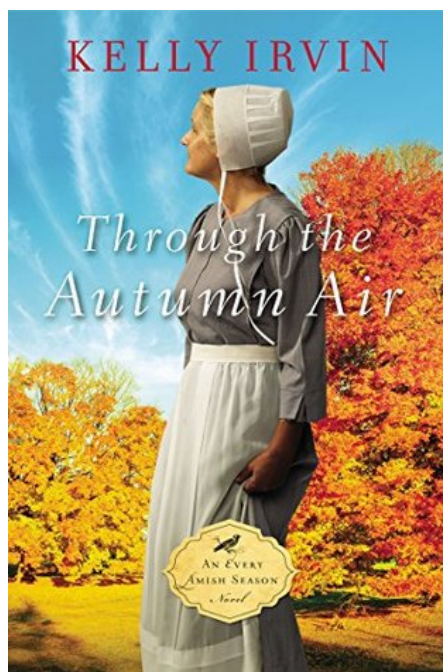




Through the Autumn Air

Kelly Irvin

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Through the Autumn Air Kelly Irvin

A mysterious English stranger appears in Mary Katherine Ropp's kitchen one autumn night, heralding the beginning of a new chapter in the widow's life.

The mother of ten, Mary Katherine is an empty-nester who lost her husband four years earlier. She misses her husband so much, she still talks to him. She pours her creative spirit into writing stories and serves as the district's Budget newspaper scribe. An avid reader, her dream is to open a bookstore with her English friend, but the church elders want this wayward widow to work in an Amish-owned combination store.

When an English man breaks into her house looking for food, Mary Katherine doesn't call the sheriff. She turns to her good friend, Ezekiel, who needs a cook at the restaurant he started after his wife died ten years earlier. Mary Katherine and Ezekiel set out separately to make sure their new friend isn't caught up in the investigation, and their efforts keep bringing them together. They're both still so in love with their long-gone spouses, so when the sparks begin to fly, they are beyond confused. Is it possible to find "The One" more than once in a lifetime?

But as Mary Katherine stands by her dear friend after the death of her husband, Mary Katherine is reminded of the terrible risk in giving her heart to someone. Can these two people, well-versed in the pain of loss, put the past behind them and trust in the hope of the future?

Through the Autumn Air Details

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From Reader Review Through the Autumn Air for online ebook

Amy says

Through the Autumn Air is the third installment from Kelly Irvin's series, Every Amish Season. I thought it was good. I loved Mary Katherine from the start. I loved seeing a story that involves an older character that finds love. Especially, after she loses her husband, the father of her ten children.

I give Through the Autumn Air four stars. A good inspiring story of faith that shows how to help others and moving on.

Holly says

The mother of ten and a widow of seven years, Mary Katherine is a bundle of energy, always willing to step in and help her friends around her Amish community. Now that her last child is married, she pours her abundant creative spirit into writing stories, even as she speaks aloud to her late husband every day. Her dream is to open a bookstore with an English friend, but the church elders want this wayward widow to work in an Amish-owned store instead. When her old school friend, Ezekiel, offers her a position as a cook in the restaurant he opened after his wife died, she knows she should accept. But does she really want to spend her time working over a hot stove? When a mysterious English stranger breaks into her house to make himself a sandwich one autumn night, Mary Katherine doesn't call the sheriff. She turns to Ezekiel. They both see that Burke is need of more than a meal, and Ezekiel offers him the job at the restaurant. As they set out to care for their new friend, Mary Katherine and Ezekiel find themselves often working together. Mary Katherine is drawn to Ezekiel, but she remembers the terrible risk of giving her heart to someone. Can two people in the autumns of their lives and so well-versed in the pain of loss put the past behind them and trust in the hope that comes with each new season?

I've read the first two books in this series, and enjoyed catching up with the same cast of characters again in this third installment. Each of the seasons that the book centers around also seems to be related to the book's theme. In this case, we are in the autumn of our characters' lives...catching them at retirement age. (It should be noted that you do NOT have to read all of the books....they work just fine as a stand-alone.) There are many unique elements in here that I haven't seen in other Amish stories, including criminal acts, the intertwinedness of the Amish & Englisch (more than usual), and the complexity of growing old within the Amish community. This is a story of loss and grief, of overcoming, and of second chances.

