



In the Land of Milk and Honey

Jane Jensen

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With its peaceful, hardworking Amish population, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, is a rural paradise. But former NYPD homicide detective Elizabeth Harris knows that evil lurks there—it's just easier to hide...

By solving the murders of two local girls, Elizabeth has gained some trust in the Amish community. So, she's the first person its members turn to when a fast and fatal illness takes hold, though many believe that the sickness stems from a *hexerei*—a curse placed by a practitioner of old-world folk magic. Elizabeth doesn't believe in curses, and when an entire Amish family is found dead, she begins to suspect something far more sinister...

As the CDC is called in to investigate, customers of a Philadelphia farmers market selling Amish raw milk start dying. Amid rapidly escalating panic, Elizabeth must peel away layers of superstition and fear to save the livelihood—and lives—of an entire community. Because what has happened isn't an accident of nature or an act of God, it's the handiwork of someone who has only just begun to kill...

In the Land of Milk and Honey Details

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Author : Jane Jensen

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From Reader Review In the Land of Milk and Honey for online ebook

Ann says

Elizabeth Harris has settled into life with her boyfriend, Ezra. Suddenly a large Amish family is found dead. At first, the flu is suspected but for seven people to die at the same time? Not likely. Elizabeth is selected to look into the problem and deal with the panic which ensues when it is discovered that the family has died from drinking raw milk. The Amish farmers sell their milk to dairies in the area and to families of "English" who choose to drink milk that is not processed. When more and more deaths occur, the state steps in and Elizabeth steps up her search. This was an excellent book. I certainly hope Ms. Jensen continues this series. It is a great one!!

Becky says

This book was an easy read. When I picked it up from the library, I didn't realize it was a book in a series, so I'll have to go back and read the first. The mystery kept me guessing throughout the book, and the ending was great. Initially I picked up the book because of the Amish topic (I love Amish literature!). This book wasn't the typical Amish book that I read because it really didn't have a lot of their beliefs come out, it featured ex-Amish (and happy about it), and the "watcher" was a foul character when it had the "watcher's" perspective. Overall, it's a good read.

Timothy McCluskey says

Somewhat interesting story but characters lack depth and too many trite references - was very disappointed

patricia says

Started this one late at night and had to force myself to go to bed at 0145 AM. Elizabeth Harris is now living with Ezra as he has left the Amish. After one child dies the department doesn't want to call in the CDC. Then an entire family is found dead. Is it a virus? Bacteria? Or something more sinister. But at that point the CDC is called in. To complicate Elizabeth's life the CDC doctor is attracted to her. They work together to discover what is going on as this epidemic spreads to Philadelphia, but is mostly contracted by the Amish in Lancaster county. Jane Jensen writes a spell binding tale of murder, love, and life among the Amish. I could not put In The Land Of Milk And Honey down.

TheGeekyBlogger says

Listened for Fun (Audible)

Overall Rating: 3.75

Story Rating: 4.00

Character Rating: 3.50

Audio Rating: 4.25 (not part of the overall rating)

Quick Thoughts: This is the 2nd book in this series and the mystery was really good. That is where this series shines--the Mysteries. It is a great combo of good old detective work and balance with working in the Amish community where they shy away from the English. I generally stay away from Amish settings but Jane Jensen makes it interesting. I am starting to warm up to Elizabeth and the ending gave me hope that some of the "personal angst" is over. That really is my only complaint but like I said I think most of that is over. I look forward to book 3.

Audio Thoughts:

Narrated By Rachel Fulginiti / Length: 6 hrs and 57 mins

Rachel does a great job with this series. She makes everyone sound natural in their settings from young Amish children to hard-nose detectives. I recommend this series on audio.

Part of my Read It, Rate It, File It, DONE! Reviews

Amisth says

Overall I liked this book, but it left me a little bit disappointed. Kingdom Come, the first book in the series, was definitely better, even with its rushed love story. The events unfold a year later after Elizabeth Harris solved the case about a dead Amish girl, and our main heroine once again had to deal with the incident in the Amish community. Now a whole family was found dead in their home and the reason seems to be a disease, though rare illness can kill such a big family overnight... Though I have no claims regarding the investigation itself, I have some issues about how the story was told. The first book was told from the first person narrative, and the second follows in its steps, but on rare occasions the author is shifting to a third person narrative. If the author wanted to show different points of view of other characters, other scenes where the main character was not present, why didn't she use the third person narrative all the way from the first book? The whole point of the first person narrative is that you see all events from the eyes of the main character, you learn how he or she thinks and reacts, you discover things together with them. It's especially important in a detective story. And though this book is still a page-turner, and I read it pretty fast, I disliked two major points. The first of them I already mentioned, you shouldn't let the audience have more knowledge than the protagonist in these kinds of stories, it ruins the suspense. The second major point is the lack of exposition. While Kingdom Come presented a ton of interesting facts about Amish communities, I didn't learn much about them from this one, except one particular lead that Harris followed, but it was only a small episode. As for minor complaints... For detective fiction there are too much romance and relationship issues involved. Mainly with Ezra. What's worse, it comes merely as an addition to the main plot and everything is resolved too quickly. Also Harris seems to be a real heartbreaker, almost every handsome guy has to make a move at her and it quickly becomes irritating (I thought she didn't care about those things, as was mentioned in Kingdom Come?). I didn't really like the ending too. I got the main idea, but the explanations were lacking and not thorough. I wanted to know more about the killer's personality and motives.

