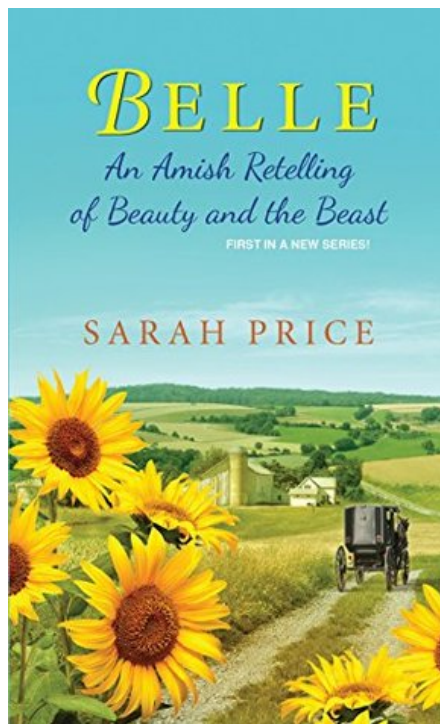




Belle: An Amish Retelling of Beauty and the Beast

Sarah Price

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Belle: An Amish Retelling of Beauty and the Beast Sarah Price

In author Sarah Price's fresh and inspirational retelling of a beloved classic, a dutiful young Amish woman agrees to marry a notorious recluse for her family's sake—but the consequences are more than either bargained for . . .

To most townsfolk, he's known simply as The Beast. Annabelle Beiler has little interest in gossip, but she's heard about Adam Herschberger's scars and his gruff, solitary ways. Though he sounds like a character from one of Belle's treasured books, the man is real and, it turns out, just as unreasonable as the rumors claim. When a buggy accident wipes out the last of her *daed's* money, forcing him to sell their farm, Adam buys it. Then he offers Belle a deal—marry him, and her family can keep their home.

Everyone is shocked by Belle's decision, but she's determined to be a good *fraa*, cleaning Adam's rundown house and tending the overgrown garden. Breaking through her new husband's icy reserve will be another matter. Belle's courage and strength are abundant, but it will take true faith to guide Adam back to the heart of his Amish community—and to the loving marriage they both deserve.

Belle: An Amish Retelling of Beauty and the Beast Details

Date : Published October 31st 2017 by Zebra (first published October 2017)

ISBN :

Author : Sarah Price

Format : Kindle Edition 320 pages

Genre : Romance, Amish, Christian Fiction, Amish Fiction, Fairy Tales, Beauty and The Beast, Fantasy, Adult

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From Reader Review Belle: An Amish Retelling of Beauty and the Beast for online ebook

Jessica Chittester says

I have never read an Amish Christian romance novel before. I've read a few Christian romance novels before (some a hit and miss) but never anything Amish. Compared to most other novels of the romantic genre, this was a fresh and delightful read. Soothing even.

No foul language. No explicit sex scenes. No ungodly amount focus on body parts (chest, eyes, breasts - we've all read those novels).

It dealt with day to day things that you would find in any small town. Pettiness, resent, gossip, shunning, etc. It's the same no matter where we go.

Belle is a strong, brave, almost fierce heroine. She does what needs to be done. Her family is near ruin - debt, loss of transportation, no faith or support from the community. The house is bought by a recluse. Belle makes an agreement to marry him, knowing this sacrifice will save her family from having to move to a new town. Some reviewers viewed her as a brat. I disagree with them. She is not a brat. She does what she sets her mind to and she is always with God in all of her decisions.

At first Adam is harsh. He's mean, quick to anger, and shutoff from his emotions; emotions that will bring him any more trauma or pain. Yet, we get glimpses of the true type of man he is. He's kind, sweet, thoughtful and has the biggest heart of any man I've read in a book.

Together, these two make a wonderful pair. They take strength in each other and they learn to grow together from two complete strangers to a proper husband and wife.

My one complaint with this book is that it felt a bit rushed at the end. We get to see the moment that Adam and Belle fall in love but not how they grow in their love. This had me a bit miffed. I would've liked to see a little more of their relationship growing before the book ended.

Before I forget, this was also my first book by Mrs. Price. This is also the first book in a new series of fairytale retellings that deal with the Amish.

I will be buying and reading the rest of this series.