Helen says

Through the Autumn Air, by Kelly Irvin, is book three in An Every Amish Season. While this is part of a series, this is also a very good stand alone story. In this story we visit Mary Katherine and Ezekiel. Each of them have lost their spouses and are holding on to the love they had with them. They have each raised their families and are now having their children trying to tell them how to live their lives.

This is a very touching story of two people in the autumn of their lives who have loved their spouses so deeply. I enjoyed reading this story as it shows just because we get older, that does not mean we need help

making decisions about our lives. I enjoyed the amount of energy Mary Katherine has and how she uses it to help her friends and family. I enjoyed her unspoken honesty about having to help her daughter-in-law and grandchildren. I also liked how Ezekiel make changes when his wife past away that helped him raise and support his family in a way that he was there with them. Being about the same age as the characters, I liked the honesty of the aging process. The aches and pains they felt after being on their feet all day. The joy they felt of being around their families, while enjoying their quiet life after raising their children.

This is a great book, the main focus is the Amish and their way of life. Yet it also brings in the English and their Christian lives as well. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys reading stories of hard working people who live a simple life.

I received a copy of this book from Zondervan publishing through BookLook Bloggers. This is my honest review.

Maureen Timerman says

I enjoyed this story, and it focuses on moving on after the death of a spouse, now these are seniors, but still with a lot of living to do. In the end, there are three hurting from the loss of a spouse, two Amish and one English.

Our English fellow Burke shows up in an Amish home stealing food, so when all sorts of things go missing from local homes, Amish, he becomes the suspect. Now who would steal a pot holder?

Will these hurting individuals who have found each other be able to move on in this life, or will they continue to just live each day?

Now this is the third book in this series, but I feel you can read it alone, although I have read the other two and enjoyed them.

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

Beverly says

Mary Katherine lost her husband ten years ago and has ten grown children. The youngest just getting married. She feels there will never be another love for her, as she still deeply loves, and grieves her husband. She is not the typical Amish woman. She loves to write stories, dreams of owning her own bookstore and is rather impulsive. Her grown son urges her to move to the daudi haus and let another grown son and his family move into her home. She is not ready to give up the home where she and her husband made so many memories.

There have been break-ins to some of the Amish homes in the community. Only items of great sentimental value are taken. It is a mystery, as everyone is aware that the Amish place no importance in owning material things. They have no electronics and such.

Mary Katherine hears a noise in the middle of the night and creeps downstairs to check and finds a man in her kitchen. Upon learning that he is only there for food, she makes him a sandwich, allows him to sleep in her barn and takes him into town the following day to inquire about work at her friend, Ezekiel's restaurant. I, personally, found this rather odd and a little far-fetched for a the actions of a widow.

Ezekiel lost his fraa (wife) seven years ago and like Mary Katherine, still misses and loves her. He throws himself into the restaurant while his grown children want him to sell and rest.

Mary Katherine and Ezekiel find themselves together more and more as they help the stranger, Burke. Mary Katherine finds herself helping out in the restaurant, and just maybe having some feelings for Ezekiel, which

she feels he returns. It is too fearful to give the heart to another again and wouldn't she be betraying her dear husband? Is this what he would want?

Meanwhile, she feels pressure from her son to move out of her home and pressure from their leader, Freeman, to give up her dream of owning a bookstore with her very good friend, who just happens to be English.

I thoroughly enjoyed this story. A sweet story of friends, grief, second chances and honoring God.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Zondervan through NetGalley. Opinions expressed in this review are completely my own.

Cecilia says

In *Through the Autumn Air*, book three in Kelly Irvin's *Every Amish Season* series, we find ourselves back with our favorite widow group. What I find special about this group is that they span over several generations and support each other through heartache and new love.

