* by Marlene C. Miller compliments of Herald Press and Litfuse Publicity for my honest review. I did not receive any monetary compensation for a favorable review and the opinions expressed here are my own personal ones. I loved learning about becoming Amish as my family is quick to remind me of the many times, I have wanted to visit an Amish family and farm for a few days to get a sense of what getting back to basics really means. I treasure their faith most of all as it is one that is lived out with 100% honesty daily. They accept whatever happens in their lives as God's will and they never seek to adopt any of the outside influences of the English changing lifestyle. It is sad to see that not many Amish are left, only 275,000, as most younger Amish are leaving to join the English world now that farming is becoming more challenging and the price of land is growing more expensive than some people can buy as well as limited availability among the growing towns and families. There are some great recipes the author shares at the conclusion of this book and I will be looking for more *Plainspoken Series Books* in the future, written by Amish and Mennonite men and woman about their lifestyles. I rate this one a 5 out of 5 stars in my opinion.

Kav says

An interesting glimpse into the life of an Amish convert. Miller's conversational tone made me feel like I was sitting right there listening as she reminisced about her life. She is frank about everything from her

troubled childhood to the many ups and downs of living Amish for decades. Just reading the harrowing tales about the mischief (and danger!) her children got into on the farm about gave me heart palpitations. The author is certainly made of sterner stuff than I am, that's for sure. And that's what really shone through for me -- Miller's pioneer spirit. That along with her zest for life and love for the Savior.

My thanks to Litfuse Publicity and Herald Press for a review copy of this book.

Melanie says

More about her hard life than about being Amish. Abusive family, difficult circumstances surrounding her marriage, and the hard life of farming with lots of small children. Some things in her story were just odd. Over and over she complains about how poor they always were. Why were they so poor? Her husband worked many jobs and she grew and canned insane amounts. Later she admits they lost their farm, but one of their children bought it back for them. I suspect they were not good with money. At the end she admits "many" of their children left the Amish faith as adults and one of their sons is in prison. Another son died from what sounds like drunk driving, although she implied other mysterious events. And given the abusiveness of her parents, why did she let them watch her children when she had to go to the hospital? Wouldn't she have had lots of other help from her church community? I suspect she never really fit in or was accepted - her kids were bullied at school, she won't speak German because she never really learned it, and she turns to outsiders for help. It's an interesting story, but mostly sad. Oh and then there's a plug for the nutritional MLM she sells!

Kristin says

Suggested Age:13+- I feel this book is teen appropriate. While there is mention of drinking and a pregnancy out of wedlock, neither are glorified in any way. Young girls can learn from this mom's struggles and hopefully walk away with a message of hope and the importance of salvation.

This is a powerful book with a beautiful and heartfelt salvation testimony. You can't help but be touched by the sweet saving grace and mercy of the Lord when you read this memoir. I was very impressed with this woman's account of her background and her story. Not once did she try to convert others into the Amish faith. In fact, she says as much. She never once comes off as being better than thou for having converted to the Amish faith, rather, she is very open about her mistakes and her sins and then her salvation.

Marlene's conversion into the Amish faith came after several years of marriage and the birth of three children. We learn of her personal heartbreak, both before and after her salvation. Most importantly, we learn about the mercy of the Lord and the peace, love, and acceptance that she found in His salvation.

Marlene's heartache didn't end with her salvation but what did change was that her life was made new in Him. No longer was she alone when the hard storms of life came along. She found her solace in the Lord. Honestly, she and Jerry Eicher (who grew up Amish) have one of the best personal salvation testimonies that I have had the pleasure of reading on paper. I don't know how much more simple the love of God could be put into words.

I know enough from reading this book to know that the author would never want personal accolades for this memoir so I will give God the everlasting glory for his enduring mercy and salvation. I hope that you enjoy this book as much as I have and that if you have not yet made a personal relationship in Christ that this book

may help bring you closer to Him. I would say this book is a powerful story of personal triumph but rather, this book is a powerful story of just how much is possible in Christ.

To view more of my reviews please check out my website here

Lorelei says

Interesting and deeply moving

I would recommend this book to anyone interested in the Amish. This is a true story, about real people. So much Amish fiction is more fiction than Amish.

Ibjoy1953 Hannabass says

MY THOUGHTS ON THIS BOOK

Though I have read several books where someone has gone from English to Amish, I've always wondered what it would be like to really go from English to Amish in real life. And this is why I wanted to read this book, because normally I wouldn't read a memoir. Coming from an abusive lifestyle, Ms. Miller steps into the Amish life, a life that is totally different than anything she has ever known. Her story is intriguing, and I got the real insight of what this exchange was like. I do wish it would have been less detailed about Ms. Miller's former English life and more about her life as Amish. But overall, this was an interesting read.

If you enjoy Amish, why not pick up a copy of this memoir to read the real nitty gritty of what it means to be Amish

I received this book from Litfuse to read and 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 55.

Brandon R Burt says

Interesting book

I am glad I read this book. It's interesting to read about someone who chose this life and was not born into it.

Mary says

An interesting view into a different way of life.

Called To Be Amish is a compelling story, and a sincere, interesting look into a way of life I knew little about. While the story jumped around a bit, and the writing was not slick or professional, Marlene's telling

of life as someone learning to be Amish, learning to be a farmer's wife, and learning to do without the conveniences we take for granted, is a charming, worthwhile read.

Kristina says

A very enjoyable memoir.
