



Sarah's Orphans

Vannetta Chapman

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Sarah's Orphans Vannetta Chapman **Orphaned...But Never Abandoned by God**

Sarah Yoder belongs to a Plain community in Oklahoma, but her days are far from simple. Life suddenly gets complicated when a series of tragic events unfold, leaving her in charge of the household.

Alone with her younger siblings, Sarah is exhausted but finally at peace. Then she nearly runs over a small Hispanic boy with her buggy...and somehow finds herself sheltering two more orphans.

Paul Byler moved to Cody's Creek to help his brother in a time of need. But now that Joseph has recovered from his heart attack, Paul's ready for a quiet place of his own. The only problem? His new property lands him next door to the orphaned Yoder family—and a calling from God he can't seem to ignore.

A story of extraordinary grace and love in the face of desperate need, Sarah's Orphans is the third standalone novel in the Plain and Simple Miracles collection by Vannetta Chapman.

Sarah's Orphans Details

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Author : Vannetta Chapman

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From Reader Review Sarah's Orphans for online ebook

Karla says

There is no question that I have thoroughly enjoyed reading every novel written by Vannetta Chapman!! My only complaint, is... that she doesn't write fast enough! I finish one book and it just whets my appetite for another!

"Sarah's Orphans", although part of a series entitled "Plain and Simple Miracles", can be read as a stand alone and thoroughly enjoyed as such. This is a book of hope and finding the best in every situation, even those that challenge us beyond what we think we can handle. Of course, it is faith in God that keeps one going and this book exemplifies this in very emotional times of life. When life takes a plunge down to our deepest despair, we find God waiting to get us back on the right track.

The characters were well described in such a realistic manner that I could easily identify with them. Sarah Yoder was a strong, young woman who exhibited great faith in the darkest hours. For the duration of the story, I lived alongside these characters in their community.

The underlying theme of forgiveness, hope and overcoming barriers is present in some very difficult situations, those that we don't often see addressed within the Amish fiction genre. The topic of adoption , dealing with a different culture, mental as well as physical illness and the horrible feeling of abandonment, were all deal with in a sensitive, understanding manner.

The plot moved quickly , full of action and unexpected twists and turns. My emotions were on a roller coaster ride as I was kept involved in each surprising event , that was just hiding around the corner of the next page!

A great book, exemplifying faith and strength when experiencing the dark periods in life!!!

A five star book!!!!

Jessica Baker (A Baker's Perspective) says

I have enjoyed reading about the people of Cody's Creek and was excited that it was finally time to read Sarah's Orphans. I had high expectations coming in because of my experience with the first two books in this series. Let me say right now that Ms. Chapman did not disappoint me in the least!! In fact, I think this book is my favorite out of the three. Here's why.....

The main storyline was something I have never read. I love reading books that are different. An Amish unmarried woman taking care of two Hispanic children, I wouldn't think of that plot in my wildest Amish reading dreams! Let me tell you a secret...I absolutely loved it! It had a lot of features that a typical Amish book would have, but this twist had me both shocked and amazed. It seemed to have one underlying theme to me - that God loves us all regardless of our race or heritage. I saw that in Sarah in the way she loved those orphans. Sarah set such a wonderful example to us all. I really hope readers see that point!

Vannetta did a wonderful job in portraying Sarah's character. I immediately had empathy for her, but then subtle things happened to make me proud of her, just like a mother. She had a lot of growth during this story and I felt it was at just the right pace. In fact I think Sarah surprised even herself at times! A good storyteller can really capture the spirit of a character you can connect with and I felt this connection easily with Sarah.

What Amish story would be a story without a love interest? Of course I liked Paul's character as well and found him very entertaining at times. I appreciated how slow their relationship was throughout the book. I felt Sarah really needed to concentrate on her own problems, and caring for the two orphans, not concentrating on a love interest. By the last third of the book, however, I was really rooting for them even though I understood the timing wasn't right.

Overall I thought this was a fantastic book. You do not necessarily have to read the other two books first, but I recommend it so you know the back story for some of the characters. I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher and was not required to give a favorable review. All opinions stated here are my own and have been given honestly.

