



The Beekeeper's Son

Kelly Irvin

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A strange, mystical place allows Deborah and Phineas to see themselves and others with new eyes.

When Deborah Lantz arrives in Bee County, Texas, she expects to find a great oasis of citrus groves and olive trees. Instead, she finds a tiny Amish district struggling to make ends meet on a barren, drought-stricken land. Deborah longs to go home to the lush, green countryside of Tennessee, but she wants her mother, a widow with six children, to be happy again. Even if that means accepting Stephen as her future stepfather. She can't believe God created such an ugly place filled with strange animals, twisted, stunted trees, and not a drop of rain for months. Then she meets the beekeeper's son. Phineas King's face is disfigured by scars from an accident that killed his mother and destroyed his trust in God. Through their encounters both begin to realize the beauty in all of God's creation. Deborah walks through the strange land of figs, Mexican squash, and wild cucumbers to see Phineas, who finds solace in his work keeping the bee hives and harvesting honey for his father. Both are rarely alone, but always lonely. Deborah begins to see Bee County through Phineas' eyes and Phineas learns to see himself through hers.

The Beekeeper's Son Details

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From Reader Review The Beekeeper's Son for online ebook

Jessica Chittester says

God is good; this is the underlying meaning in this book.

This is a fantastic love story between two couples who's hearts have all taken a beating. I felt for these four people. Loss, loneliness, hope, love, fear - I've felt these things before and it was raw and emotional to witness it happening in this book.

Please read it. You'll be grateful you did.

Lorraine says

Widow Abigail Lantz moved her son and four daughters from their home in Tennessee to her brother's farm in Texas. It was expected that she'd marry an old beau who showed up all these years later in Tennessee for a funeral. In Stephen's letters to Abigail, he made Bee County sound like paradise. It was not....it was hot, dry and dusty and the Amish families that were there were having a hard time of it. Some families left.

Deborah, the oldest, was not happy about the move at all. She'd not only had to leave her home but also her special friend Aaron. They had talked of marriage and now she was hundreds of miles away in this dusty, horrible place. She had made up her mind that once she helped her mother and siblings get settled, she was going home.

Phineas, the Beekeeper's son, was in a horrible wreck when he was young that took the life of his mother and left him with ugly scars on his face. He loved tending the bees and avoided people because he didn't like the look of pity or even horror on their face.

Phineas helped unload the bags from the van that had brought the Lantz family to Bee County. Right away he assumed the scream that came from Deborah was because of his face. It was, in fact, because an Armadillo had crossed her path. Of course, living in Tennessee, she'd never seen such an ugly animal.

Read about the lives of the Lantz family as they make their home in Texas. Share in their adventures...seeing the Gulf of Mexico for the first time, going to Mexico for medical and dental care. See if Deborah does indeed go home to Tennessee. Do Abigail and Stephen marry? A fire at Abigail's brothers' leaves them all homeless...what now? What of Phineas? Does he ever learn that looks are not important?

Brittany says

The Beekeeper's Son is a wonderful beginning to a new series. I had not read any books by this author before, but I will definitely be reading other books by her in the future. I enjoyed the story from the start to the finish.

The vivid descriptions of the south Texas landscape really made the story come alive to me. I could feel the sun burning down from the sky and the parched land under the characters feet. The descriptions and

interactions of all of the characters felt very real to me, as well. This book is packed with emotion and situations that these individuals must sort out.

The reader meets Deborah at the beginning of the book and it is clear that she is not happy to be moving to this small community that is so unlike her thriving home back in Tennessee. She is lonely, homesick, and heartsick over a young man she left behind. Watching Deborah's journey as she lives, day in and day out, in this new location and tries to discover what God has in store for her, her siblings, and her widowed mother is very interesting.

Another main character in the book is Phineas, a young man who is horribly scarred and has become somewhat of a loner. He does not think there will ever be someone who can look on him without either disgust or pity shining in their eyes. His self-doubts are there throughout the whole book. It is not something easily overcome. Seeing his interactions with Deborah, which started off on a bad note to begin with, were some of my favorite portions of the story.

There is also a wonderful thread running through the book about Deborah's mother, Abigail. She is the reason that the family moved to Bee County. An old suitor wants to court her and she must try to determine the path that God wants her to take. Does she follow her head or her heart? Is this man the person God wants her to be with? Her situation, and watching her search for the right step to take, was also a really good storyline.

