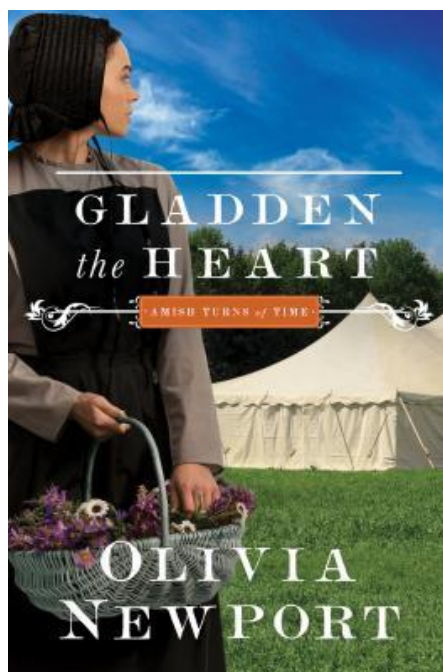




Gladden the Heart

Olivia Newport

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Gladden the Heart Olivia Newport

“When you have experienced the Holy Ghost as I have, you would see that it is difficult to turn back.”

When the lively fervor of nineteenth century revivalism endangers the staid customs of the Amish community in the lush but rugged Kishacoquillas Valley of central Pennsylvania in 1847, the Amish church must deal with a divisive question: What is a genuine spiritual experience?

The question turns personal when Susanna’s beloved cousin Noah begins preaching while under trances and even though he is not a minister he gives long sermons that attract increasing attention. Curious, she helps to keep Noah safe during his trances. At the same time Adam, Susanna's intended, feels pressure from the bishop to speak out against the ways of revivalism.

Susanna and Adam are pushed to opposite sides of a controversy that threatens their traditional Amish faith.. Now they must grapple with whether love is possible...even if they come to different conclusions.

When Noah goes missing at a time of day when he often preaches while asleep, circumstances thrust community members with divergent opinions into a crisis that demands they recognize the humanity they share regardless of beliefs. But can strong-held opinions be softened by the truths that shape their lives?

More in the Amish Turns of Time Series:

Wonderful Lonesome

Meek and Mild

Brightest and Best

Hope in the Land

Gladden the Heart Details

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From Reader Review Gladden the Heart for online ebook

Kristina says

Gladden the Heart by Olivia Newport is the fifth book in an Amish Turns of Time series. It is 1847 in Kishacoquillas Valley, Pennsylvania. Susanna Hooley lives on her family's farm east of Lewistown, Pennsylvania. One Sunday after church, Susanna's cousin Noah is not feeling well and then collapses. He then starts preaching and no one can get him to stop. Noah is a quiet man and who is not known for his sermons. After three hours of preaching, Noah collapses into a deep sleep. When Noah awakens, he has no remembrance of what occurred. Susanna goes over to Noah's house the next day and discovers that his preaching is an everyday occurrence. Noah's wife, Phoebe has been keeping it under wraps. Noah soon starts preaching almost every afternoon at the same time and his sermons are attracting attention. Bishop Shem Hertzberger is less than pleased. The revivalist movement has taken several Amish from their community, and Shem does not want to lose any other families. Reverend Charles Baxton, a traveling Methodist minister, listens Noah's stirring sermons and requests that Noah travel with him. This controversy divides their Amish community. Susanna supports Noah, but her beau, Adam is on the side hullabaloo. But then one day Noah disappears while in one of his trance's, and the whole community turns out to locate him. Will they be able to locate Noah? Is there a way to resolve the controversy and unite the community once again?

While Gladden the Heart is part of a series, it is a stand-alone novel. I thought the concept behind Gladden the Heart is intriguing, I did enjoy the final product. "Sleeping preachers" is an interesting phenomenon, and it could have made a great story. Is it God's will for this to happen to Noah? I actually did a little research in "sleeping preachers". I just felt that the author could have done so much more with this subject. Why did the Amish believe Noah's preaching was wrong? What was the main difference between the Amish faith and other religions at this time in history? I thought the pace was sluggish (actually, slugs move faster) and the writing was not up to Olivia Newport's usual standard. The book was awkward and the characters flat. There are numerous Bible verses (scripture) and sermons contained within the story (after a while, I started skipping past them). I really struggled to finish this novel. I can tell when I am not enjoying a book. I start checking to see how much farther until the end and I start speed reading through boring parts. When I start hoping for a good murder to spice up the storyline (especially when I am reading an Amish novel that is not a mystery), then I know I do not like the book. The romance between Susanna and Adam failed to come to life. I never felt love between the couple. Susanna's mother was an annoying character. Her fear (for the time period) was understandable. The characters lacked depth. There is also a repetition of information (it felt like padding). I am rating Gladden the Heart 2 out of 5 stars. I do not want to discourage readers from Olivia Newport's novels. While Gladden the Heart was not for me, I have appreciated many of her other books (Valley of Choice series).

