



## The Courtship Basket

*Amy Clipston*

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**Years ago, a picnic basket brought two hearts together. For Rachel and Mike, history may be about to repeat itself.**

Rachel Fisher is devastated when the young man she's loved for years leaves her to date her best friend. Her heart is broken, and she has all but given up on love. Determined to keep her mind off the pain, she starts teaching at an Amish school for children with learning disabilities.

Since his father became ill, Mike Lantz has been overwhelmed with the responsibility of providing for his family and caring for his six-year-old brother, John. When John joins Rachel's class and she learns that his mother is deceased and his father sick, she desperately wants to help the family, even with something as simple as a meal.

With her parents' old picnic basket, Rachel begins sending food to the Lantz family. As the weeks go by, John's grades start to improve, and the attraction grows between Rachel and Mike. They can't deny that their friendship is growing toward something more, but both of them are hesitant to risk a more serious relationship.

The last thing Rachel wants is another heartbreak, and Mike is worried about providing for his loved ones. Will the two be able to reconcile their past hurts with new hope for the future?

## **The Courtship Basket Details**

Date : Published June 28th 2016 by Zondervan (first published June 2016)

ISBN :

Author : Amy Clipston

Format : Kindle Edition 316 pages

Genre : Amish, Christian Fiction, Amish Fiction, Romance, Christian, Fiction

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## From Reader Review The Courtship Basket for online ebook

### Tina Watson says

WOW!! What an opening to "The Courtship Basket" that Amy Clipston has written and she makes sure she draws you into the story as part of her characters!

Even though the courtship basket is not human it is an added character all of it's own. I love how the courtship basket has a hidden meaning to this story and how it's adding new meaning to the main characters.

The hardships of the one main character can be and is real for us humans in our own personal lives. We can relate to these characters and their struggles that they are facing. How we try to do all things in our lives and not ask for help, especially when help IS asking to help.

I highly recommend this book at any time of the year. I ask that we help someone who is struggling in their life, to ease their load by just a little, a simple meal, a simple sitting with an ill loved one so their loved one can have time to themselves for at least an hour. Anything to ease the load of an overwhelmed individual.

I look forward to reading the third book in this series, "The Cherished Quilt". Along with any other books Amy Clipston writes in the future.

I received a free copy from NetGalley with the only request to write an honest review about the book. No money was exchanged. This is my review written in my own words.

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### Hannah Joy S. says

\*happy sigh\*

More Amy Clipston Amish Heirloom goodness!

I did really enjoy this book and I'm glad that I managed to finish it in a few days.

It was nice to see where Veronica and Jason were at and be introduced to great new characters.

John was so cute.

I loved some of the convesation between Rachel and Mike.

This book also had some sadness, more so than the first book I think.

Overall great story!

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### Kristin says

This was a really good book. I'm really curious as to what secret is hiding in the attic! The Courtship Basket was a sweet little romance. I feel like the author is really hitting a groove with her writing with this series and the covers are just gorgeous.

The Courtship Basket is book #2 in the Amish Heirloom series written by Amy Clipston. The characters felt real and were developed very well. If you're looking for a new series to read, The Amish Heirloom series is enjoyable. I look forward to seeing how the story progresses with additional titles in the series.

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

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### **Maureen Timerman says**

Can you imagine dating someone for four years, being at your sister's wedding, and over hearing him talking to your best friend about their relationship. How do you get through the rest of the day, never mind the rest of your life, such a betrayal, and talk about getting stabbed in the back, this happened to Rachael Fisher.

Then we have Mike Lantz, a man devoted to his family, which consists of his Dad and six year old brother. Life has been hard on this family, Mike lost his mother when he was ten, his dad finally found another woman who loved mike, but they lost her when she gave birth to his brother John. Now life is handing them another blow, as his dad's kidneys are failing and his dad has really lost the will to live.

On top of all of this poor John is acting up in school, and Mike moves him to a special Amish school. So our main characters meet, Mike has the world on his shoulders and Rachael has given up on love. They both have strong family ties, and are there for parents and siblings, but boy do they clash, or I should say that Rachael clashes with Mike.

