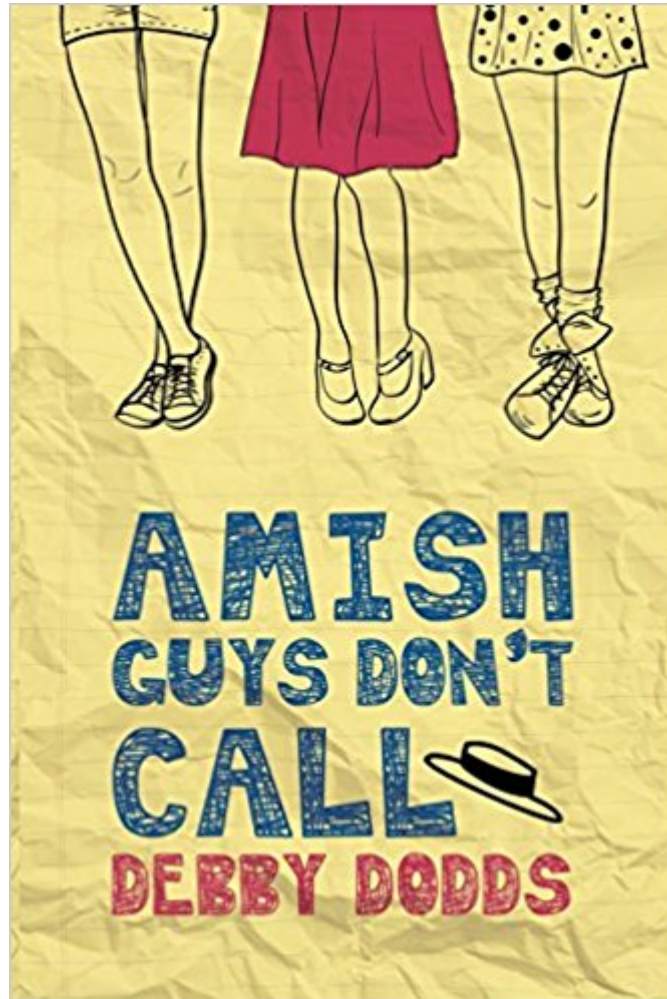




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Amish Guys Don't Call



Synopsis

What's more awkward than finding out you're dating a vampire or a werewolf? Finding out you're dating an Amish guy. That's the dilemma facing Samantha Stonesong in *Amish Guys Don't Call*. Newly accepted into the popular girl's clique called "The Sherpas" led by mean girl, Hillary, Samantha already faces scrutiny and anxiety at the start of her junior year. She's also entering into her first romance with a guy named Zach who she suspects might be a "player" because he acts suspiciously guarded. They share a love of horror movies and he's the first person since her father left after her parents' divorce, who makes her feel proud of her intelligence. But when she finds out the truth: that Zach was raised Amish, but has chosen not to end his Rumspringa, instigating a potential shunning from his family, things really get stressful. When Zach returns to the Amish community to help his family through a rough time and her new friends start cyber-bullying her, Sam reaches a breaking point and falls back into her old habit of shoplifting. Luckily when she's caught, it's by a compassionate former hippie who helps her to reclaim her life, reconnect with her dad, and determine what values and people are really important to her. And in doing so, Samantha finds out everyone has secrets.

Book Information

Paperback

Publisher: Blue Moon Publishers (June 13, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1988279437

ISBN-13: 978-1988279435

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 32 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,306,310 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #106 in Books > Teens >

Romance > Clean & Wholesome #538 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Bullying #4837 in Books > Teens > Romance > Contemporary

Customer Reviews

"Samantha Stonesong is one of the most appealing, hilarious, whip smart narrators I've encountered in ages--her voice vibrates right off the page (and her last name feels appropriate--Debby Dodds writes with such energy and wit, she could even make a stone sing). *Amish Guys Don't Call* is a gift--fresh, funny, moving, unforgettable." - Gayle Brandeis, author of

The Book of Dead Birds and My Life with the Lincolns" In *Amish Guys Don't Call*, author Debby Dodds gives us a young high school girl we can all root for. Estranged from her father and living with her narcissistic mother, shy, bright Samantha Stonesong is trying desperately to fit into the social scene at a new high school. Her efforts come unraveled when she falls for an Amish guy and becomes the victim of vicious cyber bullying. An old coping urge to shoplift re-emerges, which only gets her deeper into trouble. In a story filled with surprises, emotional ups and downs, and humour, Dodds deftly paints a portrait of a young girl whose honesty, courage, and intelligence win the day. Highly recommended." -Warren C. Easley, author of the Cal Claxton Oregon Mysteries "Amish Boys Don't Call, is as compelling and fascinating as a first kiss. It's Romeo and Juliet in Amish Country. Zach is an Amish boy who just wants to be like everyone else. Sam is a modern American teen with her own problems fitting in with the mean girl culture at her high school. Sam and Zach are not supposed to fall in love, but they do. And true love never runs smoothly, especially in Lancaster, Pennsylvania." -Janice Maxson, Reviewer "Laugh out loud funny! *Amish Guys Don't Call* is a witty romantic comedy that entertains from beginning to end. Sam is a complex and relatable protagonist who falls for a boy that is far more than Plain." - Kate Scott author of *Counting to D*