Erin Cataldi says

I give inspirational romance a lot of crap, especially the Amish ones because they so often tend to be formulaic, boring, and preachy, but I will admit... I kinda dug this one! Honestly! When my friend told me there were Amish fairy tale spin offs I laughed. It sounded so dumb, bizarre even! So I went into this book expecting it to be awful, and admittedly I didn't fall in love with it right away, but once I got into the story, I was hooked. Belle lives with her father and two useless sisters. When they find out that they are going to lose the farm because their father hasn't been paying the mortgage all hope seems gone; they will be destitute and homeless. The town recluse, Adam, a man disfigured from a fire, buys up the farm and Belle tries to plead with him to save their home. He tells her the only way he'll let her family have the farm back is if she agrees to marry him and bear him a child. Against her better judgement she does, because she loves her family and

wants the best for them. She knows nothing about this man, other than what her little Amish community has gossiped about him and his beast-like looks. Can they make this marriage work? Can she tame the beast and save her family? Cheesy, but super readable. I'll be reading the next in the series!

Maureen Timerman says

A delightful retelling of a classic story "Beauty and the Beast" and the author does it with an Amish twist. Sarah Price helps us understand that people are fallen, and being a member of a religious community, does not guarantee that they all live their faith.

Surprises abound as Belle begins her journey to become Adam's fraa, from her childhood home to her new married abode, and yes we get to see these through her eyes. You will soon be sweeping and cleaning before you can even move in, and then what, delightful, and yet serious at the same time.

From the first to the last page it becomes a quick page-turner, and you will be captured in the retelling of this great tale, and then you will be teased into waiting for the next.

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

Deanne Patterson says

I always have enjoyed reading Sarah Price's books. In this one, Belle: An Amish Retelling of Beauty and the Beast (An Amish Fairytale) as the title says it is a retelling of fairy tale Beauty and the Beast complete with the heroine's name being Belle, short for Anabelle. Her tinkering father is always inventing things to try to sell to support his family. After a buggy accident destroys his buggy and kills his horse he hasn't the money to support his family. The last of the family's money was put into trying to invent the perfect money making product but it got destroyed in the buggy accident. With the mortgage being months late on the farm where Belle, her father and 2 sisters live her father has no choice to sell the farm. Now this is where reclusive Adam Herschberger aka The Beast comes in. He is the one who is buying their farm and tells her if she will do something for him that her family will be able to stay at the farm. She agrees to marry him against her better judgement to help her family. He is quite rude and cold to her after the marriage and Belle really wonders what she has gotten herself into. Cleaning the house and preparing dinner she feels more like his hired help than a wife with the lack of respect and no manners or communication that he presents her with. The town's people call the reclusive man Beast behind his back because of his scars and mean temperedness. Is Belle able to break through his icy wall he has erected between them and make their marriage a happy one. I suggest you read this retelling of Beauty and the Beast and find out. I really enjoyed this and look forward to the next fairy tale retelling Sarah Price releases, a retelling of Cinderella.

Pub Date 31 Oct 2017

Thank you to NetGalley and Kensington Books for a review copy in exchange for my honest review.

A. Reviewer says

* I received a copy of this book via the Goodreads giveaway *

First of all, I knew next to nothing about the Amish. They live in a world which is so far removed from my surroundings. Unfortunately, the only things I did know about the Amish, (besides the obvious stereotypes) I

learned from Weird Al's parody of "Gangster's Paradise" called "Amish Paradise." *Facepalm of shame* I was delighted to learn a bit about the Amish community from this novel. While I am no expert to vouch for its authenticity, I did enjoy learning the Amish dialect scattered throughout the novel. In the tightly knit community of Echo Falls, Annabelle Beiler (Belle) is contented with her life on the farm and reading romance novels. One day, a disaster strikes Belle's family forcing her into bargaining with Adam, a disfigured recluse who is known as The Beast. Adam strikes a deal with Belle, marry him, and produce a son, and in return, Belle's family will be able to keep their farm. But Adam is no prince in disguise. Once Belle agrees to marry him, she fears that she has made a mistake. Caught in a whirlwind from Adam's bad temper, Belle tries to win his favour. But how could she melt the heart of a cold-hearted beast? This was a pleasant retelling of the classic story of Beauty and the Beast... Amish style. In terms of romance, it was a slow-burning fire full of unquenchable passion, which is my type of romance novel. At first, I wasn't sure how the elements of Beauty & the Beast would translate into an Amish setting. Somehow, it all came together nicely. The Amish aspect was an interesting touch. I felt as if I were transported into a different world both familiar and unfamiliar. Belle's village reminded me a little of Avonlea in Anne of Green Gables where everyone is waiting to latch onto the newest branch of gossip. I would recommend this novel to those who love Beauty and the Beast retellings. Side note: I also ended up realizing that if I found myself suddenly in an Amish community, I would be basically useless.

eyes.2c says

"Just one speck of dust can blind an eye."

