



Beyond Hope's Valley

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After an extended stay in Montana, where Amish traditions are different than in her home state, Marianna Sommer returns to Indiana for two reasons, first to help her brother and his girlfriend prepare for a baby and their wedding. Second, to plan her own wedding to Aaron Zook -- a marriage she's been dreaming about ever since childhood. And yet, although she had missed the idyllic farms and families of her upbringing, Marianna is surprised that Indiana is somehow making her long now for Montana.

As months pass, secrets that were hidden in winter's frozen grasp thaw and take on a life of their own. The truths about a child, about a past relationship, and about God's plans are being revealed. Walking through a valley of questions, Marianna must hold on to hope as she decides where and with whom her heart truly belongs.

Beyond Hope's Valley Details

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From Reader Review Beyond Hope's Valley for online ebook

Bernard Holler says

Follow your head or your heart?

I enjoyed reading the three big sky novels about the Amish. When Marianna returned with Aaron to Indiana she has many unanswered questions before she will fully commit to marry him. Why can't she forget about Ben in Montana ? What will the Amish community think of she doesn't marry Aaron?

Millie Conway says

A Satisfying and Compelling Read.

A satisfyingly ending to the series. The descriptions of the area of the country were detailed and brought out mental images of the places. The author used the illustration of the tea cup to get across the idea that our dreams may not be what they seem nor be what we need. Following Jesus is what is important.

Kay Fief says

the LORD says to love one another and forgive those who have hurt us. She knew more about being close to GOD then even the Bishop, but she didn't brag nor been prideful. The story could not of ended better. GOD BLESSINGS everyone.

Sherry Cross says

Conclusion

Beyond Hope's Valley really takes the reader to the mountain tops to the valley, and finally back to the mountaintop. The writer has a lot of territory to cover, as Marianna chooses to go back to Indiana to marry Aaron (with me telling her "he ain't no good for you, girl!") Ben pursues his singing career then gets blown out of the water. Naomi has a baby then marries Levi. Ruth & Abe decide to move permanently to Montana. And Mariana sees the light, finally. Excellent conclusion to the series. God's love and direction for the whole family is portrayed without being preachy. I recommend the series, but you will be confused if you read them out of order.

Linda Hudson says

Read the series. Hard to read one and not read the others. The plot focuses on Marianna and her difficulties with differences in Christian and Amish beliefs as she is exposed to Englishers in a dramatic move from her birth community.

Crystal Martin says

HOO HOO HOO! I am so excited to share the third novel in the Big Sky Series by Tricia Goyer! I've already shared with you *Beside Still Waters* and *Along Wooded Paths*. The latest offering in the series is *Beyond Hope's Valley*. If you haven't read the previous two, you can read the final as a stand alone, but I truly recommend reading the entire series so you get a good feel of the characters. Marianna develops so much from book to book. Her life takes on so many changes.

I have grown to love the character of Marianna. In the first novel, I was aggravated because she followed her family even when she didn't want to. Even though Tricia shows this side of the Amish that most of us are familiar with, she also shows us their vulnerable side. She shows that they are human just like we are and that they make mistakes the same as everyone else. Marianna discovers some big secrets in *Beyond Hope's Valley*. She has to finally choose which of the two men she really loves and decide what her future is going to be. This is another reason I recommend you read the first two novels. You will learn a lot about her and her family and what makes them all the way they are. The big Sky Series is my absolute favorite Amish series, if not my favorite all around series! (I'm sort of hung up on Vampires. Big differences I know.) But if I had to really choose, Big Sky would most likely be my favorite!

Disclosure: I received a complimentary copy of *Beside Still Waters* as a member of LitFuse blog tours. All opinions are my own.

Patricia Kemp Blackmon says

This novel begins where book two in this series left off, with Marianna on a train with her future husband Aaron Zook. They have just left Montana and are headed for their childhood hometown of Shipshewana, Indiana where Aaron has built them a new home. Before they marry Marianna has promised to help her brother Levi and his future wife Naomi prepare for the unexpected birth of their baby. Naomi's parents have asked they wait to marry until after the baby is born. So Aaron will get to court Marianna properly before they set a date for their own wedding.

I can't help but use the old saying that this little Amish community has turned into a regular Peyton Place. The town folk seem to know everyone's family secrets, even some secrets that folks don't even know about their own relatives. Even though the Amish do not approve of gossiping, things sure do get spread from house to house like a wildfire.

So many secrets, temptations and past guilt are alive and abundant in this novel. But so is Love. Love and Faith in God's will and a new desire to read God's Word from the English Bible. Also praying and talking to God which created a personal relationship between God and themselves.

This book was definitely the icing on the cake, as some say. I couldn't put it down.

I highly recommend this book.

I rated this book a 5 out of 5.

Disclosure:

I received a free copy of this book from B & H Publishing Group for review. I was in no way compensated for this review it is my own opinion.

Kym says

I adored this series, and was super excited to win an ARC of this book. Have you ever read a book/series where you felt like you made friends while reading...that is how I felt reading this series. I would HIGHLY recommend this series to anyone that loves to read about the Amish communities. Tricia has a wonderful way of absorbing you into her writing.