This is a great start to the series and I look forward to reading the future books set in Bee County.

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

You can read this review on my blog at:
<https://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.c...>

Leah says

This was an emotional read. I enjoyed this book as much as the novellas in this series that I have read, and I am looking forward to the next book in this series.

I liked the MC, Phineas/Phin and Deborah. I preferred Phin, though. They both had interesting back stories, especially Phin. I actually liked Hazel the most. She was a cute child. Abigail and Mordecai had an interesting story, too. Although, I prefer Mordecai.

Overall, I liked the ending of this book. It would have been better if both of the couples had gotten married. The parts that I liked best were the two storms. The first was a thunderstorm, and the second was a hurricane. I enjoy reading about storms. Also, I liked the beach, which is something else that I enjoy reading about.

Christy says

Where are the Mordechai's and Phineas of this world. This was a wonderful Amish fiction read; anyone who

treasures this genre go find this book! You will be transported to Beeville County in Texas where a struggling Amish community is sticking it out. Kelly Irvin's descriptions took me right there with the intense heat and sparse fields and genuine family. One of my favorite things to read about his hardship and community and this story is laced with both. It's an excellent read where so many authors are tweaking their Amish fiction these days with an English twist; you will not find that here. Just an amazing account of Amish adversity no English needed. Deborah with her spiked tongue that I quite enjoyed and Abigail with her softer ways inviting. Just read it!

***Rachelle* says**

4.5 stars

This book was SO GREAT. Seriously. I was happily surprised by how much I liked this book (I stayed up until 4am reading woops).

Minor spoilers below

Abigail, Deborah's mother, has decided to move her whole family from Tennessee to southern Texas after her husband dies. She connects with an old flame, Stephen, and wants to give romance with him a second chance. Deborah is furious with her mother for uprooting her whole family, her whole life. While in Texas, she meets Phineas, a loner (by choice) who has horrible scars and disfigurement from an accident when he was a boy. She gets to know him and realizes that beauty comes from unexpected places.

Okay yes, this book was cliche. Beautiful girl falls for broody disfigured boy. Except sometimes cliche books can go a bit deeper. Both Deborah and Phineas have their scars, Phin's is just more visible. He is haunted by the accident that disfigured him and killed his mother, and believes that he is worthless to anyone outside of his family. How could anyone love a monster like him? Phin looks for beauty outside of himself, believing that there was no beauty inside of him. And until Deborah comes into his life, he believes that love is not in God's will for him.

Deborah, on the other hand, struggles with feeling abandoned. By her mother, her friends back in Tennessee, and her almost-boyfriend Aaron. She fails to see beauty in her new surroundings in Texas. But after meeting Phineas, she starts to see Texas through his eyes...and she realizes that there is beauty all around her. Not only in nature, but also in the people. She sees past Phin's scars to the person beneath, and slowly shows him that he has worth. To his family, friends, and to her.

There is also a side story involving Abigail and Stephen, but since they were not the main focus of this book, I'm going to leave that part out. You can read the book if you really want to know what goes down with them.

Okay guys. Which one of us has NOT struggled with worth? (if you raise your hand I'll GR punch you) So yeah, this book really hits home for me. I can relate with Phin so hard. I actually had tiny tears running down my face at the end of the book. To know that you are loved and accepted for exactly who you are, flaws and all, is a powerful feeling. I loved how Deborah and Phin's relationship started out as friendship and then slowly grew into something more (slow burns get me every time). I really loved seeing the character

development that Deborah goes through, and how we, as the reader, also start to "see" Texas and its people differently. These changes do not happen overnight, and both Deborah and Phin struggle, but in the end their journey is worth it.

There were some minor plot points that kept this from being a 5 star. My feelings for the book are 5 stars, but I believe the actual book is closer to a 4 star, so I compromised at 4.5.

I grew up in Amish country and am very familiar with their culture and customs. Ms. Irvin did a wonderful job at portraying the Amish community. There is a lot of misunderstanding surrounding the Amish, and it was refreshing to have accurate information. As for the book, the romance is wonderful, and the character growth is done so well. If you are looking for something a bit different in the romance department, or you are not familiar with anything Amish and want to learn about a culture different from your own, I would say definitely pick this one up. And have a few Kleenex handy.

