



# **Letting Go of the Reins: The True Story of a Man Who Left the Amish and the Woman Who Helped Him**

*Vicki Botner*

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After Bill Herschberger made the difficult decision to leave the Amish, the response from his community was immediate and relentless. Bill was a church member with a wife and child. It was imperative that his soul be saved from hell. If he didn't return, Bill knew that he would be shunned and excommunicated. But what he hadn't expected, and what he struggled to accept, was discovering the deception and deceit perpetuated by the Amish for generations.

LETTING GO OF THE REINS offers a glimpse into the reclusive Amish as told from from the point of view of both Bill and his friend and co-worker, Karrie, as well as the unprecedented voice of the Amish themselves.

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# **From Reader Review Letting Go of the Reins: The True Story of a Man Who Left the Amish and the Woman Who Helped Him for online ebook**

## **Alison Clarke says**

A stirring, powerful account about following your dreams, doing what is right, by following your authentic path. A transition, even though hard, leads to a better life--where you are able to be your true self. Vicki Botner wrote a beautiful, poetic, but also haunting account of what it is to be Amish, and what it is like to leave that life. With wonderful imagery such as, "the crushing weight of that oak seemed to be lifted from my body... and "our boots crunching over the frozen pine needles and ice-coated leaves...", reading this book was a visual and literary experience.

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## **Linda says**

An insightful look into the secretive world of the Amish as told by a man who made the difficult decision to leave and the woman who befriended and helped him. "The Amish are no better or worse than the rest of us. The problem with the Amish is that the victims have no where to go for help."

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## **Lori says**

I wasn't sure about reading a book about the Amish at first, but I found it hard to put down. It left me wondering about the future of his children and himself--I would love to see a followup to the story in a few years.

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## **Sherry Cook roehling says**

Awesome book!!! One of those you just don't want to put down!

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## **Cheryl says**

Wow. This exposes the seedy underbelly of the Amish in a whole new light.

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## **Sarah says**

I got this book free through Goodreads First Reads.

This book tells the true story of how a man leaves the Amish with the help of a non-Amish woman. It would seem reasonable to expect that it would be easy to change your lifestyle, and that your friends and family would be supportive. But then I knew little of the Amish before reading this book. I would say that their lifestyle sounds quite good in parts. Wouldn't we all want to live a simpler, more spiritual life? But imagine if that lifestyle is forced upon you. And if you want to leave, your friends and family will go to great lengths to get you back. Not looking so pretty now, is it?

The book is written from both Bill's and Karrie's points of view, which gives it a balanced feeling. There are also countless letters from Bill's family and the wider Amish community which illustrate their feelings towards him and his departure. It's so sad how his family is torn apart simply because he doesn't want to continue following their customs and rules.

This book makes you realise how important it is to be able to live your life your own way. And how sad it is that many people in the world do not have that freedom.

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### **Janice Dembosky says**

I read this book purely for research needed for writing the sequel to *The Bond Woman: An Amish Woman's Love for a Man on the Outside*. It was very informative but there was little to be admired about the "style" of writing. It read like a report, which was okay for my purposes.

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### **Cindy says**

A look into the real side of the Amish!

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### **Mary Manifold says**

*Letting Go of the Reins* is an eye-opening story told in the unvarnished two person narrative of Bill and Karrie. I think we all believe that we know about the Amish (a simple culture within our modern culture), but it turns out I had no idea what really goes on within an Amish community. The book includes actual letters from the Amish to Bill and I learned a lot about Amish culture and people from this book.

Set in rural Wisconsin, the writing combines beautiful imagery with honest dialogue; each chapter told from a singular view point. The author alternates Bill and Karrie's perspectives within the storyline to keep you turning the page. Revealing events from both of their pasts lend perspective to their actions. Although they are very different people, when Bill decides to leave the Amish and Karrie offers him help, it brings them together in a way I'm sure they never expected. I found myself rooting for them to prevail.

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**Lee Davis says**

This is a revealing book about the Amish in a small town area, and what happens to one who leaves that life. It is written in a straight-forward style from the points of view of both main characters, Bill and Karrie. It is well-written and a story worth telling. I enjoyed it immensely.

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**Sara Marecki says**

This book is such an easy read that it only took me eight hours! I'm ready for the follow up book.

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**Angela McCarthy says****Interesting story**

This book tells about the truths of the Amish. Quick read! A lot of interesting letters that were sent by the Amish, made the story very real!!

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