On the surface, It may seem like a quick light reading story, but just like every classic Disney movie, the more you pay attention, the more you will see, and the more you understand, the deeper the appreciation for those hidden gems. I absolutely must comment on the brilliant writing style by Debby Dodds that had me seeing so many levels of development. As a preteen, one could relate to those awkward years and dream about a first kiss. As a teen-ager one could relate to the sometimes-brutal dynamics among girls, as a parent, you can relate to the frustration of raising a teen. And as a human, you can empathize, remember, and laugh about every moment that feels familiar or brings up that tiny pang of anxiety and self-consciousness we all went through at some point in our lives. The heartbreak, the fear of failure, the desire to be accepted, then learning how strong we really are, and that love does exist, and we do evolve and mature. I found that overall, it was way more compelling than I had anticipated! I was so drawn into the seemingly simple lives of the high school clique that watching their complexity unfold page by page had me riveted! (I picked up the book at 9pm on a Thursday night intending to read just a few chapters before drifting off to sleep, but stayed up the ENTIRE night and ended up running late for work!!) There are great lessons through Sam's journey that teach tolerance, the meaning of friendship, and that it's ok to ask for help. I believe this book could be an invaluable tool with its discussion questions at the end to help take this to the next level. I may actually read it again just to let some of the

more subtle quirks come to light. I genuinely enjoyed every moment of it and sincerely recommend that you buy a copy!

I really enjoyed this novel. It was a fun read, with characters who were wonderfully relateable, but truthfully complex. I think anyone who has survived high school will empathize with what Sam and her friends experience! Debby Dodds' writing is funny and insightful, and the story is universal. We (hopefully) all go through a point in our lives when we figure out who we want to be - and stop apologizing for it. I think this novel will speak to many people, and I highly recommend it!

You can usually tell when an author writes from research & when they write from experience. This book feels as though the author is writing from both. It honors the Amish Faith & lifestyle, while still bringing a good story about some of its quirks. Couple that with good writing & a solid YA romance, and this is one of very few YA books that won me over.

A very cute story about teenage love and angst. Some minor inconsistencies in the timeline, but let those go and you'll enjoy this sweet tale.

Wonderfully well written. Gives great insight into the Amish. Have recommended this book to many academics for enhancing perspectives in their instruction.

I've always found reading/learning about Amish people interesting, so when I saw this listed on NetGalley, I couldn't resist requesting it. Besides adult romance, it seems nearly impossible to find Amish or ex-Amish characters in fiction so I was very interested in reading a YA book that featured an ex-Amish character as a love interest. While there were a decent amount of things that could've been improved with the book, overall, I thought it was a cute and entertaining read. There were two major problems that I had with *Amish Guys Don't Call*. The first was the author's (unsuccessful) attempt at using teen slang. As far as I'm aware, the majority of the slang that the characters used weren't actual words used by teens. I guess there's the possibility that they were and it's a regional difference in slang, but I'm skeptical. There were some attempts to use language that was actually recognizable to me, but that still wasn't used correctly. For example, at one point one of the girls says "Wow, now that guy he is so on fleek" which is not how that phrase is used at all. I have mixed opinions on whether teen slang

should be used at all (especially since it quickly changes and thus dates the book, sometimes before it's even published), but if you can do it properly, then you really should just exclude it in my opinion. The other thing that bothered me was the way that sex and drugs/alcohol were handled. Despite the main character being explicitly vocally against slut shaming at some points in the book, it still seemed like she didn't approve of women having a lot of sex. She seems judgmental toward her friend Madison at times and she certainly doesn't approve of her mom having sex. I get that it's kind of gross and definitely uncomfortable to know about your parents' sex life, but I don't know. I think there could've been a better way for Dodds to show that Sam wasn't comfortable with her mom being so open about her sex life. As for drug and alcohol use, there's a lot of it, mostly by teens, in the book and it's not until the very end of the book that anyone actually says "okay, maybe it's not a good thing that teens are getting wasted every night." I'm fine with books being realistic about drug and alcohol use by teens in books, but this was a little over-the-top for me and no one seemed to really care about it. Even with those two problems, I still really loved *Amish Guys Don't Call*. Like I said, it's pretty hard to find Amish or ex-Amish characters in fiction aside from adult romance, so I was thrilled to read a YA book that featured an ex-Amish character. Although I knew a lot about the Amish already, it was still interesting to learn a bit about them through Zach's character, even if his discussions about his childhood did feel a little bit "info-dumpy" at times. Zach was a great guy, too. Even though he can be a bit old-fashioned due to his conservative Amish upbringing, he always listens when Sam tells him she's uncomfortable or upset by something. I loved the relationship they had because both of them are really supportive towards each other and both do their best to be there when needed. They were also a super cute couple which is always a plus. I also really loved seeing how much Sam grows throughout the novel. Sam goes through a lot with her new relationship with Zach, her friendships (especially with Madison), and her relationship with her parents. As a result, she matures a lot over the course of the book. I was impressed by how much she was able to change and was especially impressed with how she began to start trying to understand why her mom reacts the way she does and began to really take responsibility for her own reactions. I think a lot of people struggle to do these things and so I think it will be good for readers to see a character be open and mature enough to learn to do so. How quickly she changed was borderline unrealistic, but not in a way that bothered me at all. While I obviously didn't think *Amish Guys Don't Call* was perfect, it was still an immensely enjoyable read in my opinion. Although I had problems with the way some topics were handled as well as with the

incorporation of teen slang into the dialogue, I found the characters and their relationships and development to be very enjoyable to read about. If you're looking for a cute (and sometimes heavy) YA contemporary, Amish Guys Don't Call is a good choice. I volunteered to receive a copy from the publisher to honestly review.

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