Elizabeth says

Sarah's Orphans (Plain and Simple Miracles - #3)

By: Vannetta Chapman

Sarah's Orphans is book three ,a stand-alone novel in Plain and Simple Miracles. Vannetta Chapman just keeps getting better. When you think that this is just her best book yet, she comes along with one that will blow you away . She captured my heart right at the start and did not let go till the end. I found myself laughing at times and then other times I felt tears rolling down my face. Vannetta Chapman does not disappoint. Sarah's Orphans is a very heartwarming story that will have you on the edge of your seat thing to read faster to see what is going to happen next. Sarah lives in a small community in Oklahoma . There are a few events that happens to this family that Sarah just don't know what they will do . Sarah has an accident one night and hits a small boy . She finds herself taking two hispanic orphans , Mato and Mia, home with them. Will she get to keep them? What will the law say? I fell in love with Mato and Mia . They both tore my heart to pieces. These two plus Sara's brother will keep you laughing or crying . Paul a young plain man buys the old run down farm next to Sarah's property . What does he think of the orphans next to him? I love the way the plain people all pull together when someone has a need. They are all ready to help. I love the message in this story ,Faith and Forgiveness.

I was given a copy of this book by the author and Harvest House Publishers for my honest review.

Vera Godley says

I knew when I cracked the spin of Sarah's Orphans I was in for a good read. I have enjoyed every book from the pen (well, computer) of Vannetta Chapman. She has recently ventured into genres other than the gentle Amish fiction for which she is probably best known. The "Plain and Simple Miracles" series is definitely about the Amish, yet we are seeing them in other settings and in situations not usually seen in stories about the Amish way of life.

We had met Sarah in a one of the earlier Plain and Simple Miracles books as the young Amish teen who was

dealing with anorexia. Much of her personal emotional struggles were a result of her home with its many problems and her way of dealing with these issues.

Sarah's Orphans opens with the unusual situation of an Amish family near destitute because the irresponsible way the father has provided for them due to his mental illness. The mother, herself, is emotionally devoid of caring. The father dies, the mother walks out on the family of five children - two which are grown. So the tale of Sarah begins. An orphan herself, though she is grown, she struggles to hold home together for the four brothers. The older two brothers work valiantly to maintain the farm.

Into this dire situation, two very young Hispanic children are found and taken in. How this comes about is itself miraculous. How Sarah takes them in and, despite her own very needy life, begins to love and care for and provide a loving home for them.

True to Amish community ways they come together to provide assistance and support for Sarah and her family - her "orphans."

The characters in Sarah's Orphans will tug at the reader's heart strings. I just loved Sarah's brothers from the oldest to the youngest. Each had strong personalities with strengths that compliment each other. Mateo and Mia are the two little orphans that Sarah found. Mateo is full of energy, is smart, and very protective of his baby sister, Mia who is the charmer of the cast of characters.

And then we have the wonderful grandmother who unexpectedly appears on the scene and saves the day for all of them.

A sweet, blossoming romantic attraction develops between Sarah and their new Amish bachelor neighbor, Paul. He is a rock of strength and comfort to her, but unassuming on Sarah.

There are some real hard-hitting issues dealt with in this story: bipolar (the father), depression (the mother), abandonment (Sarah's mother and the mother of Mateo & Mia), and anorexia (Sarah). Yes, these serious issues or conditions exist in every segment of society.

I heartily recommend Sarah's Orphans. In fact, I encourage you to acquire the others in this series Anna's Healing and Joshua's Mission.

I received a complimentary copy to facilitate this review of my own opinions without compensation.

Nancee says

Growing up in an unstable family, Sarah has had to accept her father's death and her mother's abandonment, leaving her to raise her younger brothers alone. In addition, Sarah discovers two young Hispanic children living in an old leaky trailer, victims of their mother's desertion. Sarah rescues the children and takes responsibility for them as well as her own family. Her Amish community is supportive and compassionate, working with her as she parents several children on her own until her grandmother moves in to assist. Unexpected help comes from a new neighbor who is very helpful with farming duties.

Vannetta Chapman creates unique Amish fiction, not the ordinary Amish romance. She puts her heart and

faith into her writing, with grace and compassion. Topics in this book are varied, evoking numerous emotions, heartache, despair, hope, and the beauty of compassion from the Amish community. Social and personal issues are paramount in this compelling novel.

I loved this novel as it moved seamlessly through very difficult circumstances to redemption by the grace of God. Words can't quite convey what I'm feeling about this book. I'm still absorbing the issues demonstrated in this very special Amish novel. I highly recommend Sarah's Orphans!

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book from the author and Harvest House in exchange for my honest opinion. All expressed opinions are my own, and no monetary compensation was received for this review.

Laura says

SARAH'S ORPHANS is the third and final book in Ms. Chapman's Plain and Simple Miracles collection but readers do not need to read the first two to enjoy and understand this book.