Tracey says

This is the 2nd book in the series. I enjoyed the different angle of this series; 'English' or outsider Detective Elizabeth Harris deals with crimes committed against or within the local Amish communities in Pennsylvania.

The plot was good but I found the characters and their relationships to one another a little wooden and very irregular at times. One case in particular was the attraction of Dr. Glen Turner from the CDC, to Elizabeth. His repeated attempts to get her to date him and go back to DC to live and work was frankly unbelievable. This was going on in the midst of working a serial killer case and after having only known one another through the case for a very short time. This was not needed for the story and detracted from it. For this reason the book only rates 2 stars. Still, I will give the next book a try before dismissing this series.

Patrizia says

Decisamente mi piacciono i gialli ambientati nelle comunità Amish... Per fortuna, non sono la sola e in giro ci sono vari libri che possono soddisfare la mia necessità.

Per quanto riguarda questo volume, la storia gialla è interessante e avevo scartato ben presto il colpevole giusto. In più prosegue la storia d'amore della protagonista, quindi anche la lettrice di romance che c'è in me è rimasta contenta. Spero che ci saranno altri libri in questa serie.

Silvara Wilde says

Check out my other reviews, discussions and link ups at Fantasy of the Silver Dragon.

I received this book for free from Berkley Prime Crime in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

I loved the mystery in this. And I loved the Amish characters too. It made perfect sense that some of them were stubborn, and still drinking the milk even though they knew some in their community had died because of doing that. *THEIR* cow(s) weren't looking or acting sick, so why should they waste food?

We didn't see much of Ezra's family in this, but we did get to interact with Katie's. As well as meet new characters, Amish and English both. There are descriptions of dead people, adults and children in the book. Nothing graphic, things like ages, what color their hair was, how the bodies were found and what they were wearing. A few gross bits like the mucus and such that showed the cows were sick. But if you're sensitive to deaths of children, there were a lot of them killed in this book.

There was almost a love triangle, except that Elizabeth wasn't interested in anyone but Ezra. There was also a bit of angst as Ezra worked through some issues of his own, and I was afraid for a bit that he was going to end up breaking up with Elizabeth.

I guessed who the killer was early on, but dismissed the person because it didn't make sense at the time. And

by "guessed" it was more a "oh look, someone I didn't meet last book, it must be them!" not actually seriously as there are a number of new people in the book. It made a lot of sense that it was that person though, once the reveal happened.

I liked getting to know more about the Amish, and how they lived and worked. Most of the book is crime scene detective work, which I also love, but there were enough sub-plots to make everything feel fleshed out. Once I started reading, I couldn't put the book down. I can't wait to see what's in store for the next book! If you haven't read this series yet, you need to!

This review was originally posted on Fantasy of the Silver Dragon

Becky says

I enjoyed reading this book. Not very often do I pick up murder mysteries revolving around an Amish setting. It was different than most fluffy quick-reads. I thought it was cool how there was a narrative in the perspective of the culprit. I will probably read some more books in this series.

I received this book for free through Goodreads Giveaways. Thank you.

Nikki P. says

This was a really fun read. It has a lot of elements of a story that can hold one's attention: mysterious illnesses, potential foul play, CDC involvement, the Amish and a solid female defective character. This book did exactly what I hoped it would - keep me turning the pages and saying: ok, just a few more pages and then I'll go to bed. The writing is fine but not notable and the characters were a tad bit one note. Still I enjoyed it and I appreciate the research she must have done on the Amish in order to write this story. It was a good window into a community I know nothing about. I recommend for a fun mystery read!

Gordon Lindstrom says

Excellent story I enjoy the backstory of amish life. However, I felt the profanity in the book did not add anything to the story line

Cristin Grenier says

This being the second book in the Detective Harris series, it was as great as the first. I am not sure what drew me into this series based in the Amish Country in Pennsylvania, but I am sure glad I decided to read them. Jensen keeps you guessing until the end. Well worth the read.

Wanda says

I picked this book up at the library because of what seemed to be an interesting premise, and an easy read. An excellent choice! I didn't read the first book in the series, but this one was fine as a stand-a-lone. I've not read anything by this author, but will be checking out the next installment of the series. I really like her style and an enthralling read, indeed! A 5 star rating.

Regan says

This is by far one of the best series that's come out this year. Book 2 was even better than book 1, Kingdom Come. Hopefully it won't be too long of a wait for book 3 to come out. Jensen writes such great characters and builds the mystery with skill.