A rather fascinating story that explores the idea of love and marriage, duty and faith. Belle's father has driven the family finances into dun territory with his investments in continual failed schemes. At last it seems his 'griller' invention might be a way to break through. Alas his bad luck or serious miscalculation continues. The family is left destitute. Their property is bought by Adam Herschberger, the local recluse who has withdrawn from the Amish society due to people's responses to his scarred face. Many call him The Beast--as Belle notes, hardly the godly action of a faith community. Belle goes to Adam to see if she can be his housekeeper in exchange for the family being able to continue to live in the house. Instead Adam offers her marriage. The story of Belle coming to the belief that God has called her to marry Adam, the many tribulations she must face as she tries all she can to make this marriage work are extraordinary. A intricate look at relationships and the communities they are part of. The look into Amish customs adds an extra level of interest. Bible verses are scattered throughout the story, all having a relevant place consistent with the action, illuminating the moment. A very special and appealing love story with a difference.

A NetGalley ARC

Kimberly says

I like this book. It wasn't as dramatic as I had anticipated but it was a pleasant read. I will probably read the

others in the series. It is good to cleanse the palate occasionally with a book that doesn't contain graphic sex and/or violence.

Carmen says

I especially liked the bishop's "speck in the eye" sermon. It has great relevance in today's world. I thought some of the book characters could be fleshed out more but that's also in keeping with the fairytale retelling.

brooke smith says

Alright

It's an alright romance story, however I wouldn't recommend buying it for the price that it is right now. There are other romance novels for \$3 that are just as good as this one. Out of the top of my head, I would recommend those who like this story to read Beauty and the scarred Duke, the only difference is that this story has a more religious tone. It was very slow in the beginning of the story and it didn't seem to feel like there was a climax at all. The male character of this book had acted one certain way until about three quarters into it. I could see the potential of this book: maybe if the point of view wasn't always on Belle but also with Adam, that way we can feel what he was feeling instead of having it confessed to us.

Negar Arvanaghi says

Honestly, all buggies look alike to me. I will have to take more notice the next time I'm in Lancaster.

Belle walked? Yikes.

Her sisters sound really selfish and childish.

I bet Adam lives in the stables.

Three hours at church?

She sure cries a lot.

This is a sad wedding. But I think she should give Adam a chance. He seems to be "interested" in her.

I am learning so much about Amish life.

He hasn't had anyone to talk to for years. I can understand why he finds her talking annoying.

Children learn by example, John.

A horse auction does sound like a fun date.

Ha, an Amish woman who knows how to pick a lock?

Oh, a twist. But how come no one else in the community knew that it was his grandparents' farm? It wasn't that long ago.

I received an ARC from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Joy says

I received this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Wow!

What can I say?

Well, whatever I say it could not do this book justice.

Belle is a hardworker who dreams of falling in love...just not right now and definitely not to a man she barely knows. But faced with the decision of marrying Adam Herschberger or going homeless, marrying Adam doesn't seem like such a bad idea. But Adam's secret past and scarred face only tells Belle that there's more to him than meets the eye. But can she break through to him.

I simply loved, loved, LOVED this book. The characters were engaging and had me on the edge of my seat since the first page.

I read this in two settings. (It would have been one if I didn't need my beauty sleep) But I highly recommend this book. It is appropriate for all readers.