This is a love-comes-softly type book in that the two main characters weren't even attracted to each other, like each other or anything before Sarah became a foster parent to two orphans and Paul moved in next door. A quiet romance, a good one for reading when you need to de-stress and relax before heading off to bed.

I liked Sarah, I liked her Mammi, and I felt so badly for her with her parents, but I loved how she fought for her family and the two abandoned children. Paul is a quiet sort, thoughtful, but about ten years older than Sarah, and he is industrious and kind-hearted even if his generosity is not always appreciated by Sarah.

If you like Amish romances you will love SARAH'S ORPHANS. I enjoyed this book. It is set in a town in Oklahoma that uses tractors for transportation so it is a little different than most Amish books in that respect.

I really enjoyed this series by Ms. Chapman.

I was provided a copy free. All opinions are my own.

Kav says

The kind of story that grabs your heart and challenges your mind. I'm just a bundle of emotions at the completion of this read. There were teary moments and tender moments and laugh-out-loud moments -- a slice of real life. And what is really spectacular is that Chapman touches on issues that aren't normally associated with Amish fiction.

There is so much meat to this story, I hardly know where to begin. At its heart is a fractured family struggling to survive. Sarah Yoder has borne the weight of heavy burdens her whole life. In her early twenties, she has already endured more than most young women have. When tragic circumstances create even more havoc within her family she finds herself taking charge in ways she never imagined.

This is a story that celebrates the strength that comes from living in community -- the unique connection different relationships bring. From family to friendship to romance and all the nuances in between. I laughed over the antics of Sarah's brothers, rejoiced in the kind wisdom of Bishop Levi and thrilled over the gentle attentions of Paul Byler.

A memorable story full of honest (and sometimes hard) truths that will inspire and convict.

Cathy Cermele says

Vanetta Chapman has penned an incredible story that quite frankly had my emotions all over the place! I'm not a person that cries very easily, so I was fairly surprised to find myself tearing up in some parts of this book. I also found myself smiling and chuckling, too.

I've read all three books in the Plain and Simple Miracles series and have enjoyed all of them, but Sarah's Orphans was my absolute favorite. Sarah has so much responsibility suddenly and how she handles the running of her household and raising her siblings is kind of heart wrenching at times. Then she discovers Mateo and his sister, Mia. Which made me realize that Sarah had an inner strength that has always been needed as her parents weren't there for her.

The community rallies around Sarah and her family as they open their hearts and home to Mateo and Mia. I loved the characters in her life, especially Paul Byler. When Mammi shows up unexpectedly, she adds another layer to the already wonderful storyline. It was nice to see other characters from the first two books.

Ms. Chapman tackles a lot of issues that affect our society today, depression, anorexia, and adoption. She manages to tell those stories with grace and compassion.

I highly recommend Sarah's Orphans as it is truly amazing.

I received a copy of this book from Netgalley for an honest opinion which I have provided.

Fiction Aficionado says

I think this might be my favourite of Vannetta Chapman's *Plain and Simple Miracles* series. First of all, the

story tugged firmly at my heartstrings as Sarah grappled with being left in charge of her four younger brothers, and then with the plight of Mateo and Mia, two Hispanic children who have been abandoned by their mother. And secondly, while it does not downplay the devastation of a mother abandoning her children, it also treats the two mothers who do so in this novel with grace and compassion.

Readers who have been following this series will remember Sarah from Joshua's Mission, but you don't have to have read that novel prior to reading this one. Sarah's family situation has been challenging and unpredictable for many years due to her father's bi-polar disorder. His death occurs at the opening of the novel, leaving the family destitute and in danger of losing their home. Sarah's mother responds by retreating further and further into herself, until she finally announces that she cannot stay there a minute longer, and leaves to stay with her cousin in Florida.

Although they are already struggling to keep up their home and farm, Sarah cannot overlook the plight of Mateo and his little sister, Mia, when she discovers the dilapidated trailer they have been living in. They, too, have been abandoned by their mother and, convicted by the Bible's command to care for the widows and orphans, Sarah begins the process of becoming a Bridge parent, and eventually applying for permanent placement.

It is an emotional journey, during which Sarah finds herself questioning God's goodness and struggling to leave her fears for the future in His hands, but she is surrounded by a community of people who support her in wisdom: Her father's mother, Mammi, who arrives unexpectedly; Bishop Levi and his wife; her friend, Becca; the school teacher, Brian Walker; and her new neighbour, Paul Byler.

