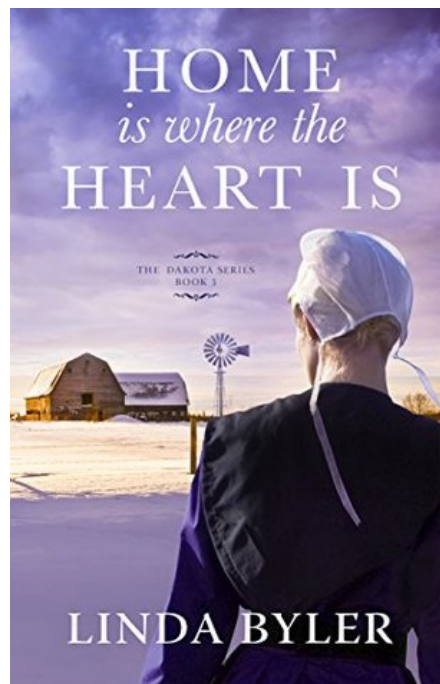




Home Is Where the Heart Is

Linda Byler

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Hannah, feisty and independent as ever, has put everything into building up her family's homestead in North Dakota. Despite tragedy and almost unimaginable hardship due to the Great Depression, unpredictable weather, and unforgiving landscape, she and her new husband Jerry are leading their Amish friends and family in their homesteading venture. When the winter storms and the untimely death of a child become too much for the rest of the community to bear, they move back east. But Hannah and Jerry stay on, doggedly pursuing Hannah's dreams of a successful ranch.

But even Jerry's spirits begin to fail and when a flag of grasshoppers destroys every last morsel of vegetation after yet another drought, Hannah finally relents and they too return to the fertile soil of Pennsylvania, where life will be safe and predictable. Or so they think, but when tragedy strikes again, Hannah is suddenly a widow, in a place that no longer feels like home and with family who cannot grasp the depth of the losses she has experienced.

Hannah grapples with her faith, struggling to understand who she is and where she belongs. Always before, a flash of anger or defiance had fueled her strong will in the face of adversity and allowed her to push on toward her goals. But what did she have left to fight for now? Slowly, painfully, her heart begins to change. As she begins to reclaim her faith and her strong sense of self, she also starts to notice a handsome, burly man who is unlike anyone she's known before. Is it possible she could find love again in Lancaster? What will it take for her to feel like she's home, like she finally belongs somewhere?

Home Is Where the Heart Is Details

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Justine says

I thought it ended to quickly. It was a long story, then it was over. It was full of rebellious energy. A good story about being obedient.

Laurel says

I was so anxious to read this last book in the series, & I did mostly really like it. However, it seemed like the author may have made an error in one pivotal part of the story. Also, I got really frustrated w/ Hannah & her need to always be right, but I guess a lot of us are like that, including myself.

Susan says

I loved it. Hannah, the heroine, the protagonist, is cranky. She's been traumatized, so this leaves her snarky and guarded. This is the third book in the Dakota series, and the only one of the three that I read. Linda Byler does an excellent job of inferences and subtle nuances, so I was able to fill in some holes, not all, but some. Actually, I'd like to go back and read the first two. Byler also writes like a painter in that she helps the reader see the characters, the way they physically appear, and how they they think. Hannah is a person we've all met, we've all known. Her fortitude, her honesty is admirable, even though I just wanted to shake her, and say, "Lighten up, Lady." I have always admired the Amish anyway. Their way of life, their humble spirituality, is the shaker of salt we could all use to bring back some flavor into our deteriorated society. But that's just me.

The two men in Hannah's life are reminders of an old fashioned gentility and strength. When Hannah meets Dave King, he loves her fiercely, but takes no guff, and it is clear that she has met her match. Great story of struggle, Amish life, and love.

Pamela says

This is book 3 in the Dakota series. The main character is a young Amish woman named Hannah. She does not like any of the rules that the Amish have and struggles to find peace and happiness. When they try to homestead in North Dakota they have one tragedy after another happen. Even with all the struggles they have she loves it there and tries to keep her land. Will her and her husband make it there or will there be another tragedy happen? Will they have to move back to Lancaster, Pennsylvania where her Mom and siblings returned to? Will Hannah ever find the peace and happiness she's been searching for in all of her life? This series is so good I couldn't stop reading it. It has a different ending that I didn't expect. VERY GOOD!

Melody Nagel says

The winds, rain, numerous tragedies were described perfectly.

I disliked Hannah throughout all three books in the series, and finally tolerated her in this last book. I don't believe I've ever wanted to shake a little common sense into a character in a book before. I waited for this last book hoping that this book would round off Hannah's rough sides and polish her up, but I was disappointed that she remained thorny like the roses and possibly never found the true love a heavenly father that could have refined her to shine. Nevertheless the series was good, entertaining and descriptive as well as thought provoking.
