



# My Amish Boyfriend

*Melody Carlson*

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## **My Amish Boyfriend** Melody Carlson

Sixteen-year-old Shannon McNamara plans to get three things this summer--a driver's license, a job, and a tattoo--until a move to rural Ohio and a handsome Amish boy make her think twice.

Teen favorite Melody Carlson brings fans another sweet story of worlds--and families--colliding, exploring themes important to teen girls through an engaging tale.

## **My Amish Boyfriend Details**

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Author : Melody Carlson

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# From Reader Review *My Amish Boyfriend* for online ebook

## Beth says

Not a romance book. This is a book about relationships, forgiveness, and spirituality.

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## Ann says

I so wish this book had a better title and cover. This is a story of a young girl who, during a summer spent with Amish relatives, learns about herself and what she values. I liked how at the end of the book she was able to decide what was important to her, and she was true to herself in the choices she made.

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## Paige Klinedinst says

Shannon McNamara had her entire summer planned out from start to finish. Though, that soon changed; she had to go reside in her grandparents home. The issue? She had never even met them before. Even though some obstacles in her life were problematic, she tried to get through each one. She went through these obstacles, by the help of her family. Even though she had to deal with these issues she got through them. This book was also about a boy who she ends up liking but does he really like her? Her cousin Rachel enjoys Shannon's company until Shannon does something that will hurt her. She cries every night before she goes to bed. Later in the book Shannon takes her mother to the doctors and she has a MRI done and they finally figure out what's wrong with her.

My book didn't have many weaknesses but one was that the dialogue at some parts were confusing on who was talking. My book had a lot of strengths including the story seemed like it meant something to the author like this happened to her at some point in her life. Another strength this book was the mood the author did, if it was suppose to be a sad part she used certain words to show that mood.

I personally give this book a 5 rating because I like how the story flows and goes along swiftly. I like the characters description in this book too.

I think people who like Amish books and stories with twists and also direct at some points. I think people who also like books where the characters have to live a totally different lifestyle and try to work there way around certain obstacles would like this book.

Some other books Melody Carlson has wrote besides *My Amish Boyfriend* are *The Jerk Magnet* which is about a girl who has to deal with her father getting remarried and dealing with a new family and *Double Take* is about these two girls who look the same but are from two different lifestyles, like one lives in New York and the other is Amish and they switch lives for a few weeks.

The author's writing is more teenage style and she makes it so all audience can understand how the story goes. She is also good at plots and having a problem and solving it by the end of the book.

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## **Heather says**

Shannon wants an escape this summer and she had big plans. However those plans go by the wayside when her and her sick mother go to stay with relatives she had no idea existed. Relatives that are Amish!

I didn't know what to expect exactly with this book, but I wasn't disappointed. I liked the fact that Shannon grew and changed during her Amish summer. I'm having to control my self from going into more detail, but I liked how she progressed throughout the story.

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## **Ibjoy1953 Hannabass says**

### **MY THOUGHTS ON THIS BOOK**

This is a really sweet book to read. Shannon wasn't expecting to like it when visiting her mom's Amish family, but she finds out that there are good looking Amish boys! Even though this is a teen fiction I enjoyed the interaction between Shannon and the Amish family they were staying with. The characters here were realistic and believable, and the Amish household was it's useful peaceful and quiet place. Melody Carlson is a gifted storyteller and tells an awesome story here in this book. And with the many twists and turns throughout the story, its difficult to put this sweet book down after you start reading. Mix and English and Amish family together, and you have an interesting story to follow!

And if you have teenagers, this is a wonderful book, and a wonderful series to have them read! I received this book from Revell 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

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## **Mardell says**

Shannon does not have it all but she does have goals for summer vacation that won't see her sitting idly by. Not bad goals for a girl of sixteen! Life does take a turn in this story though and sometimes reality is harder to believe than fiction. No matter how you plan it seems that life often takes those unexpected turns. Summer vacation has just begun and Shannon learns that her mother's parents are alive. Not only alive but they are Amish! Shannon and her chronically ill mother are to take the bus to Ohio the very next morning so that her mother can get well again. Hard to absorb this piece of news, it is harder yet when Shannon gets off the bus and waits for her uncle to pick them up in a horse and buggy.