Laura says

I read the novella in the collection by Amy Clipston, Ruth Reid and Kelly Irvin before I read this. So I knew somewhat who would marry whom when I went into the story. That contributed to the predictability of this story, so it was all my fault. I remember reading an early book by this author and thinking that the hits just keep coming. And it is true in this story. One, right after another, a tragedy occurs. The writing was stellar, but really had no passion in it. It didn't come alive for me.. Unfortunately, I didn't fall in love with any of the characters. I didn't like Stephen, whom Mamm planned to marry - and Abigail herself was disenchanted with him. But what would be the final straw, the one that ended the deal? I wanted to find out. I liked Deborah and Phineas (not real sure how to pronounce that. Fin-E-as? Fin-ease?) and the bee-keeping aspect was interesting. I wondered what it would take for Amish to settle in a non-agricultural friendly area, in the hot, hot desert of southern Texas... It takes a special type, for sure. If you are interested in Amish fiction or of Kelly Irvin, then pick up a copy of THE BEEKEEPER'S SON. Ms. Irvin excels in description, making the heat and the citadel bug "screaming" come alive. I could see the prickly pear cactus and see the dust rising.

Kym McNabney says

WOW! I freely admit that I am not a fan of Amish fiction. I also admit that I have not read many Amish books, nor many authors that write Amish fiction. What I can admit is how blown away I am with THE BEEKEEPER'S SON by KELLY IRVIN.

Upon receiving a copy of THE BEEKEEPER'S SON, I tossed it in my pile of books in need to read and reviewed, not giving it much thought. Truth be told, at a glance I read the title as The Bookkeeper's Son. Once it reached the top of my stack, it was then that I realized the true title. Suddenly my interest peaked.

THE BEEKEEPER'S SON is not the first I've read by KELLY IRVIN. I am not one for suspense or mystery, so once I read one of MS IRVIN'S stories that was in the genre I so love, I started to realize I might just become a fan of Amish fiction after all.

Deborah Lantz is not happy about the move she and her family is forced to endure, all for the sake for her

mother to remarry. Remarry a man who is nothing like Deborah's deceased father.

Phineas King has scars. The ones on the inside are no less destructive to his life as the ones on the outside. Upon bumping into the new girl, he is not surprised at her response to his appearance. After all, it wasn't something he hasn't dealt with for the past twelve years.

Deborah's mother, Abigail, may have come to Texas to marry a man she once turned down, and Deborah with every intention to leave Bee County as soon as possible, but it seems God has His own plan.

I found it most helpful to have a list of Amish vs English words to refer to, as well as a reference to the characters names grouped with family members. I appreciated that the Amish words were kept to a minimum. If not done so, for me, it makes for a difficult read.

This amazingly unique telling of Beauty and the Beast surpassed any hopes I had for Amish fiction. I LOVE the main characters. At first, I was not interested in Deborah's mother's situation, but before long, I found myself just as intrigued with Abigail and Mordecai as I was Deborah and Phineas.

I truly loved everything about THE BEEKEEPER'S SON. MS IRVIN is an amazing storyteller and writer. I cannot believe I am stating this, but THE BEEKEEPER'S SON has earned a place of one of my favorite novels. Never would I have imaged that to be true of an Amish story.

I urge anyone who is a reader of Christian romance, whether historical or contemporary, to give this amazing book a try, even if you never pictured yourself reading an Amish novel. You won't be sorry you did.

Kristina says

The Beekeeper's Son by Kelly Irvin is a lovely Amish romance. Abigail Lantz is a widow of two years and has relocated her family (four girls and one boy) from Tennessee to a small settlement in Texas. Her brother, John and his family live in Bee County, Texas along with an old beau, Stephen. Abigail's brother convinced her to move to Bee County. He is hoping romance that Abigail will marry Stephen. Abigail wants to get away from all the memories of her husband, Timothy. She loved him dearly.

Abigail's oldest daughter, Deborah, is not thrilled with the move. She is leaving behind her beau, Aaron and her best friend, Josie. Deborah is hoping to get her mother settled and then move back to Tennessee.