LINDA KLINE says

Excellent series

I couldn't put my Kindle down. The relationship that they had with the Lord was so inspiring. To read as it grew, for all the characters, was uplifting and helped me see so many things clearer. Thank you for sharing these stories with me.

Rachel Brand says

GENRE: AMISH/ROMANCE

PUBLISHER: B&H

PUBLICATION DATE: APRIL 01, 2012

RATING: 4.5 OUT OF 5 STARS – EXCELLENT

PROS: Satisfyingly wraps up the series; compelling sub-plots about secondary characters; continues the challenging spiritual thread from previous books

CONS: Novel has much a slower start than previous books in the series; most of the book takes place away from the series' original setting of Montana

After living in Montana with her family for some time, Marianna Sommers has finally decided to return to her Amish community in Indiana and marry her childhood sweetheart, Aaron Zook. Ben Stone, the English man that she fell for in Montana, is pursuing his music career, a sure sign that they aren't meant to be together. But even though Marianna always thought that returning to Indiana and marrying Aaron was the right thing to do, she can't help but miss Montana and the friends and family that she left behind. Her every move is watched by her Amish neighbours in Indiana, who are convinced that she's becoming too liberal and worldly in her time away. Worse, none of them understand the new connection she's made with God. As Marianna helps her brother and his girlfriend prepare for their wedding and the birth of their first child, she wonders whether what is right for Levi might not be what is right for her. Is it really God's plan for her to join the Amish community and marry Aaron, even if they aren't as close as Levi and Naomi? Haunted by her mother's old romance with an Englisher, Marianna doesn't want to bring similar hurt to her family by leaving the faith, even if it means having to hide her true beliefs. But is this truly what God wants for her life, or just what she feels obligated to do? Will the reappearance of Ben change her mind?

I only discovered Amish fiction a couple of years ago, but I quickly became a fan of this rapidly-expanding genre. Plenty of established Christian authors are starting to dip their toes into the waters of Amish fiction, including B. J. Hoff, Lori Copeland, Kathryn Cushman, Mindy Starns Clark and, as you can see, Tricia Goyer. I have to admit, I hadn't read anything by Tricia Goyer before I picked up *Beside Still Waters* in 2011, but I was immediately sucked in by her compelling plots and challenging spiritual messages. *Beyond Hope's Valley* was on my "must read" list for 2012. I'm pleased with how Tricia decided to end the series, although I'm holding on to the hope that she revisits Marianna in future books. This final instalment was almost impossible to put down in places, and I became quite emotionally invested in the lives of the characters. I got angry at the nosy women in Indiana for their judgemental attitudes, felt spiritually challenged alongside Marianna, cheered Ruth on when she stood up to a man from her past, and felt incredibly proud of Levi for stepping up into the role of husband and father that had been placed before him.

That said, I didn't feel quite as wrapped up in the story and characters as I had in the previous two books. *Beside Still Waters* and *Along Wooded Paths* had totally blown me away and definitely made my list of top ten reads for 2011, so maybe I was setting myself up for a little disappointment. My qualms with this book are small, but I will voice them: I felt that the plot was a bit slow to get started, and a good twenty-percent of the book seemed to be spent setting up events that were to come. Having now finished the book, I kind of wish that that some of that space could have been shifted to the end of the book, so that we had more time to spend with Marianna and her chosen beau! The ending came quite quickly (and no, I'm not telling you who she chooses!) and as cheesy as I often find epilogues, I really wanted one this time! I also missed the Montana setting, since nearly the entire novel takes place in Indiana, or following Ben around on his tour. Tricia describes Montana so beautifully in the other books in the series and I hope that she chooses to set another series there as it made a great backdrop for these novels.

But what *Beyond Hope's Valley* was lacking in terms of setting, it made up for in the development of secondary characters. I really felt that Tricia delved further into the emotions of Ruth, Marianna's mother, and her brother, Levi. Whole passages of this novel are told from Ruth's perspective, and while I was initially sceptical about what her point of view was going to add to the novel, the inclusion of Ruth's experiences heightened my sense of the family dynamics and cleared up some underlying issues that I'd been mulling over throughout the series. Ever wondered what difficulties Marianna's parents had before they moved to Montana? Or why Ruth wasn't keen on Marianna's friendship with Ben? Now you'll find out. While Tricia doesn't dwell on Levi's perspective so much as she does with Ruth, it was encouraging to see how much he'd grown since the first book in the series, and the scenes between him, Naomi and their child were really touching. We'd been given a teaser that included Levi at the end of *Along Wooded Paths* and I can tell you that this scene was just as good this time around, and made Levi even more endearing to the reader. Maybe it's been too long since I read the previous books in the series, but I honestly felt that Tricia had developed her secondary characters a lot more in this book. I'm looking forward to her next Amish series, and even if she doesn't revisit these characters (although I kind of wish that Levi and Naomi would get their own book), the strength of her character development makes me hopeful for what's to come.