As Shannon is adapting to living a plain life she is captivated by a young Amish man named Ezra who has all the looks and charms to sweep her off her feet. His smooth talking ways are sincere to Shannon, who has just met her first love. Is he truly in love with her? Would he love her more if she converted to the Amish faith? Would her mother's family accept her more too if she became one of them?

Her mother, Anna, is not improving and Shannon is faced with serious decisions to make that are not supported by her Amish family. She must take responsibility and come into her own identity. This is a coming of age story unlike many you have read. Melody Carlson tells a story of love and being true to self. I

love how she weaves so many ideas through the story. A simple life is not as simple as it looks. Anyone who lives past their teen years knows from experience they are difficult in and of themselves.

I am impressed with the well written plot and character development of My Amish Boyfriend. My granddaughter saw my copy on my desk and is waiting to borrow it. It will be a fun book to discuss with her and I am sure we will talk at length of the characters. I wonder how she will react when she sees the plot twist and turn; I wonder what she will say about Ezra and his loyalty to his faith and family. This is the first time I have read one of Melody Carlson's books and I understand her appeal to young readers. The characters are easy to identify with and the story keeps the reader's interest.

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### **Hannah says**

I loved this book! It was written very well and had a very interesting plot. In the book Shannon and her mother go to visit her Amish family. While they are there during the summer, many events happen and cause Shannon to step back and put her faith in God, and what it means to be Amish.

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### **Carol says**

I just wanted to dig into YA again, after leaving my 8th grade classroom years ago. This is light, breezy, on the surface - summer romance, 16-year-old girl with too much responsibility. But I could put it in the hands of a girl who needs to think about people who do not live the way she does, and it could be an eye-opener. The main character lives with her previously unknown Amish relatives when her sick mother needs more care. Mildly religious, the book allows a glimpse into day to day routines and details.

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### **My Book Addiction and More MBA says**

MY AMISH BOYFRIEND by Melody Carlson is an interesting Inspirational Amish Teen Fiction set in Amish country in Ohio. Meet sixteen - year old, Shannon McNamara as she and her mother move to Ohio in the Amish country. Her mother has fallen ill and so off they go to her relatives who can help them. Shannon meets a young Amish boy, Ezra, but is he what or who she really thinks he is or what she really wants in life?

"My Amish Boyfriend" is not just another Amish tale of a simple life but a tale of struggles, hardship, decisions, faith and so much more. This story has so much to offer not just teens, and young readers, but adults as well. It shows us so much and once again Ms. Carlson has written a story of faith, family, friendship, with spiritual truths and the struggles teens are faced with on a daily basis. It was interesting to watch as Shannon matures and grows not only in her faith, but in her desires also. A quick read! Well done, Ms. Carlson! Received for an honest review from the publisher.

\*Coming in February from Revell Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group\*

RATING: 4

HEAT RATING: Sweet

## **Jalynn Patterson says**

### About the Book:

Sixteen-year-old Shannon McNamara has exciting plans for the summer, and she can't wait to get to them. Unbeknownst to her, however, her widowed and ailing mother has plans of her own--to relocate them both to the heart of Amish country in Ohio where she has relatives who can look after her. Shannon quickly learns that living a "simple" life is actually a lot of hard work. But when a hot young Amish guy named Nate Troyer enters the picture, she's ready to get an Amish makeover and even consider making it a permanent change. But does Nate share her attraction? Will Shannon really make the jump into this new way of life? And will it be for the right reasons?

Teen favorite Melody Carlson brings fans another sweet story of worlds--and families--colliding, exploring themes important to teen girls through an engaging tale.