Stephen Stetler is a bachelor in Bee County. He is growing fruit trees and grapes on his property to make ends meet. Mordecai King and his son, Phineas have bee colonies. They sell honey, lip balm (from the wax), beeswax candles, and even bees. Both men are interested in Abigail, but only one of them will catch her heart.

Phineas King was in a terrible accident as a child. He ended up going through the windshield of the van and ended up with his face severely disfigured. Phineas also lost his mother in the accident. Doctors were not able to fix Phineas' face and he is left with many scars. It has caused him to retreat from society and keep to himself. Deborah's looks past his scars and into his heart, but will Phineas be able to open up his heart to Deborah.

Bee County is a tough area to live in. It is very hot and the soil is not ideal for crops. The people do not have much money or conveniences. They do not even have ice! The community of Bee County will have to work together to overcome many hardships, but they have each other and God.

The Beekeeper's Son is a just a delightful book. I just loved it and could not put it down. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars! Happy Reading!

I received a complimentary copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Frankie Lovely says

3.5 stars

Review to come

My first ever plunge into Amish romance was a good experience.

Tina Watson says

Do you like a book that draws you in from the start of reading it? Then look no further, The Beekeeper's Son is that book. I was on my the edge of my seat the whole way through this book.

Could you pick-up your children and move from green Tennessee to drought-stricken land Texas?
Could you have a relationship with a man you turned down in your late teen years?

These are the first two questions that Abigail Lantz had to answer before leaving her farm in Tennessee, to move to Texas to get reacquainted with Stephen, whom she turned down years ago and he lives in Texas.

Deborah Lantz, Abigail's oldest daughter, is struggling with the family move; leaving behind her friends in Tennessee, even though her family is staying at her uncle's small home in Texas.

Phineas King, the beekeeper's son, is also struggling but his is struggle of himself and his own confidence. He feels everywhere he goes everyone is staring at him but of what happened to him twelve years ago.

Does God have plans of healing for all three of these characters?
Can all three heal with what they are struggling with personally?

I loved this book. Loved that Kelly Irvin kept me on the edge of my seat as I was reading. I have read her work before. This one has to be my favorite book by Kelly Irvin and I can not wait to read book two in this series.

I received a free copy of this book through NetGalley for an honest review. No money was exchanged. This is my honest review in my own words.

Dawnie says

i have a huge interest in armish life for some reason.
so of course i enjoy reading about it!

but this book was one of the best i have read in a long time.

the writing is very well done, i really enjoyed how this was a romance but not in the typical sense and it wasn't the making ich's of the book, it happened -as it does in real life- on the side of everything else and i loved that!

i really enjoyed his this was mostly about life changes - big and small ones- choices and unforeseen ale events that make up life.

it has love, lost, family and moving on as it's focal points in the plot and all of them were very well done.

it was wonderful to see a character on this book hat was heavily scared from an accident but was not treated as if he was someone to be avoided or horrendous simply because he had a noticeable face. i also lived that he author included the struggles this character had with himself and his appearance and how he expected people to react to him and his looks.

now i have no clue if this book is accurate in the armish life or traditions and what have you.
to me it sounded/seemed true enough and that's enough for me.

there where a few moments in the book where i felt the author added a little bit too much unnecessary and even a hit unrealistic drama to it but at the most it lastet a couple of pages and that it was back to the much more realistic and nicely done writing and plot.

i really enjoyed this and am very excited to pick up the next book in the series to not only see where that story is going to take the next sister but also see more of abigail and what is going to happen with her as well as how deborah and phineas are getting along!

if you want a nicely written romance that has great plot and characters, both developing throughout the book - highly recommend this!

Kate Singh says

I've had my fill of Amish fiction, yet this kept my interest to the end. I enjoyed it and will be looking for more of Kelly Irvin's fiction when I'm in the mood for Plain folk and some wholesome storytelling.

Leah says

The Beekeeper's Son doesn't pull any punches. In fact, from the summary alone you know the entire story already and within the first few chapters all the details are laid out so you can easily tell where everything is headed. Even still, I enjoyed this one! Perhaps not as much as I had hoped and, at times, it can be a little over-dramatic (especially when it comes to scenes where the characters need to be thrown together somehow), but it was still a fun ride that I enjoyed taking.

For the full review and more, head over to [The Pretty Good Gatsby!](#)

SheLove2Read says

A sweet story of second chances and looking within a person's heart to find happiness .