Mary Katherine is in a new season of her life, mother of ten and widow for the past four years, she is prepared to live out her final days alone in the home that she shared with her late husband. Now that her last daughter is married, and she is facing living alone, her children step up and decide that at 60 years old she is no longer safe to live alone. Little did she know that God had different plans which starts to unfold when she hears an intruder in her home.

Ezekiel is owner of the Blue Martin Café in town and an Old school friend of Mary Katherine's. After bumping into each other at her daughter's wedding, he offers her a job cooking in his café. Definitely not the dream job that Mary Katherine had intended for herself.

It was great to see two individuals in the autumn of their lives, come together to help a stranger and in the process help each other heal the loss that they still carried like a badge of honor. I loved how Mary Katherine was determined to not be put out to pasture, but instead intended to follow her own dreams.

I liked the mystery of the burglar that preyed on the Amish, as well as, how Mary Katherine stood up for herself. I also loved that Kelly showed how the Amish and English worlds intertwine with not only Burke but also the employees of the Blue Martin Café.

This is a series book, but you do not have to read the first two before you read Mary Katherine's story.

I received a copy of this novel from netgalley.com and Zondervan Fiction in return for my honest review.

Judy says

Through the Autumn Air is simply lovely. Mary Katherine, Ezekiel, and Burke have all suffered loss and through friendship help each other find love and acceptance. It is a book about second chances. I love May Katherine's fiery nature and the glimpse into Amish life.

I received an ARC from the publisher through NetGalley.

Danielle Urban says

Through the Autumn Air by Kelly Irvin is a heart melting tale. Two spouses have lost a loved one. They are still feeling the pain of their loss. To cope they end up having conversations with their dead spouses. It was a bit heart breaking and understandable. No one wants to let go of someone they love. From there, the plot quickly turned interesting. It took just one stranger to bring two widowed people together. God is good. It

showed that God has ways of bringing happiness to others. First, the kindness and understanding towards a stranger, and then their growing romance....Friendships have a way of evolving deeper, if we let them. In this case, I fell in love with the characters. I couldn't help it. They had a way of pulling me in deeper. Sweet, engaging, and full of surprises, Through the Autumn Air is one wonderful Amish journey.

I received this copy from the publisher. This is my voluntary review.

Kristina says

Through the Autumn Air by Kelly Irvin is the third An Every Amish Season Novel. Mary Katherine Ropp has been a widow for seven years and has just married off the last of her ten children. Her family has been encouraging her to move out of the family home and into the dawdy haus at her eldest son's home. Mary Katherine has a vivid imagination which allows her to write creative stories plus she loves to read. She has dreamed of opening a bookstore with her Englisch friend, Dottie Manchester. However, the church elders prefer that Mary Katherine work in the Graber's Amish-owned combination store. Ezekiel Miller is a widower who owns the Purple Martine Café in Jamesport. While he still misses his wife, Ezekiel is attracted to Mary Katherine. There have been thefts at the local Amish homes. The items stolen are not valuable monetarily, but they have sentimental value to the owner. One-night Mary Katherine wakes up to a noise in her kitchen. She finds a scruffy man assembling a sandwich. Burke McMillan is a man who is lost spiritually after the deaths of his daughter and wife. Mary Katherine fixes him a meal and allows him to bunk in the barn. The next day she takes him to Ezekiel's café where he gets a job as a cook and a place to live with Ezekiel. Ezekiel and Mary Katherine see Burke as a project, but it could be that Burke was sent to help them. Is it possible to get a second chance at love? Are Ezekiel and Mary Katherine willing to risk their hearts?

