



More Than a Marriage

Amy Lillard

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In the close-knit Amish community of Wells Landing, Oklahoma, a women's quilting circle welcomes a new member who is struggling to keep her marriage together—or let it go . . .

Quiet and unassuming Tess Smiley is new to Wells Landing. She is also newly married to Jacob Smiley. But already she is finding that married life isn't the gentle union of contented devotion she had envisioned. Rather, the old-fashioned qualities that had endeared her to Jacob have become a source of inner confusion. As his father did with his wife, Jacob has begun treating Tess like a servant, taking her for granted, no longer surprising her with little presents. And once he began his job at the *Englisch* shed company, he has become more interested in his company smartphone than in spending time with Tess . . .

Jacob can't see what Tess is upset about and continues his boorish ways, ignoring her pleas to attend marriage classes. Tess loves Jacob with all her heart, but it's her heart that tells her she must take a stand. With surprising determination, she asks for help from her new community and is welcomed into the home of her friend Clara Rose and her husband Obie. Only then does Jacob begin to see how deeply his behavior has hurt Tess. But is he too late? He may be contrite, but he will need to show much more than that to win her love all over again . . .

Praise for Amy Lillard

“An inspirational story of romance, faith, and trust . . . will appeal to fans of Wanda Brunstetter and Beverly Lewis.” —*Library Journal* on *Caroline’s Secret*

“A beautifully written romance with an adoring character. Lillard writes stories readers can relate to.” —*RT Book Reviews* on *Just Plain Sadie*

More Than a Marriage Details

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Author : Amy Lillard

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From Reader Review More Than a Marriage for online ebook

Deanne Patterson says

More Than a Marriage is book three in Quilting Circle novella series by Amy Lillard.

I just could not put this book down when I started it, it was just that good. It's wonderful going back and visiting with Lillard's characters in Wells Landing.

Newly married for just 3 years, Tess feels neglected. She hasn't gotten pregnant yet and her goats are like her babies. Her husband demands she get rid of them because in his words, they are more trouble than they are worth. He works for an Englisher roofing company and spends so many hours at work so she feels lonely. He also has a cell phone which he spends so much time on in the evening instead of playing games with her like they used to. His facebook account is just another reason she feels like they have grown apart. Feeling sorry for herself she feels the need to take a break and goes to stay with a married friend of hers. Her husband visits her there and her friend tries to get her back with her husband. Does it work? Will their marriage be a success?

I suggest you read this enjoyable and inspiring book to find out.

Pub Date 28 Feb 2017.

Thank you to NetGalley and Kensington Books for providing me with a review copy for my honest opinion.

Patti says

I always love to read stories about Wells Landing and its community. This one is just as powerful as the others yet covers a very difficult topic. More Than A Marriage by Amy Lillard is a look at a contemporary couple struggling with their marriage. The exception here is that they are Amish. The theme of missed communication is blended throughout the text and how it's impact can affect any couple. Amy Lillard takes an honest look at how lack of discussion between a husband and wife can fester and tear apart a marriage.

Tess and Jacob have been married for three years. By outside looks, all appears to be well. Jacob is gainfully employed and Tess has a well run household. Both are hard-working but their time focused on their jobs and interests is tearing them apart. Each blames the other for their downfall. Their reluctance to talk about their feelings and concerns implodes their happiness and Tess decides to leave Jacob and move back home to her parents house. Is there any hope for this couple? Fortunately, this is Wells Landing where people truly care about one another, and friends come together to help the struggling couple. Will this intervention be successful?

This novella is an excellent portrait of what can happen in any marriage when there is lack of communication. More than a Marriage shows the hurt felt by Tess and Jacob but woven into their despair is a thread of hope and forgiveness. Amy Lillard has one again proven her gift as a writer! This novella tackled a very relevant and timely topic. The story gripped me immediately and was very well written. I highly recommend this book!

I received this ebook from Netgalley and the author. This review is my own opinion.

Cheryl Baranski says

More Than A Marriage by Amy Lillard is a Quilting Circle Novella. Welcome back to Wells Fargo, Oklahoma. I so love these characters and this town. Amy sure knows how to bring her stories and her characters to life. A story that touches the heartstrings. Will their love survive? I know. Be sure to order your copy of More Than A Marriage by Amy Lillard today. I received a complimentary copy of this book. This review is my honest opinion. 5 stars!

Maureen Timerman says

I am thrilled to be back in Well Landing, and visiting the Amish Community there, and in particular we visit with Tess and Jacob Smiley, and their marriage problems.

Wait you begin to think, there can't be marriage problems in an Amish marriage, but oh yes, they are human, and like us all we all perceive things differently. Both feel the other spouse is ignoring them, and they are not appreciated, and the other doesn't do enough, or do they.

Tess is ready to throw in towel and go home to mother, ah so typical or old fashioned, but in reality can these two work out their problems? Yes, they do have some, but so does everyone; it is just how you respond to them that makes the difference.