Courtney Stuart says

Kish Valley, Pennsylvania 1847

Susanna Hooley is a 21 year old Amish woman who is friends with Patsy Baxton, the daughter of Charles Baxton, a fiery Methodist revival preacher. They have been friends all their lives and are able to ignore or at least respect the differences between their faiths whilst still enjoying the common bond that they share. Susanna is being courted by Adam Yotter, who is the nephew of her next door neighbour. Life seems to be going along charmingly when Noah Kauffman, Susanna's cousin starts very strange behaviour of appearing

to go into a trance and start to preach the Word of God, which he is expressly forbidden to do. There is no explanation given for this behaviour, but almost every day, like clockwork, he will lose his sense of self and begin preaching sermons that would make even Charles Baxton proud.

This of course, is seen in a negative light according to the Amish Bishop. It is thought that Noah is trying to bring attention to himself (a grave issue for the Amish) and that he is capable of stopping the behaviour if he but wants to. Susanna gets pulled into helping his wife Phoebe look after Noah, as is Patsy. They see that Noah has no control over this behaviour, but is a danger to himself when he is preaching because he is unaware of his surroundings. Adam is unsure what to make of the situation. He wants to be faithful to the Bishops leading, having sworn an oath to be submissive to church leadership, yet he is also aware that Susanna wouldn't knowingly go against the Bishop but is compelled to look after her cousin and has her father's blessing. He is also influenced by his uncle who doesn't believe that Noah is preaching for the wrong reasons and is open to the whole situation.

At the end of the novel a crisis situation occurs where Noah wanders off into the forest at the back of his property whilst in a trance and ends up in dire circumstances. This results in people from both religious persuasions to have to work together to save Noah's life. Of course, it is also the catalyst for Adam and Susanna working through their issues and coming together as a happily ever after book should.

Olivia Newport takes this very unusual situation of 'sleeping preachers' and has turned it into a short novel about the Amish and the English who lived among them. This story is thin and weak in substance. The whole sleeping preacher situation is really intriguing to modern ears, yet it isn't really enough given within the book to merit a whole novel such as this. A kind of examination is inferred but the potential to see the break in the Amish groups to become Mennonite and Amish was not taken advantage of. There is very little in the way of other plot lines, unless you call the occasional disagreement between Adam and Susanna and their understanding of Noah's behaviour as a deep plot line. Romance is part of the overall scope of the book, but as it is an Amish couple courting, there is very little in the way of actual romance and it doesn't seem very likely the way it is portrayed.

Overall this book is an oddity. It has a really interesting premise as a foundation, yet it is not taken full advantage of. It can't seem to make up its mind if it is a romance novel or an exploration of the sleeping preachers phenomenon that were so prevalent in the mid 1800's. It could have been an interesting historical novel about the breakup of the Amish church and culture that happened in great numbers during this period, but ultimately, this too was ignored. In the end, this doesn't satisfy any area of interest and comes over somehow as lacking.

A missed opportunity.

Fizzy says

This is the part where I sit down and have no idea where to start. I really really liked this book. I can't say any one thing that stands out as just 'wow' or 'holy tomatoes batman' but it was a general wrap you up in life and tug you into something bigger than yourself but small enough to embrace one man completely. Of course, while upsetting the entire community. Noah was a average Amish man, with a pretty big secret, until one day he 'went under' just after church in full view of his community. His secret no more, but is he sick (the doctors have all said there is nothing wrong) or just being willful? To Susanna he was a favorite cousin, one whom she was willing to risk a potential husband and the relationship with her mother to help. Before

it's all over, many lives are changed but I had even more questions.

Not being overly familiar with the revival movement I wasn't sure what to expect from this book. I mean, don't get me wrong I've heard of it, I know a smidge or two, but it's not something I've ever immersed myself in. And when the revival movement and the Amish faith comes to meet I'm even more in the dark. Honestly though, this book places you in the moment. The confusion, the fear, the outright feeling that there is more than meets the eye. However, it wasn't the revivalism that kept me engaged but instead the individual reactions to something no one understood. The reactions of Susanna's mother, the reactions of her best English friend Patsy, the reactions of one of the ministers Nikalus, but mostly the reaction of the bishop Shem. The line where faith meets with personal.