Beyond Hope's Valley is a satisfying conclusion to the Big Sky saga, and has the kind of ending that makes you sigh with relief and let out the breath you've been holding for the last couple of pages. Unlike some romantic series, I honestly didn't know who Marianna was going to choose until I was almost at the end of the last book. I think that's what makes this series so appealing; the characters change and develop so much over the course of the books that you can't predict how the series will end. I've thoroughly enjoyed following Marianna on her journey to come closer to God and ultimately discover the man that she's destined to be with. I'd like to think that I've grown along with her. The Big Sky series sticks out from the plethora of Amish novels in that it not challenges the readers' perceptions of the Amish way of life, but it also challenges their own faith. Although Tricia likes to shake things up a bit by addressing certain conflicts within Amish theology, I can honestly say that I come out of these books not wondering whether the Amish are living their lives in a way that is pleasing to God, but whether I'm living my life appropriately. These aren't books about pleasant young Amish women who like to bake and go on buggy rides with their beaus,

but stories of real people struggling with the issues that we Englishers also have to deal with. There's still romance in this book, but I'd be hard pressed to call this book predictable. If you've been intrigued by Amish fiction but you've been put off by the pastel coloured covers, this series would be a good place to start – but do begin with *Beside Still Waters*. This is not a series that can be read out of order, but *Beyond Hope's Valley* is well worth the wait in getting there.

Review title provided by B&H.

Cheryl Baranski says

Beyond Hope's Valley, By: Tricia Goyer
This is the final book in the series.
It continues the story of Marianna Sommer's and her intended Aaron Zook. Marianna's heart still belongs to Ben an englishman that she met in Montana. Even though Marianna keeps pushing her feelings for Ben aside. Believing that she and Aaron are meant to be together. Aaron has built a home for the two of them on his family's property. Yet something about Aaron keeps nagging at her. Like he is hiding something from her. Marianna's brother Levi is about to marry Naomi. Naomi is expecting a baby. Will Marianna marry Aaron and continue to live the Amish life that she has always know? Or will Marianna finally admit that she love Ben an englishman?
I loved this series. I hated to see it end.
5 stars!

Julie Graves says

Marianna is headed back to Indiana to be with her brother and his future wife, and to marry Aaron. She has convinced herself that he is the man she is supposed to marry. He is a good man and follows the ways of their Amish community; he has built her a home and promises her love and affection.

Marianna has changed though since she has lived among the Amish in Montana. She has learned more about a personal relationship with Jesus and how freeing that is. She has also learned how to live among the Englisch. When she returns to Indiana she once again feels the burden of being watched by her neighbors. She wants to be a good wife to Aaron, but she also cannot deny her growing relationship with the Lord. Another thing she cannot deny is her longing for Montana and one particular person-Ben.

Ben has gone on tour with his music. He's not happy about once again being thrust into stardom with all of its temptations. He also is longing for Marianna, the girl that he wrote his number one song about. All over the country people are hearing his song to her; it is the highlight of each concert he performs.

As Ben and Marianna are separated by many miles they both must learn to trust in the Lord more than they

ever have before. Both must make life-changing decisions in order to follow what the Lord has revealed to each.

I really enjoyed this last installment of the Big Sky series. Marianna has such a sweet spirit. She desires only to follow the Lord and do His will, which sometimes goes against all of the rules of the Amish community she was brought up in. I admired her ability to be sweet and stand firm in her convictions.

Rosemarie says

This final book in the trilogy took a few turns I wasn't expecting. However, by the middle of the book, I was actually hoping for those turns. Marianna had some difficult choices to make after discovering a couple secrets - one from her mother's past and one from her fiancé. Through the story line, the author showed how life often doesn't work out the way we planned; but if we trust God, it will always work out according to His plan.

I enjoyed this author's series so much, I am going to read her next series that is connected by a few threads to this one.

Jeni Enjaian says

I will admit that immediately upon picking up this book, I flipped to the end to see how everything resolved. I will say nothing more than the fact that I was quite pleased.

I absolutely loved how Goyer really delved into the issues. I wish she had done more of that or lingered a little longer in some areas, like after Marianna speaks up at the quilting circle and "confronts" the bishop's wife. At times, and this is one of the reasons that I gave the book 4 stars instead of 5, it feels like Goyer attempted to deal with the big issues like sticking one toe in the water but when discovering its frigidity pulling out and running away leaving the issue unresolved. This happened a few times in the novel.

One other thing that almost put me off reading these books was the covers. Whoever chose the cover art should be fired. These are the kind of covers that used to grace Christian fiction in the late 90s early 2000s. I liked those books then but now I know much better and almost didn't read these books fearing that I would find more of the same.

I still highly enjoyed this book and have added the entire series to my Amazon wishlist. This is one book series I would like to own.

Marge says

I really enjoyed this book. Several twists and turns in this sweet, Christian romance story. Tricia Goyer writes many biblical passages in her books, relating them to her characters, sharing their love of our Lord. This was the third Tricia Goyer book I've read and I will be reading more. I highly recommend this author.