### About the Author:

Melody Carlson is the award-winning author of more than two hundred books, including the Life at Kingston High series, The Dating Games series, Double Take, and A Simple Song. She has received a Romantic Times Career Achievement Award in the inspirational market for her many books, including the Diary of a Teenage Girl series and Finding Alice. Melody and her husband live in Oregon. Find out more at [www.melodycarlson.com](http://www.melodycarlson.com).

### My Review:

Shannon is a 16 year old girl with a plan for her summer vacation. She and her best friend Merenda discuss it on the last day of school as they ride home on the bus. First part of her plan is to get her drivers license and the second part is to get a job. But as soon as Shannon gets home that day from school it seems that her neighbor Mrs. Wimple lets her in on the "real" plan for her summer. Shannon and Mrs. Wimple have been caring for Shannon's ailing mother for sometime now. So the very kindly neighbor along with Shannon's mother Anna have devised a plan that involves Shannon and her mom to stay with family about 5 hours away in Hochstetler in Ohio.

Shannon feels like she is the parent in this situation and she wants her freedom. She even reasons with herself at maybe just placing her mom on the bus to leave and she, Shannon continuing on with her plan for the summer. But she soon realizes that that is not the best way to be, her mother needs her. Shannon soon finds out some family secrets about her mom. She even thinks she will have trouble adjusting to this kind of life, but soon some one crosses her path that could change her mind about the situation.

**\*\*Disclosure\*\*** This book was sent to me free of charge for my honest review from Revell.

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## **Hailey says**

I found that this book was very interesting especially since me and my friend had been getting into books that are based around the Amish. On the flip side, I didn't hold very high expectations for the book, but tried to give it a second chance and dive right in!

Overall with this book I can say I was a little disappointed with the overall story. This story idea (at least in my opinion) seemed to be better in theory. There seemed to be a few plot holes, and the character growth was more prominent in the main character than any other character. The relationship between Shannon and Ezra was progressing at an alarming rate, and their relationship seemed to be a little unrealistic (I mean who says I love you after only like two weeks).

If you would like to see my full review you can check out my blog: <http://ink-pages.blogspot.com>

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## **Nikki says**

My copy was provided by Netgalley.

Shannon is an everyday teenager who can't wait to have fun and grow up, but she didn't want to be a mother to her own mother. Her mother is suffering from a disease that makes her so dizzy that she can hardly stand up. Shannon has to take care of the house, her mother, and her grades which doesn't leave her a lot of free time. So when Shannon's mother decides to move back with the parents Shannon never knew about, her whole world turned upside down. It turns out Shannon's grandparents are Amish and for Shannon to help her mother, she must learn the ways of the Amish and make her own decisions on her future.

Shannon's feelings and frustrations were well expressed in this book. You could tell Shannon was angry about how she couldn't enjoy her life and was missing out on so many important things, but she didn't regret helping her mother. She wants to be accepted by her grandparents, especially the grandfather who seems to hate her. Shannon works hard, never backing down, just so she can gain the acceptance of her grandparents who never knew her for sixteen years.

I like how this book taught me about the Amish and their ways of life. Instead of glossing over the details, Carlson explained about their religion and the troubles they go through every day. Just like other families, the Amish have rough times, but they always persevere, never giving up the simple things in life.

The book was quick and quite enjoyable. What I didn't like was the relationship between Shannon and Ezra. They met only a few times and their second meeting involved Shannon saying she loves him. I mean, she barely knows the guy and she's already declaring her love for him. At the very most, she probably just had a crush on him.

And he doesn't discourage her. He said he loves her even though it's practically impossible to love someone you barely know that you only met two or three times. They even got close to having sex when they don't know anything about each other. Shannon doesn't know anything about Ezra's life, yet she's willing to give up everything for him. I found this aspect very unrealistic.

This was a fast read that kept me interested the whole time. I like how Carlson illustrated the relationship between Shannon and her mother and how Shannon would do anything to protect her mom, even if it meant giving up things she loves.

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## **Diana says**

Eh, it didn't really grab me, and Shannon didn't make much sense half of the time. Not bad though.