How do you react when something different comes into your life? How do you react when it is based in your Faith? I was drawn to the reactions of Shem. As the bishop, he takes his role seriously to guide and lead his flock. He is invested in helping them to obey the laws and follow the role that Christ has in their faith. When Noah starts preaching it shakes the entire community but when Nikalus feels like perhaps there is room for the simple separate life AND a more open embracing of the Holy Spirit, there is definitely division in the leadership. I feel like Shem takes what is happening as a personal affront to his leadership and less about opening up faith. Following Shem's reactions, I feel like he was less about 'guiding' his community and more about feeling as though he was losing control over them. I feel like this book, while about revivalism and the Amish community, is more about how we all react when things within our 'realm' are faced with new/different/change. Do we react with Nikalus, Shem, or even Adam who was so bound with fear that he couldn't take a stand either way?

I was provided a complimentary copy of this book by CelebrateLit and NetGalley. I was not compensated for this review and all thoughts and opinions expressed are my own. I was not required to write a positive review.

Originally published at <https://fizzypopcollection.blogspot.c....>

Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower) says

What a thought-provoking book. Immediately after finishing Gladden the Heart by Olivia Newport, I wanted to go back and read certain sections again because they gave me much to mull over in my own heart.

There are many things I really enjoyed about Gladden the Heart.

-Being a descendant of a prolific Methodist circuit rider/preacher myself, I found Charles Baxton to be completely fascinating.

-His daughter Patsy and I are kindred spirits, as I feel certain that she too wanted to pursue whomp Bishop Shem as well as Susanna's mother.

-The history and time period in which Gladden the Heart is set mirrors that of Naomi's Hope by Jan Drexler, which I reviewed here earlier this week. It was interesting to see 'the other side of the story', so to speak – with insight into why at least some of the Pennsylvania Amish may have felt compelled to migrate to Indiana, etc.

-Niklaus. Amish or not, he seeks God's heart and His Word over tradition.

Bottom Line: Gladden the Heart by Olivia Newport is intriguing in its history and may cause some modern day soul-searching, too. The romance between Adam and Susanna, in my opinion, was not so much a focus of the story as it was another way to show the effect of the spiritual matters with which they wrestled. It could have been absent from the story altogether, and I still would have enjoyed this read! In the Amish Turns of Time series, I have been most intrigued by the Amish and English interactions, especially as one causes the other to adjust their firmly-held ideals. Gladden the Heart is no exception, and I know I will be thinking about it for a long while.

(I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book)

see my full review at Reading Is My SuperPower

Donita Corman says

I finished this book this am. What started out as a slow book turned into an excellent read. it a story about the Amish in early days and some of the conflicts they encountered during a time when evangelicals were on the street circuit. It's not a typical bonnet book but is rich in history of how a few Amish men would fall into a trance and preach several hours and then to wake up and not remember it. I was given a copy of this book but not required to review it.

Deanna Stevens says

When Noah begins preaching while under trances, the Amish community is at odds on how to handle it. The Bishop thinks it's against the Amish law, the English think it is something they have seen before and the close family members know it is not Noah pretending to preach to get attention. This story had a very strong spiritual theme and I enjoyed learning more about the beliefs of the Amish and the Methodist's at that time. There is a little romance but it helped show how difference of opinions can still overcome the difficult situations that come up in life. I enjoyed this slower paced family, faith and coming together of a community story.

"I received a complimentary copy of this book from Barbour Publishing and was under no obligation to post a review."

Kathleen (Kat) Smith says

This was a difficult review to consider writing because when I get to a novel that I struggle to maintain focus on and dream of how much longer it would take to finish it so I can move on to something else, I have to take a step back and ask myself a few questions. What can I remember that I have read so far? Is it simply too much to take it for a reader at the beginning of a novel? Do I care what happens to any of these characters? Am I simply distracted from reading because of other things going on around me, that is pulling my focus away? Then I can answer these questions quite honesty and give an honest review. That answer to all of them is "No." I hate when that happens especially when you have read the authors other novels and you really enjoyed them. It was not the cause unfortunately for me in this one.

This novel is part of an ongoing series, Amish Turns of Time, and this one is book 5. I can be honest and say,

I have not read any of the previous novels so I can't say whether doing so would have made me enjoy the premise behind this one any better. I have read previous novels that were part of a series and could follow along until I get the just of what is going on with the characters. In this case, I honestly couldn't care about any of them.