This is a sweet story that is told from the heart by the author, and has shared some of her own personal experience in the mode of the story. Come and see if these two can get beyond their own heartache and problems and forge some kind of relationship between them, and include little John.

I found this one hard to put down once I turned the first page!

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

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### **Brittany says**

This story was so good! The author did such a great job of packing many different emotions into The Courtship Basket, from betrayal and a broken heart, to nervousness about possible new love, to happiness as relationships grow, to heartbreak and overwhelming loss. This book has it all. It wrung a lot of emotions out of me as I read it, especially toward the last third of the story.

Even though Rachel and Mike did occasionally frustrate me at times with their fears of committing to each other, their concerns truly did make sense. Rachel was scared to trust another man after being so badly betrayed by her former boyfriend. Mike was scared to take time for himself and invest in a relationship when he felt so bound to take care of his father and brother. This book is a great example of how people try to plan out their lives, putting things into an order that they think will work, while not trying to figure out how God is attempting to work for their good with an even better plan. I really enjoyed this story and could hardly set it down.

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

You can read this review on my blog at:

<https://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.c...>

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### **Diamond Jones says**

I enjoy reading about the Fisher daughters. These three sisters have such an amazing bond and have each other's back through love, heartbreak etc. My heart went out to Rachel when her boyfriend left her for her bestfriend since childhood. On top of that she still had to be around their happiness and not hold a grudge against them.

When Mike and his little brother came into the picture things were good and bad for her.

I listened to the audio version of this book and every detail and character's view were well read by the narrator.

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### **Fran Soto says**

I won this book as Goodreads giveaway. I love her books so very much and I'm looking forward to reading the next installment

I loved the book so much that I couldn't put it down. I very much enjoyed getting to know Rachel, Mike and his little brother John .

I liked John's energy. I wished I had some of it!!

I felt that Rachel and Mike were right for each other from the start! I hated the way David did things with Rachel but sometimes it is best that things turn out as they do!

I never tire of saying that God has perfect timing for everything!

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### **Jerry says**

Another sweet Amish romance in this series.

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### **Cheryl Baranski says**

The Courtship Basket is book two in the An Amish Heirloom series. This book was absolutely fabulous. Once I started reading this book I couldn't put it down. The characters are so captivating that they draw you into the book. There are so many twists and turns throughout this book that there is never a dull moment. This is a book that is filled with faith, love, devotion, heartache and pain. This book will definitely take you on an emotional roller coaster ride. Be sure to grab your sweet tea and your tissues as you take your ride through this most wonderful book. I am looking forward to the next book in this series. I received a copy of this book for my honest review. 5 stars! Be sure to order your copy today!

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### **Carole Jarvis says**

Reviewed at The Power of Words: <http://bit.ly/2aIKaFa>

I thoroughly enjoyed The Courtship Basket, just as I have all that I've read by Amy Clipston so far. Like Amy's other stories, The Courtship Basket has a realness to it, rather than "candy coating" the Amish lifestyle. Characters not only aren't perfect, but they struggle with the same life issues that we all face, and I always gain wisdom from watching how they deal with these situations.

I like how, without rehashing a lot from the previous book in the Amish Heirloom series, Amy gives just enough background that this second book can easily stand alone. The main characters, Rachel Fisher and Mike Lantz, are good, kind, and caring people – so easy to relate to and take into your heart. Both want to be in a loving relationship eventually, but are hesitant to enter into a relationship at the current time. The story opens at Veronica's wedding, where Rachel discovers that she has been doubly betrayed by both her boyfriend of four years and a best friend. Due to his father's serious illness, Mike finds himself providing for his younger brother while taking care of his father at the same time.

One thing I admire so much about the Amish is the way they pitch in to take care of each other without complaint, and I loved the "courtship basket" idea. On the surface, it was a way for Rachel to use her cooking skills to provide warm meals for Mike's family, meeting a huge need. But deeper down, it became a mediator or go-between in their relationship. This was a message I could take to heart.