Paul is a quiet, serious man, a few years older than Sarah, and feeling his way a little bit when it comes to showing Sarah how much he is coming to care for her and her family. The poor guy has more luck with his practical gestures than his romantic ones! As has been the case with the previous novels in the series, this romance was gentle, but heartfelt, and although their busy lives do not give them a lot of time together, Paul is her rock when it counts. And yet how can Sarah commit to Paul when there is so much uncertainty in her life?

Mateo is the third point of view character in the novel, and both his and Mia's voices were well done and authentic. It's easy to see why Sarah fell in love with them! The other thing that has really stood out for me across this whole series is the way in which the characters are so relatable, and yet remain authentically Amish. Some novels tend to emphasize the differences between *Englisches* and the Amish, making them central to the story's conflict. These stories, on the other hand, deal with the kinds of struggles that are common to all people, but place them in the context of the Amish community.

A lovely read.

I received a complimentary copy of this novel from the publisher in exchange for my honest review.

Maureen Timerman says

Sarah has not had an easy life, her father had problems and when he passes, her mother cannot deal with life, and Sarah along with her brother Andy become parents to their siblings.

Fate then places Sarah at the right place at the right time, when Mateo and Mia abandoned children cross her

path. I found the children delightful, especially considering the hard life they have endured, and they have abandonment in common with Sarah.

On top of everything a new neighbor has bought the rundown farm bordering their land, and Sarah does not have a high opinion of him, boy is she wrong. Sarah's brothers and Mateo take to Paul, and he is soon a great influence on all. He begins to have feelings for Sarah, but will she open her heart, or will she be able to add to her loved ones.

This story will break your heart at times, and I could feel how the little ones felt when they saw their mother, where do their allegiances lie? You will be holding your breath wondering how this story is going to end, and therefore won't be able to put it down.

I received this book through Net Galley and the Author, and was not required to give a positive review.

Maria says

I enjoy Vannetta Chapman very much as an author of Amish fiction. In this book I found she introduced some different things that affected the Amish family from the outside world and it really worked well. I find this author very realistic in her writing and not over romantic or fanciful.

Kathleen says

3.5 ??rounded up to 4??.

"Humility is an important thing to learn for each of us. There is no shame in accepting the help of others."

This was a very enjoyable reading experience about Sarah, a twenty-three year old Amish girl left alone to raise and look after her four younger brothers and two hungry, dirty waifs they find in the snow.

This story is about the Amish family and their everyday lives as they face trials and tribulations, death, sorrow, abandonment, poverty and more. It is a coming of age story as they grow, take on responsibilities and work together solving problems.

At the back there are discussion questions suitable for a book study or book club, a glossary of German words used in some of the conversations such as da for dad, nein for no, and wunderbaar for wonderful, authors note, and a recipe section. I want to make the chicken casserole, applesauce coffee cake and peanut butter bars.

Thanks to NetGalley and Harvest House Publishers for an advanced readers copy of Sarah's Orphans by Vannetta Chapman in exchange for an honest review.

Jalynn Patterson says

About the Book:

Orphaned...But Never Abandoned by God

Sarah Yoder belongs to a Plain community in Oklahoma, but her days are far from simple. Life suddenly gets complicated when a series of tragic events unfold, leaving her in charge of the household.

Alone with her younger siblings, Sarah is exhausted but finally at peace. Then she nearly runs over a small Hispanic boy with her buggy...and somehow finds herself sheltering two more orphans.

Paul Byler moved to Cody's Creek to help his brother in a time of need. But now that Joseph has recovered from his heart attack, Paul's ready for a quiet place of his own. The only problem? His new property lands him next door to the orphaned Yoder family—and a calling from God he can't seem to ignore.

A story of extraordinary grace and love in the face of desperate need, Sarah's Orphans is the third standalone novel in the Plain and Simple Miracles collection by Vannetta Chapman.

My Review:

Nothing will pull at your heart strings more than Sarah's Orphans. Not only do you sympathize with Sarah and her plight but you soon fall in love with the story of these sweet little children and the characters themselves. I don't know who Vannetta patterned them after but oh my they have a sweet sweet spirit that completely and utterly shows through in the author's written words.

While reading about Sarah and everything she is going through it reminded me of the love that God has for us. A love that is genuine and unwavering and something He provides willingly. God knew what Sarah needed probably even more than she did. And there was many times throughout the book that Sarah's weaknesses show through and she had to rely on the Father for His comfort and strength.