While we are enjoying or working on Jacob and Tess's problems we met up with old friends and become updated on the goings on of the folks we have come to love, and although you don't have to have read the other books in this series to enjoy this one, you may want to for enjoyment. Oh yes, the twins have been born.

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

Jessica Baker (A Baker's Perspective) says

I found reading about Tess and Jacob's marital problems to be refreshing. I think we hold Amish couples to this high standard and forget that they can have issues just like any married couple. It was nice to see a realistic couple with realistic problems. I have seen Amish people having Facebook accounts, though they are typically the young ones who are not yet married - but I think in this day and age it is probably something that is more common than we realize. I thought this was a great addition to the storyline.

My favorite quote in the book was "Just because we marry forever doesn't mean we don't have problems. It's how we handle our problems that sets us apart." Such a great statement that I feel applies to many couples, not just Amish ones. I read this statement a few times to let the words sink in and speak to my heart. What a refreshing lesson to learn!

This was a wonderful short story that will give you hope and a reminder to see the good in what we already have. I hope you'll come away as encouraged as I did! I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher. I was not required to write a favorable review. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

Tina Watson says

Here's another story from Wells Landing by Amy Lillard. More Than a Marriage has the main characters questioning their life, their marriage, and their faith. Yes, even the Amish go through these same life questions like we do.

Tess and Jacob Smiley have been married for three years as their story comes to life for us in "More Than a Marriage". They both feel that their marriage is not where it should be. Read how Tess and Jacob reconnect with each other in this short story.

Amy Lillard keeps us, readers, on the edge of our seats as we are reading; love when authors do that! Amy's characters come to life right off the pages. Her characters go through real life struggles as us humans do. I look forward to reading more books by Amy Lillard in the future.

I received a free copy from NetGalley with the only request to write an honest review about the book. No money was exchanged. This is my review written in my own words.

Frances Cavallo says

This was a wonderful book...about the ways of marriage...faith and romance too...not just in the Amish Community...but I believe in all faiths...when one partner takes the other...for granted...no longer paying special attention...giving little special gifts...and not even just giving an embrace...whenever you come home from a hard days work! This book shows how Tess...takes a stand...very much still in love...and tries to show her husband, Jacob, what is bothering her...how he hurts her daily...be it unintentionally...because of his actions...he got a job...and put his attention to new things...she fell in love with his "loving" and "traditional"...so he just needs to get that back on track...and all should be well...he finally catches on...but he needs to show her more love and affection...than ever before...to make her heart content again...to make her feel loved!!! As usual, Amy didn't disappoint me...this book was excellent...this book was set in the beautiful Amish community...of Wells Landing, Oklahoma...Amy's books would be loved by any readers of Amish Fiction/Romance...and she also writes Contemporary Romance too...and that is wonderful too...readers who like Beverly Lewis and Wanda Brunstetter...would find Amy's books...absolutely appealing!!! She has visited many of the Amish Communities...that she writes about...so they are very well researched...and when you read them...you feel like you are right there...in the place...that the book is set in!!! She is such a wonderful writer...I recommend her books to everyone...all my friend and family too!!!

Please note...I received an Arc of this book...in exchange for an honest review...which I am more than happy to do...since I enjoyed the book so much! Thanks so much...have a wonderful...Blessed Day!!!

Elizabeth says

More Than A Marriage (Quilting Circle Novella)
By Amy Lillard

More Than a Marriage is book three in Quilting Circle novella series by Amy Lillard. Lillard drew me into the story right at the start and had me hooked till the end. There were times when I had tears in my eyes and I could not read fast enough to see what was going to happen next. The author weaves a story about romance , faith , and trust. This is Tess and Jacob's story.Tess is not happy with her marriage. She sees her friends together and she wants what they have .Tess feels that her husband is not paying her enough attention. He works for the English and has a smart phone that stays glued to his ear all the time. She does not like this and she has had enough and takes matters into her hands. What will become of Tess and Jacob's marriage? Can they get their problems worked out? Is it to late for them?

I was given a complimentary copy of this book by the author and NetGalley, but was not told that I had to give a positive review. All opinions are my own.

Amy says

More Than a Marriage is a great read. I enjoyed Tess and Jacob's story.

Highly recommended.

5+ stars

Deana Dick says

I love going back to Wells Landing and finding out what is going on with this tight knit group. I love how the author writes about people and situations that some of us have had to deal with. We all want our spouses to give us attention and listen to us. Sometimes we can feel left out and our mind starts to convince us that we aren't happy in our marriage.

Tess is such a sweet woman who wants to be the perfect wife for her husband Jacob. I found myself really seeing myself in her. At the beginning of my marriage I thought I was doing everything right. I slowly let little things start to bother me and found myself thinking my husband didn't want to be with me anymore. I loved when Tess was talking to Jacob and says, " Were you even listening to me?" "Of course I was ." Jacob frowned. " I just didn't hear what you said." I thought that was a brilliant come back and made me realize how many times I've asked my husband the same question. Jacob was listening to her voice but he sure wasn't concentrating on what Tess was saying.