It involves two very different set of people living amongst one another, an Amish Order and the Methodists which are close neighbors to one another. Those readers who are familiar with Amish fiction, understand that they are very faithful and committed to their religious beliefs. They try to keep those in the community from being affected by those outside their faith, and in this case with the Methodist preacher who comes to stage tent revivals, a few of the Amish are a bit curious like the main character, Susana who occasionally peeks into the tents to see just what all the fuss is about. Her Amish boyfriend, Adam is making plans to marry Susana and doesn't want to see her dabbling in the other faiths, no matter how curious she is. When her favorite cousin Noah suddenly has spells in which is preaches without remembering any of it, not only is Noah's wife Phoebe at bit concerned, but also the entire Amish community who like to believe that all their preachers come from being chosen in the community not just those who suddenly have the ability.

I received Gladden the Heart by Olivia Newport compliments of Barbour Publishing and Net Galley. For me, this entire novel really never connected. It felt like bits and pieces of two very different parts of the book were spliced together. The beginnings and endings of each set of circumstances seemed disconnected and choppy and thus for me, I had a difficult time truly caring for any of the characters. The spells that Noah continues to have increase in frequency and I can understand why those in the Amish faith might fear this situation, and thus the need to keep them separated while the leaders of the community can figure out just what to do with them. Other readers might feel differently about this novel, but for me, it just fell flat and thus the need for a 2 out of 5 stars in this reader's opinion. This just wasn't a favorite for me.

Rhonda says

MY REVIEW: This book is exciting and fresh! I have many, many Amish novels and the plots are usually very similar. Gladden the Heart presents a situation that I do not ever recall seeing in any of the works of Amish fiction that I've read. Noah is not a preacher, but begins preaching while in trances and his wife seeks to keep him safe during these times. The community is divided over this unusual thing and Adam is against it, while his girlfriend, Susanna, approves of Noah's preaching and helps her aunt to ensure his safety when he is in a trance. I have never personally heard of someone who receives the Holy Spirit and is gifted with this amazing ability to preach the Word.

Noah and Adam both fear that their differences will keep them from marrying, but maybe they will work things out. They could also split over their differences.

Readers will anxiously read ahead to see what happens for Noah, Adam, and Susanna. I highly recommend this book to others.

I am giving this book a 5-star rating.

I received an ebook of this selection from netgalley and Shiloh Run Press in exchange for an honest review.

Molly Jaber (Cover To Cover Cafe) says

This is the first book in this series that I have read and I hope that after going back and reading the others in this series, that I can enjoy this one more. That said, this was not a bad book. Ms. Newport chisels her

characters well, and the backdrop of the story is vividly created. Susanna and Adam's characters really tugged at my heart, but I just couldn't get as deep into the story as I would have liked to have gotten.

Something was missing. Or, perhaps, it was because I haven't read the other books in this series and I just couldn't fully grasp the entire setting. With that said, however, I still give this book 3.5 stars. Ms. Newport's talent does shine through, and her characters do pull at your heart. I will be going back and reading the other books in this series then I will pick this one back up and try again.

I do encourage you to give this book a try, if you've read Ms. Newport's other books in the series. You may fall in love with these sweet characters quicker than I did and you may love the story line.

Susan says

An Amish Revival?!

Yep! You read that right! Ever think you'd read a novel about circuit riders and revivals in the Amish community? Me either! But what a wonderful story Olivia Newport brings to her readers with her latest release, *Gladden the Heart*, fifth in her ***Amish Turns of Time*** series.

A host of characters rounds out this fascinating read: Susannah, Adam, and Noah in particular. Susannah is a sweet, young Amish woman. She loves where she lives, loves Adam, and is curious about the circuit rider preacher that lives near her. Adam loves Susannah, and is a devout Amish man. He tries hard to stick to their church's Ordnung and anything their bishop says. Noah, Susanna's most cherished cousin, is a minister in their 1847 Amish settlement.

When Noah suddenly starts going into a trance and preaches a VERY non-traditional Amish sermon, the entire community is in a dither: Some condemn him, others are confused. Interested in this new finding of Noah, Susannah agrees to help keep him safe during his trances...which is in direct opposition to Adam's view. Can they find common ground? What will become of Noah? Read and find out!

I was given *Gladden the Heart* in exchange for my honest review. I found it intriguingly wonderful! What a great storyline. Although fifth in the series, it can easily be read as a stand-alone. To date, this is my favorite in the series. Brava, Olivia Newport!