Allison says

At first I was a little worried that this was going to be a retelling of the Disney version of Beauty and the Beast because a lot of character names seem to be derived from the Disney films (like naming the Beast character Adam, the semi-official Disney Beast-Prince's name), and Belle's father is an inventor that the town considers to be eccentric. However, that turns out to just be minor details, and the story does have elements of the original fairy tale as well. Belle has two lazy sisters, and the Beast asks his nightly question at dinner (though in this case since they're already married the question is "Do you love me?"). Belle is a dutiful Amish girl living in the small town of Echo Creek. Her father has made some very poor decisions with money and the family is nearly destitute. When an accident forces him to sell their farm or lose everything, Belle goes to the reclusive bachelor buyer, Adam, to plead with him to let her keep house for him in exchange for her father and sisters to at least continue to live in their home. Instead, she is told that if she marries Adam, who was disfigured in a tragic accident, and gives him a son, then he will sign the farm back over to her father. Belle is at first horrified at the idea of marrying someone she's never even seen (Adam hides in the shadows as much as possible), but in desperation she agrees, knowing that if her family is forced to move they will not have enough money to start over.

Thus begins the marriage of Beauty and the Beast. Belle, expecting rough treatment thanks to Adam's gruff manner, is surprised when her new husband seems to be avoiding her instead, and despite his initial demand for a son has not insisted on consummating the marriage. She becomes determined to unravel the mystery

that he constitutes, and in the process is sadly enlightened about faults in her little Amish community that she had been only marginally aware of before. Belle never loses her faith, and eventually they all discover that God can indeed be trusted to work for the good of all.

There is obvious setup for at least two further fairy tale retellings in this community (Cinderella and Snow White), and I thought I detected more. So we'll see what else the author might have up her sleeve for the future of Echo Creek.

Kav says

True confession: I'm a tad shy of giddy over this new series. First off -- I adore fairy tale retellings -- I'm kind of compulsively crazy about them so I get butterflies in my tummy whenever I discover one in the Christian Fiction genre. But to add Amish into the mix? Be still my heart. It won't stop yoyoing around in an ecstatic frenzy because that combination is sweet perfection.

Love the seamless way Price has woven inspiration throughout the story. There are many stop-dead-in-your-tracks-and-ponder-that-thought moments. I love how both Belle and Adam grow as they dare to live their faith bravely. And it takes a lot of courage to banish past heartache and face the thoughtless cruelty of townsfolk who should definitely know better.

While the author stays true to the Disney version of Beauty and the Beast, she has also created a unique romance -- Belle and Adam's love story is fresh and poignant, even funny in places. And she does an amazing job with the 'beastly' qualities Adam brings to the story. While Belle's gentle kindness coupled with a good dose of pluckiness keeps her 'beast' off kilter. So much fun to read -- and to pick out the fairy tale elements along the way.

This is the first book I've read by Sarah Price but it sure won't be the last. Especially since she's set up the next two books in the series so perfectly...at least, I think she has. Definitely a Cinderella retelling is coming out next -- there's a sweet peek of it at the end of Belle. But there's also another character, Sadie, who is a bit of a mystery and I'm thinking her story might just be a Snow White adaptation, but that's just my wild guess.

Maria says

Although it was naturally a little predictable being based on a fairy tale, it was a nice read:)

Diana says

Sarah Price has indeed demonstrated her versatility as an author—writing fine stories of contemporary women's fiction, Amish novels, and re-tellings of exemplary classics combined with the Amish. Her latest, 'Belle' a re-telling of the beloved 'Beauty and the Beast' is not only heartwarming, but includes a much needed lesson for all!

Poor Belle. She is the epitome of everything that is good in her Amish community. To enable her impoverished family to keep their home she does something courageous that I could never have done, accepting a marriage proposal from a man dubbed as The Beast to most of the townsfolk. Adam Herschberger is seemingly as awful as rumors claim and his manners to sweet Belle are atrocious! Scarred,

disfigured, and strangely silent Adam is an enigma to be sure, but Belle is determined to be a good wife to him. Scrubbing his creepy, filthy farmhouse and cooking healthy meals are first on the agenda, with no thanks in return. I so wanted to box Adam's ears and wholly expected Belle to opt out of her "agreement." I can't begin to tell you how sorry I felt for this innocent maiden. Will her kindness and ability to see the man under the scars guide Adam to a new life within his Amish community? And will love eventually conquer all?

Belle is a delightful, heartrending fairytale sure to bring out the inner child in each of us! From childhood we've all heard the phrase "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." As in Adam's case the words that followed him all through life left an indelible impression on him, and he actually became what was spoken of him...a beast of a man. Price has interweaved a thought provoking thread of what Christ's love really entails...acceptance of those who are different, forgiveness, unconditional love, and restoration. Highly recommended read!

I received a copy of this novel from Net Galley in exchange for my honest opinion. I was not required to write a positive review.