Jacob is a very hardworking man who adores his wife. He does seem to pay a lot of attention to his cell phone. Every time he looked at the cell phone I could feel Tess tense up. She began to wonder why the phone was more important than her. The author did a great job of showing both sides in the marriage and it sure opened my eyes to some things in my own life. I complain about my hubby not spending time with me because he is always watching the news. What I failed to remember is that I usually have my nose stuck in a book and barely glance at him when he comes home.

One of the most important things the author shows us is through Tess. She is always comparing her marriage to others. Sometimes we forget that we need to be content with what we have. Will Jacob and Tess be able to find happiness in their marriage? Should Tess be comparing her marriage to her friends marriage? The story is so beautifully written and I loved the characters so much. The author does a great job of showing readers that marriage isn't always easy. There has to be compromise and communication . This book was very hard to put down and I loved how the story was engaging . This is one story that I found myself completely

mesmerized by and thought the story line was written with such eloquence.

"Don't let your pride get in the way of your marriage."

I received a copy of this book from the author. The review is my own opinion.

Lori says

I loved this novel. I was happy to visit my friends in Wells Landing again.

I was happy to visit Tess and Jacob.

My did they have some troubles facing them! I thought Amish married for life not to separate like the English do.

Amy has done an excellent job of making Tess and Jacob come to life with their real life problems. I love Amy's style of writing. She shows us a different side of the Amish in this book.

Usually the Amish tries to separate themselves from the English world but I loved this because it was different.

Jealousy can rear it's ugly head when you least expect it. It can also make people do terrible things to each other.

Love is a special thing and it can sneak up on you when you least expect it.

When two people get married, it takes a lot of work to adjust to one another. Especially when you are used to living by yourself.

The only thing wrong with this book was it was too short!!! I was just getting into it when the end showed up.

Waaaaa!!!!!! I want more!!!

Thanks Amy for the opportunity to read and review this wonderful book

I recommend this book for people who love to read about the Amish.

I received a complementary copy from Netgalley and was in no way obligated to post a review

Kristi says

After reading More Than a Marriage I truly believe if I am to continue reading Amy Lillard's books I need to learn to speed read. She creates stories that I just can't read fast enough to find out what will happen next. I devoured this book in one sitting.

Tess and Jacob, the Amish couple in this book, have problems that any married couple could have. The difference is in how they handle the problems and I think Amy gives us a realistic, inside view of Amish life and marriage. I was cheering this couple on and hoping they could find their happily ever after.

This novella has all the elements of a novel: developed characters, engaging storyline, and a wonderful message. So set aside a couple of hours to read More Than a Marriage. You'll be glad you did.

I received a free copy of this book from the author and was not required to write a review. All opinions are mine.

Ashley says

Once I started reading this book I didn't want to put it down. I woke up at 2am just to finish it. That's how good it is. Had me kept guessing what was going to happen next. This is the third book in Quilting Circle novella series. Tess and Jacob have been married for 3 years. After they got married they started having problems. Jacob worked for the English and he had a cell phone that he was always on. Tess feels that he doesn't spend time with her. She also feels that he doesn't pay her any attention. Tess see's how her friends marriage's are and she wants the same thing as them. Are they strong enough to make their marriage work? Or will it fail? I highly recommend this book.

I was given this book by the author and Net Galley. I was not required to write a review.

Becky says

Amy Lillard writes Amish Fiction and this latest offering is such a quick read, I finished it in little over an hour. This is different from most Amish romances that are available and that alone makes it worth reading. The story tells of a marriage on the brink of breaking and how it finally is healed. Amy explores the emotions of breaking hearts and how those hearts come back together. It's also the story of a goat who creates trouble within this marriage.

This book also shows how important it is to have a group of trusted people around a marriage who help bolster it up. In almost every book I read, there is a take-home point. This is the point in Amy's book.

This is a five star quick read, two thumbs up, and a goat to add chaos to your life

My thanks to Zebra Publishing for allowing me to read and review this book.

Brittany says

More Than a Marriage is another great addition to the Quilting Circle novella series. This story had me turning pages like crazy to see what would happen between these two characters!

Tess and Jacob had quite a few serious marital problems rising up between them. It was painful to read about the way Tess felt neglected and lonely. I have to admit that I really felt for Tess and I did not like Jacob very much. He did grow on me throughout the course of the novel, a little bit.

I thought that the author did a very good job of showing the lack of communication between Tess and Jacob, as well as problems that arose relating to the way women and men's roles were viewed in the Amish family. This novella was a fascinating peek into an Amish marriage that needed help.

(4.5 stars)

I received a complimentary copy of this book. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

You can read this review on my blog at:
<https://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.c...>