Joyful says

I loved reading this book of Amish history! The characters are written so well that they became a part of life! This is the first book of this series that I have read, but not the first read by Olivia Newport. The nineteenth century revivalism endangers the customs of the Amish community in the Kishacoquillas Valley of central Pennsylvania in 1847 causing the Amish church to deal with the question of a genuine spiritual experience. It becomes personal to Susanna when her cousin, Noah, begins preaching while under trances giving long sermons that attract increasing attention even though he is not a preacher. She helps keep Noah safe during his trances. Susanna's intended, Adam, feels pressure from the bishop to speak out against the revivalism. Pushed to the opposite sides of the controversy threatening their Amish faith, Susanna and Adam must decide if love is possible for them. Then Noah goes missing at a time of day when he often preaches while asleep causing community members to recognize the humanity they share regardless of beliefs.

I receive complimentary books for review from publishers, publicists, and/or authors. I am not required to write positive reviews. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.

Katie B says

3.5 stars

In 1847 a Methodist tent revival has peaked the interest of some in the small Amish community in central Pennsylvania. Despite her strong Amish faith, Susanna is curious to hear what her friend Patty's father, a minister, will preach to the gathering of people. Soon after, Susanna's cousin Noah seems to fall under a spell where he gives long sermons despite not being a minister and later has no memory of it. This is a story of the differences between the Amish and Methodist faiths and how a person's belief system can be tested during challenging times. This is the fifth book in the series but can easily be read as a standalone novel.

I don't read many Amish or Christian fiction books and I'm not sure why because I usually end up enjoying them, as is the case with this one. I love when an author uses a piece of history, in this case the real life revivals that led to many members leaving the Amish community, and weaves it into an interesting fictional story. Each of the main characters of the book brought an interesting perspective to the story and showed how interpretations of God's word can vary from person to person. And while the pace of the story can seem slow at times, it still held my interest and I would recommend to anyone who enjoys Amish and/or Christian fiction.

I received a free copy of this book from Barbour Publishing but was under no obligation to post a review. All views expressed are my honest opinions.

Deanne Patterson says

Gladden The Heart is the number 5 book in the Amish Turns Of Time series.

This takes place in the rugged Kishacoquillas Valley of central Pennsylvania in 1847. This book is based on true facts the author discovered while doing research for her books.

Back in the day they were called the "sleeping preachers". Noah in this book falls unconscious at regular intervals and preaches almost on a daily basis. When he awakens he has no memory of preaching or what he has done. This worries his family members who worry he may hurt himself while in this state of mind when he goes missing during the time of day he usually preaches. This book is different from the Amish books I usually read but very powerful and interesting!

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Thank you to NetGalley and Barbour Publishing, Inc for a review copy in exchange for my honest opinion.

Lori says

I enjoyed this book very much!! I love reading the history of the Amish and how they came to this country just like the English did for various reasons..

I think what drew me to this particular book was at a time when the revival meetings started. I have attended a few revivals myself and I love them.

I liked how they all came together to help the one in need.
I didn't like however how some ppl treated an individual just because he was "different".
I think Gladden the Heart means to accept Jesus in your heart no matter who does the preaching.
Whoever accepts Jesus will have eternal life and joy will shine through to whomever will meet up with you.
I also love the friendship between Amish and English even tho the Amish want to set themselves from the world.
Some ppl are just set in their ways no matter how much we try to help or change them.
Veronica Susanna's mother was afraid of the influence that the preaching that went on.
Im glad for Susanna's father who was sturdy and firm in his decision making and on whom to trust.
I like nosy Timothy too. If I had a brother I'd want him to be just like Timothy.
There were some things in the book that made me smile and laugh too.
I also held my breath in certain places. I didn't want anything to happen to my favorite person!
If I had an uncle I'd want to be just like Noah. I thought Noah was cool for an Amish man.
Olivia will be added to my list of favorite authors because I enjoy her stories
I wanted to add that I loved the little authors note. at the end of the book. I think it's good to know how the author gets ideas for their stories and knowing there is truth mixed in with fiction. This is why I love fiction.
I received this book for free.

Maureen Timerman says

What a run of emotions this story has, and is it against the Amish faith, you will be wondering as you quickly turn the pages to get to the answers.
The author has placed the setting of this book in 1847 Pennsylvania, the early times in this country, and a time when Amish lived pretty much as everyone else, except maybe for their clothing.
I did some research and found that this "Spirit preaching" has actually happened, and this is what has happened in this book to Noah Kaufman. The story revolves around this preaching and how it is accepted by both Amish and English, and those who are close to Noah.
There is a bit of romance, a bit of skepticism, and some are even thinking of moving away, as the Church is becoming too liberal.
A book that is going to make you think, and how can this be happening, a bit unsettling for this small community.
I received this book through Net Galley and the Publisher Barbour, and was not required to give a positive review.