While Through the Autumn Air is the third novel in the series, it can be read alone. Each story focuses on a different character who has lost the love of their life. The series is set in Jamesport, Missouri is a close-knit Amish community where everyone knows your business. I thought Through the Autumn Air was well-written and had good pacing. There are smooth transitions between sections as the point-of-view switches between Ezekiel and Mary Katherine. I liked that the characters are older. Mary Katherine is sixty years old, but she is not ready to sit in a rocking chair and knit. She has raised ten children and they have provided her with twenty-seven grandchildren. Her children (especially her oldest son Thomas) are trying to force changes on Mary Katherine along with Bishop Freeman and the church elders. One of my favorite characters is Dottie Manchester. She is a lively woman with an unusual style of dress. It is lovely that Ezekiel likes Mary Katherine's attitude (along with her creativity and curiosity) and does not want to change her (thank heavens). Some of the Christian themes present in the book are God is in control, to have a strong faith, power of prayer, events happen in God's timing, and accepting God's will and plan for our life. While I liked some aspects of Through the Autumn Air, I have others infuriating. I did not like how Thomas, Bishop Freeman and the other church elders were trying to control Mary Katherine (I understand it is the Amish way and Mary Katherine states it is a woman's lot in life to have men in charge). They wanted to make her move out of her home of thirty-six years, tell her where she could work, who she could or could not go into business with, how she should react to situation, etc. Mary Katherine is a grown woman who, as long as she is not hurting herself or breaking the law, should be able to manage her own life (I will quit ranting now). I thought the name of the bookstore was clever along with the tagline (I do not want to spoil it for you). There are some entertaining moments in Through the Autumn Air that had me chuckling. One of my favorites is Mary Katherine riding in Tony's rickety car. My rating for Through the Autumn Air is 3.5 out of 5 stars. Through the Autumn Air is sweet Amish novel with romance, mystery, humor, good food, and a love of books.

Perrienne says

Mary Katherine, nicknamed Mary Kate, has been widowed for seven years and is coming upon the autumn of her life, but is having a bit of trouble settling. Her youngest child out of ten children has just been married off and she knows what she wants to do, but she may not be allowed to according to the ordinances of the Amish Church. She has a lot of dialogue with her deceased husband Moses and it seems that he answers, but no one else knows about that or her secret desire to write and to own a bookstore. Her oldest son is trying to convince her to move into his Dawdi house, but she is still resistant for good reasons. She definitely knows that's what she doesn't want to do, and her oldest son is getting pretty pushy these days.

Ezekiel Miller is the local café owner of The Purple Martin Café, named in honor of his late wife Lucy. He and Mary Kay were friends in school days, but are literally thrown together at Mary Kate's youngest daughter's wedding feast. They fell on each other, cake and all after her older son had grabbed her arm and then suddenly released her. It seems that there were as many sparks flying as cake crumbs when the two landed together in a heap.

Mary Kay's best friend is English and wants to partner with her in a bookstore, and Mary Kay would love to do that, which makes her dream of being a book store owner seem more in reach. She is also not immune to Ezekiel's charms but hesitates starting over and giving her heart away again, especially since he has some health issues.

There are a series of petty crimes in the small community, but only directed at the Amish community. The timing is not ideal for the English gentleman who becomes a special friend to the couple.

Ms. Irvin's stories are warm and engaging right from the start and flow very well. There is no going back in the book thinking you've missed something. Even though Mary Kate has ten children, you will definitely be able to easily follow the story and keep the characters straight. I appreciate the fact that the author does not get caught up in some of the legalistic aspects of the Amish culture. There is no mention of shunning or kneeling confessions or anything like that in the book. She focuses on the main characters and draws them out for a warm and rich story.

Note that this is book 3 of 4 in An Every Amish Season series. This book could be read as a stand-alone, but you would miss some Ms. Irvin's wonderful and flowing narratives.

I received an advanced reader copy from the author. I am in no way required to give a positive review and am in no way swayed by the complimentary ARC copy of the book. My opinions and thoughts are completely my own.

Angela Brocato-Skaggs says

Widowed Mary Katherine has found herself fighting her children and the church elders over leaving her home for life in the Dawdi Haas. Her children think her facilities are failing but in truth Mary Katherine lives in a world of stories, whether through books or stories she concocts in her head and writes down later when she has the time. Everyone seems to think they know what is best for her. Instead of being able to follow her dream of opening a bookstore with her best friend who happens to be English she finds herself helping Widower Ezekiel in his restaurant and her friends in the new Amish Combination Store. As things heat up in the mysterious Amish break ins, Mary Katherine and Ezekiel find their friendship heating up as the days cool down. Can Mary Katherine find a solution to make herself happy along with everyone else?