There's also an extremely personal element to this story for Amy, because Mike's father suffers from kidney disease, something that is very close to Amy's heart. That emotion came across beautifully in her writing, and I hope you'll take time to watch the video below as Amy shares from her heart. Also, Mike's young brother, John, struggles with learning disabilities, something very close to my heart. It was so easy for me to identify with John and I enjoyed seeing how the Amish gave special attention to these children. Rachel's desire to help John and their growing friendship was especially touching.

At one point in the story, as Mike wrestles with his feelings for Rachel, Sam offers this advice: "If it's meant to be, then God will guide your path to her." Words of wisdom for Mike and for us also, as we often find it hard to give God control in every situation.

The Courtship Basket is a sweet story with moments that make you reflect on life, and I enjoyed it very much. I also look forward to Emily's story in The Cherished Quilt, due to be released in November 2016.

Recommended.

Thank you to Amy Clipston and Zondervan for providing an ARC of this book in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Elizabeth says**

The Courtship Basket ( Amish Heirloom Book 2 )  
By: Amy Clipston

Wow, what a story, I loved it. The Courtship Basket is book two in Amish Heirloom series. I did read the first book and I loved it too . You will learn of the characters and the history behind the basket. It seems to have brought two hearts together . Will history repeat itself again? I really enjoyed this wonderful Christian Amish romance. The author had me hooked right from the start and did not let go till the end. At times I caught myself laughing and crying . This story is one of those page turners, when you start reading you

cannot read fast enough to turn the pages to see what is going to happen next. I love the two main characters, Rachel and Mike. Rachel is a young woman who has gotten her heart broken and does not want it broken again. Mike has an ill father , a six year old brother , and a farm to take care of. He does not have time for a girlfriend. Now Rachel wants to help the family anyway she can . I know you will love this story like I did, be sure and get you a copy and read about Rachel and Mike.

I was given a complimentary ARC of this book by the author for my honest review.

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## **Susan says**

The Courtship Basket

Amy Clipston

ARC received from NetGalley for an honest review.

THE COURTSHIP BASKET is the second book in the Amish Heirloom series by Amy Clipston. As soon as I started reading, I knew it was going to be a one sitting book. I was instantly worried about little John and Mike and wondered what was going to happen to them.

Rachel has been dating David for four years and can't wait until he asks her to be his wife. One day she over hears a conversation between David and her best friend, Sharon. She discovers that they have been seeing each other behind her back and sneaking around. Rachel is devastated and broken hearted. She takes a job as a teacher that her cousin Malinda suggested to her. She will be working with the children who need special help and Rachel can't wait. There she meets John Lantz who lost his mother when he was born and his Dad is very sick with kidney disease. John's older brother Mike takes care of him as well as their dad. He is over whelmed and isn't paying enough attention to John as he should.

Rachel decides to take matters into her own hands and goes and talks to Mike. She just wants to help John and is going to give Mike Lantz a piece of her mind. They actually end up yelling at each other. When Rachel finds out how bad Mike has it at home and how much he has on his plate she feels horrible. She finds THE COURTSHIP BASKET in her attic and decides to make meals for Mike and his family to try and help and to make up for what she did.

I can't wait to read the third book, The Cherished Quilt to see what is in that hope chest. It is a big mystery. There are many twists and turns in THE COURTSHIP BASKET and the story really held my interest right until the very last page. Your heart will break for Mike and his family and for all they are going through. I just wanted to reach inside the book and give John a great big hug. He is only six years old and has to deal with so much heartache. I was also praying the whole time reading that Rachel wasn't going to get her heart broken again. Poor Mike feels as if he isn't good enough for Rachel and Rachel protects her heart from him. What could possibly go wrong?