I loved that the author let the main character's weakness show through because it actually lets us in on Sarah's testimony that she builds daily without even knowing it. We all build our testimony daily throughout or daily tasks, brick by brick. This is what I felt like Sarah was doing by raising these children and showing total reliance on God.

Disclosure This book was sent to me free of charge for my honest review from the author.

Patti says

Vannetta Chapman's latest book, Sarah's Orphans, is a wonderful conclusion to her Plain and Simple Miracle Series. It is an emotional ride through life for Sarah and her brothers, as they try to navigate life on their own.

Sarah Yoder returns to her small town of Cody's Creek, OK from her missions trip to Texas as a stronger more resilient Amish woman. She is faced once again with her dysfunctional parents and a household of brothers who desperately need her love and attention. Sarah's bi-polar father is tragically killed, in a storm,

during a fit of rage. Her depressed mother withdraws even farther into her own world and then picks up and leaves...abandoning her family. Sarah and her oldest brother, Andy, are left to pick up the pieces and try to make their family whole once again. The Amish community learns of their plight through Paul Byler, a new neighbor. His concern sets his sister-in-law in motion to get everyone to help. Through Paul's concern, Sarah and her brothers start the road to recovery.

The road to recovery is seldom easy, and that is exactly the pattern that the Yoder's followed. Sarah soon finds herself a foster parent to two abandoned young children she discovers on a cold snowy night. The children are living in cardboard boxes inside an old trailer. Sarah immediately takes the children in, prompting the Amish community to reach out to these children in need. Sarah finds herself drawn to Paul Byler and she tries to fight the feeling. Paul's concern for the family and especially her well-being makes her question her heart.

Throughout the novel there are more twists and turns-the arrival of a family member, an abduction, a serious accident, the loss of faith, the possibility of adoption, and the feelings of love. Also, former characters are present and their lives updated. It's a story of strength, perseverance, and answering the call to care for widows and children.

This final book wraps up this incredible series allowing readers to see miracles in everyday life for everyday people...who believe! I highly recommend it.

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

Julia says

Sarah's Orphan's by Vannetta Chapman is a contemporary Amish romance. It is the third book in the Plain And Simple Miracles series but can be read as a stand-alone.

I absolutely loved Sarah's Orphan's. Very few books manage to bring a tear to my eye but this one did! I fell in love with all the characters but especially young Mateo and Mia. Both were delightfully drawn and bought out the maternal side in me.

The novel deals with the whole theme of taking care of the widows and orphans. It has a secondary theme of belonging. My heart broke as I read "When had anyone ever wanted them?" It just takes one person to make all the difference in another's life.

Tied in to this is the theme of family. The Amish have close knit families and a close knit community. Everyone works together. "It takes many people to raise a family. It takes the community." This is said by Mammi, the matriarch of the household who with her years has not only oodles of love but is very wise. The Amish pull together in all circumstances. If they spot a need, then it is met. They live by the motto "Very few burdens are heavy if everyone lifts." The sense of community and love just oozed from the pages of Sarah's Orphans.

There is the theme of trust. Not only of people but of God. "Pray. Trust Gott. Read the Bible." When life deals us a rough hand, sometimes our relationship with God suffers. "Somewhere along the way, she'd decided God was untrustworthy." Our experience of our fellow humans can cloud our view of God. God can be trusted. God will not let us down.

The novel deals with some very hard hitting topics - bipolar, depression, abandonment, anorexia. Sometimes life seems out of control and one gets dragged along. Here is where anorexia may creep in "I could control

what I did or didn't eat." Vannetta Chapman sensitively presents this showing that there is no quick fix. All the subjects mentioned can be hard to live with. The whole family is affected, not just the sufferer. Much love, care and empathy is needed.

Throughout the novel there is much love. Love permeates the whole story. This love is tangible to the reader. The reader 'feels' what the characters go through and 'feels' the great love radiating from the pages.

Prayer is of utmost importance. When there are big decisions to be made, the characters turn to God. "If Gottes has chosen that path for you, He will make it possible." Everything that is done needs the blessing of God.

I absolutely loved Sarah's Orphans. I was completely hooked from the start and totally besotted with the characters. My emotions soared and dipped with the action. It was not like reading a book but more like walking through life with the characters. The book has ended but my heart really desires to know what happened next.

A totally wonderful book. I can highly recommend purchasing Sarah's Orphans and losing yourself in the pages of the novel.

I received this book for free in exchange for a fair and honest review. No monetary compensation was received and all views expressed are my own.