The Every Amish Season books have been a delight to read. Through the Autumn Air has been my favorite of the three published so far. I love just about any book centered around books and reading. Plus I hope I am

as spunky as Mary Katherine when I am sixty. I admire how she tries to stay true to her faith but herself as well. Can we truly enjoy life if we don't stay true to ourselves.

If you are a fan of Amish fiction and are ready to read a story with some spunk hurry and get your copy today.

I received a complimentary copy of this novel from Zondervan Fiction through NetGalley. Any and all opinions expressed in the above review are entirely my own.

Jen. says

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..." Ecclesiastes 3:1 NRSV-CE

If you like Amish fiction novels, especially ones that feature a 60 year old woman with a creative imagination and a love for books, then this is the story for you!!

This is Kelly Irvin at her best! I loved this story!

The Every Amish Season Series is about a group of women who are all in different seasons of life. They differ by age and number of children, but they all share one thing in common - they have all lost their husbands and are now facing life after loss.

The cast of **Through the Autumn Air** has been my favorite of the series so far! Mary Katherine, Dottie, Ezekiel and Burke are so quirky and loveable! Each one brought something special to the story. Mary Katherine easily became a favorite - I just loved her spunk! The characters' ages and life experiences definitely added a unique flair to the story.

This book was definitely a romance (and such a sweet one!) but there were additional plots woven through that also kept the pages turning! **Through the Autumn Air** had its share of very funny moments as well as tender, heartfelt moments - and the balance of these was exquisite! I absolutely loved this book!

The conclusion of this wonderful series happens on February 5, 2019 when **With Winter's First Frost** is released. This final book will feature Laura Kauffman, the Mother Hen of this widows' group. I've enjoyed Laura's wise counsel thus far and look forward to her story!

I am also very excited for Kelly Irvin's romantic suspense novel **Tell Her No Lies** that is due out November 13 of this year. In fact, it's on my Anticipated Reads List for the second half of 2018!

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Zondervan through NetGalley. All opinions shared are my own.

Mary Jackson _TheMaryReader says

Another good one from Irvin.

Barb says

I received an ARC copy of this book from Net Galley in exchange for my honest opinion of it. It really was just a typical Amish story with friendship and love. Don't get me wrong, I absolutely love Amish books but I like some type of action or anticipation in it.

Wendy says

BACK OF THE BOOK BLURB

The past filled her mind even as her heart yearned for stories yet to be told . . .

The mother of ten and a widow of seven years, Mary Katherine is a bundle of energy, always willing to step in and help her friends around her Amish community. Now that her last child is married, she pours her abundant creative spirit into writing stories, even as she speaks aloud to her late husband every day. Her dream is to open a bookstore with an English friend, but the church elders want this wayward widow to work in and Amish-owned store instead. When her old school friend, Ezekiel, offers her a position as a cook in the restaurant he opened after his wife died, she knows she should accept. But does she really want to spend her time working over a hot stove?

When a mysterious English stranger breaks into her house to make himself a sandwich one autumn night, Mary Katherine doesn't call the sheriff. She turns to Ezekiel. They both see that Burke is in need of more than a meal, and Ezekiel offers him the job at the restaurant.

As they set out to care for their new friend, Mary Katherine and Ezekiel find themselves often working together. Mary Katherine is drawn to Ezekiel, but she remembers the terrible risk of giving her heart to someone. Can two people in the autumns of their lives and so well-versed in the pain of loss put the past behind them and trust in the hope that comes with each new season?

MY REVIEW

They may be in the autumn of their lives with no spouse, but that doesn't mean they can do what they please, especially Mary Katherine. She not only has to listen to the bishop but her children, mainly her sons, the oldest Thomas. I feel like Thomas has forgotten he's the son and not the father, lol, he is looking out for her safety with the mysterious break-ins going on, but he expects her to 'mind' him. WOW, can you imagine that in the English world? A good story and some wonderful characters, Kelly has a great addition to the series

here.

I received this book free from the publisher through the BookLook Bloggers; book review bloggers program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own.