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**Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says**

## About this book:

*“Years ago, a picnic basket brought two hearts together. For Rachel and Mike, history may be about to repeat itself.*

*Rachel Fisher is devastated when the young man she's loved for years leaves her to date her best friend. Her heart is broken, and she has all but given up on love. Determined to keep her mind off the pain, she starts teaching at an Amish school for children with learning disabilities.*

*Since his father became ill, Mike Lantz has been overwhelmed with the responsibility of providing for his family and caring for his six-year-old brother, John. When John joins Rachel's class and she learns that his mother is deceased and his father sick, she desperately wants to help the family, even with something as simple as a meal.*

*With her parents' old picnic basket, Rachel begins sending food to the Lantz family. As the weeks go by, John's grades start to improve, and the attraction grows between Rachel and Mike. They can't deny that their friendship is growing toward something more, but both of them are hesitant to risk a more serious relationship.*

*The last thing Rachel wants is another heartbreak, and Mike is worried about providing for his loved ones. Will the two be able to reconcile their past hurts with new hope for the future?"*

Series: Book #2 in the “Amish Heirloom” series. (Review of Book #1 [Here!](#))

Spiritual Content- Prayers; Scriptures are read & mentioned; Talks about God, His plan, & forgiving; 'H's are not capital when referring to God; Many mentions of prayers & silent prayers over food; Mentions of God; Mentions of blessings; Mentions of Bible reading & devotionals; Mentions of Church services & Youth Groups; A few mentions of sins; A couple mentions of Christmas novels; A couple mentions of sermons & a bishop.

Negative Content- Minor cussing including: five 'stupid's; A few mentions of a death & car accident (barely-above-not-detailed); Mentions of bulling; Mentions of blood (barely-above-not-detailed).

Sexual Content- a semi-detailed kiss; Touches & Embraces (barely-above-not-detailed); Noticing & Smelling; Mentions of dating, girlfriends, boyfriends, breakups & liking someone; Mentions of cheaters, betrayal & jealousy; Mentions of touching & intimate conversations; Mentions of attractions & feelings; A few mentions of a woman who died in childbirth; A couple mentions of flirting; A couple possible hints of a wife who left her husband (but later came back); Love, falling in love & the emotions;

\*Note: A mention of a pair of boxers.

-Rachel Fisher, age 21

-Mike Lantz, age 24

P.O.V. switches between them

320 pages

Pre Teens- One Star

New Teens- Two Stars

Early High School Teens- Three Stars

Older High School Teens- Four Stars

My personal Rating- Four Stars

Ahhh! “*The Courtship Basket*” was so SWEET! (I think I may have a cavity, hahaha. ;)) Amy Clipston continues this series with Veronica’s sister, Rachel’s story. This novel has such a sweet plot (~~that did have some angst that about did me in~~) with such great characters. Little John was adorable, I was rooting for Rachel & Mike, and Raymond added a very close topic to the author’s heart.

I can’t wait to read Emily’s story when it releases, as I’ve enjoyed every Amy Clipston book I’ve read.

Link to review:

<http://booksforchristiangirls.blogspot.com/2014/07/the-courtship-basket.html>

\*BFCG may (Read the review to see) recommend this book by this author. It does not mean I recommend all the books by this author.

\*I received this book for free from the Author for this honest review.

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### **Cecily Wolfe says**

I adore this series - I am always sad when Clipston finishes one series, but happy to know that she always has another at the ready. Fortunately, the third book in this series is coming out within a week, so I won't have to wait too long. I really like the youngest sister, Emily, and I know her story is coming next, which just might be the most emotionally intense of the three.

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### **Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says**

I read this book after visiting Amish Country in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, so the setting was fresh and vibrant in my head as I read about Rachel and Mike's struggles, and I think it enhanced my experience. The most touching thing in this book to me was the way Mike was the caregiver for his dying father. Such a heart-wrenching time of life, full of exhaustion, grief, worry, hope, and prayers. He needs all the support he can get, and his first meeting with outspoken Rachel did not start them off on the right foot. Over time Rachel's compassion shines through her dedication to his little brother John's education and the meals she sends in the large picnic basket to help his family. I thought Rachel's initial ambivalence about teaching was interesting, but as she learns some humbling lessons and increases her skills, she sees the value that helping others has in her life. She and Mike are definitely attracted to each other but misconceptions and fears create a bumpy road in their developing relationship. I loved the strong sense of community and family in both households and the bond they shared with their family members, which created a memorable cast of characters.

(Thank you to Zondervan Publishing for a copy of the book in exchange for my honest review)

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