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Katy's New World



Synopsis

Katy has always enjoyed life in her small Mennonite community, but she longs to learn more than her school can offer. After getting approval from her elders, Katy starts her sophomore year at the public high school in town, where she meets new friends and encounters perspectives much different than her own. But as Katy begins to find her way in the outside world, her relationships at home become restrained. Can she find a balance between her two worlds?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I love Kim Vogel Sawyer's books, and this book was no exception! Katy Lambright is a young mennonite girl without a mother and is in essence, trying to find herself. She gets permission to attend a public high school, and makes some new friends there. Kim makes the character of Katy act as any normal teenager with conflicts and adventures. I like Katy. She has spunk, and determination as well as Christian values. The book is a very good read. I will save it for my two daughters to read when they get old enough, and I would highly recommend this book to anyone--not just the younger audience.

Ok first before we even start, I need to mention this is NOT a book about the Amish. Yes I know the girl on the front looks Amish, but she is not. She is Mennonite which, while similar, is quite different in what they believe and how they act. This book is quite unique because for the first time (that I can remember) a teen character who normally shuns the outside way of life choosing to live in that life.

Katy is from a strict Mennonite family but is allowed to pursue her dream of higher education by attending the public high school in her area. I found this to be quite interesting as normally most characters who come from strict lifestyle usually give up and return home by the end of the first book. The story doesn't mention which sect Katy's family is in but from what I gathered in the book they appear to be quite conservative than most other Mennonites. Other books I've read that features Mennonite vs. Amish shows the Mennonites as being practically English other than their dress and what they believe. In this book, it's mentioned that Katy's dad has a truck but other than that I didn't really see what made them different from the Amish other than actual religious beliefs. What makes this book stand out for me was the fact that Katy was NOT portrayed a goody two shoes. Even though she almost always obeys her father and abides by the rules of her community, she does not act passive and reject every unknown idea. For the most part, Katy asks like a regular teen and shows that even though she will always be different there are parts of her that just wants to fit in. Also even if she can't say things because she knows that she would get in trouble, her thoughts are a different matter which really make things more realistic. Basically the story allows Katy to be both Mennonite and a normal teen and shows equal balance without upsetting either party. I felt like this book was targeted at younger teens but older teens will enjoy it as well. I think this book was more of an introduction to the characters as well as Katy getting a first taste of the outside world. Perhaps in future books she'll be faced with more difficult challenges that everyday teens face. It will be interesting to see what her Mennonite perspective will be. I will also find it interesting as to what will happens when tougher school subjects are introduced, like using computer research at home or if we get to the point of Katy graduating and what will happen next. As it stands, I have great hopes for this series and am looking forward to future books.

Katy embarks on a new world when she leaves her small old order mennonite school to attend public high school. She faces scorn and ignorance of her and her lifestyle, yet her desire to learn more overcomes that as she bravely faces her new world. Her father faces some of the same things, but in a different way as he remembers when Katy's mother abandoned them for a different lifestyle. This book expresses well some of the reasons why parents are strict at times and how even though there are differences in lifestyles, many times they are more the same than you realize. This was a nice short story, written for teen girls, but I think girls ages 10-14 would enjoy it. It is nice to see a story where a girl wishes to respect her father, but has normal temptations to do anything but. This book is about an old order mennonite girl, while similar to Amish in many ways, it is very different. Also, very different than most Mennonites as well, who generally always complete high

school.

A very good story of a Mennonite teen who has finished her community's schooling and has received permission to attend the local town's high school, on the condition she not pick up any bad things from the locals. Seeing all the differences between the teens at the school and her friends in the community put a lot of questions in her mind. I highly suggest reading this and even suggest it to teenagers you may know.

Katy's New World by Kim Vogel Sawyer This is the first book in Kim Vogel Sawyer's Young Adult Amish fiction series, the Katy Lambright Series. In Katy's New World we meet Katy Lambright, who is a young girl, a devout member of her Mennonite community. The only difference between Katy and other members of her community is she desires to go further in school than Mennonite schools usually go. So, Katy gets special permission to attend a nearby English school, but not without worry from her community. High school is a tough enough time without being automatically viewed as an outsider or "different" like Katy is. She has to learn to navigate a world filled with technology, loud sounds, judgmental people who whisper about her, and more. Will Katy survive this huge change? Will she find a way to make friends or will she remain an outcast? And will the ways of the English world change her, and threaten her status in her Mennonite community? Read Katy's New World to find out! While this may be classified as young adult fiction, I really didn't feel like the work was juvenile like I have with other young adult fiction. I think the series accurately portrays what a huge change it would be to go from an enclosed Mennonite world to the open English world. I think changing high schools alone at that age would have been awful, but to come from such a unique background would only compound the difficulty. I really felt like I could understand Katy and her struggles. It was also cute how naive she was, but made sense because of the sheltered background she came from. It made her very believable, and very sweet. While it may be a young adult series, I think any Amish fiction lover would enjoy this book and this series! 4.5 out of 5 stars!

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