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## **Sara Elizabeth Huffman says**

For those of you who don't know, I have a deep fascination with the Amish. As I started reading this book, I also started watching Breaking Amish for the first time on Netflix. I know there's a lot of controversy surrounding the show and it's credibility, but it is fun to watch. And I think it puts some aspects of Amish and Mennonite communities into perspective; especially their practice of shunning. A lot of times novels and TV Shows romanticize the Amish lifestyle, but it's true that it is not without its complications.

At first, I thought this was going to be a book that praised the lifestyle and see no wrong in it. I'm not saying it is a bad lifestyle, please don't get me wrong. We are all human though, and no matter your culture, we all have flaws. This book really delved into that, which I appreciate.

We meet our main character Shannon as she is planning her perfect summer. Her dreams however are crushed when she comes home to her sick mother. The doctors aren't fully sure what's wrong and give her a vague diagnosis. However, her mother is getting worse and the neighbor is unable to care for her. It is then that Shannon is introduced to the foreign fact that her mother actually has family. Her ever so kind neighbor ships the mother and daughter to their family. So much for a summer job and butterfly tattoo! Shannon was greeted by an Amish man in a buggy upon her arrival.

Shannon has to learn to accept the lack of electricity and hard work required living in the Amish community, but she doesn't seem to mind. At least not after she meets the handsome Ezra. She even thinks that maybe being Amish isn't so bad. But Ezra isn't sure if he wants to be Amish. After all, he hasn't been baptized yet and still goes to parties. Things take an interesting turn of events when Shannon finds out that her cousin had (or perhaps, has?) a thing for Ezra. So there it is — can Shannon get over her cousin's past with Ezra? Will she join the Amish, or will Ezra leave the community? I suggest picking up a copy to find out. This book is totally worth it. I received it from Melody's publisher for an honest review. I was not disappointed. I love Melody Carlson and all her books, she's a wonderful author!

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## **Shirley says**

My Amish Boyfriend

By Melody Carlson

Publi: Revell c. 2014

Sixteen-year-old Shannon McNamara has her summer all planned as she heads home on the last day of school. She has 3 goals: get her driver's license, get a summer job, and get a tattoo on her ankle.

When she steps into the hall where her apartment is located her summer plans explode. The neighbor who has been helping care for her sick mother Anna catches her before she can make it to her apartment. Anna and Mrs. Wimple have been talking that day and decided since Mrs. Wimple will be out of town for a while Shannon and her mother need to go to Anna's parents in Ohio so Shannon will have someone to help her care for Anna. The tickets have been bought, transportation to the bus station has been arranged, and



someone is lined up to pick them up at the bus station in Ohio to take them to Anna's parents.

Shannon is first of all shocked that she has living relatives other than her mom. Her dad has died years before leaving just Anna and Shannon – or so she thought. When she arrives in Ohio not only is she shocked at the extent of family, but she is speechless to find out they are Amish. She finds out that her mom left her Amish family when she was 15 and hasn't had any contact with them since.

Shortly after arriving Shannon meets Ezra Troyer. He is all the things she had dreamed of for the perfect boyfriend, except she never pictured herself with an Amish boyfriend. Shannon begins to dream about life as an Amish bride with Ezra by her side.

Because of the friction her non-Amish lifestyle and dress cause the family she begins to wear Amish-style clothes and to take part in the life of the family. She seeks to learn more about what the Amish believe and the lifestyle they live. This only causes her to dream more about life as an Amish bride.

Shannon's mother continues to decline so Shannon arranges to take her to the doctor in Ohio. The exam and further tests reveal that Anna has a major health issue that needs immediate attention.

In the midst of Anna's health crisis Shannon is forced to take a good look at her life and what she wants out of it. She faces her feelings about Ezra, about being Amish, about her family, and about her relationship with God.

This is a wonderful book about a young girl as she comes to grips with growing up. I highly recommend this book not only for young people but also for adults. It is eye-opening, honest, soul-searching, and thoroughly entertaining.

I was provided a copy of this book through The Book Club Network for my unbiased review.

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