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The Gift To Be Simple: Life In The Amish Country



Synopsis

Few photographers can boast of acceptance by and access to a remote Amish community, but Bill Coleman has had the good fortune to spend the past 25 years capturing its daily events in beautiful full-color images. From breadmaking to haymaking to community barn raisings, he takes readers on a visual journey through a Pennsylvanian valley largely untouched by tourists and the trappings of modern existence. Whether it's a buggy traversing a winter farmscape, a woman quilting, or a group of children at play, Coleman captures with a perceptive eye the one unique and telling gesture that reveals the character of an individual and a community. The images gathered here--authentic in their subject matter and utterly simple in their presentation--celebrate the beauty and grace of a time-honored way of life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The photography in this collection is outstanding. It is, not only a glimpse into Amish life, but it is extremely beautiful artwork. The photographer captures the simplicity of Amish life in well-executed images. The photographs cover all aspects of Amish life, without being overly intrusive. If you have ever been fascinated with the Amish lifestyle, pick up this beautiful book. While I understand the lack of description, [the editor/author did not want to draw away from the simplicity of the photographs--and the point of this book is simplicity], I think that something was missing in this respect. If you are looking for the definitive book on Amish, I would have to tell you to pick up this book AND something with more written information. The combination would be a great asset. I

cannot, however, detract from the five stars that I have given this book, simply because of its beauty. It is wonderful.

It's not often that Amish children or adults are seen in photos because it is against their religion for adult members of the church to have photos taken which show their face (their interpretation of the Bible considers this vanity). It's a little questionable then that there are photos of a few Amish adult faces. The photographer mentions that when he first started taking these photos, he didn't know it was forbidden in the Amish religion. The Amish farm kids (not members of the church yet) got the OK from their parents to be in a few photos, according to the photographer. Some of the photos show the backs of children only, dressed in the simple Amish clothes and walking to school barefoot or working on the farm. Many of the photos are shot at quite a distance, with the photographer apparently standing on a public road in Amish country and snapping photos. There are many pictures of Amish barns and farmhouses. It's a nice book to flip through, but because there is no wording on the pages (beyond a quick intro in the front) it doesn't warrant a second and third look. My favorite Amish book is by Elizabeth Coblentz and includes full-page photos plus copies of her columns in an Amish newspaper about life on her family's farm.

I have many books of photographs and this is the most beautiful one I have seen. It was a gift to me that Bill Coleman shared these photos! He has managed to capture the spirit of the Amish - their simple life and their everyday lifestyle. You see their spirit shining through in these photos. The children are particularly beautiful and look so happy and innocent. The photos of the landscape are equally wonderful. It was only on my third *reading* of this book that I realized what they were missing : electric poles and wires. These photos could have been taken 100 years ago, the landscape is so unspoiled!! thank Bill Coleman for giving me this glimpse into the Amish world. Although I live not far from where he took these photos, they allowed me an inside look.

My friend gave me this book. I adored the beautiful photos. I think what I admired the most was Mr. Coleman's ability to obtain such remarkable photos. I was once Amish and remember the huge tour buses wiggling down the dirt lane. I remember the men telling us to turn quickly because it was considered vanity to have pictures taken. It is truly a gem for Mr. Coleman to capture such a true and vividly beautiful photo book!

After visiting Lancaster County in PA, I was so inspired by the Amish lifestyle that I wanted to make

a little album of the Amish people for my 9r. old grandson & his 11 yr. old sister. Although I bought the book for me, I photocopied many of the pictures & put them into the album. Bill Coleman captured just about every aspect of the lives of the Amish. I love it!

The Amish truly feel that it is a priviledge to live the Simple Life. They do not feel as though they are sacrificing at all. This book is informative and well written and an enjoyable read. I feel that all books are over-priced though and for that reason I am only giving four stars!

This is a wonderful book if you want to look into the hearts of the amish and their more simple lifestyle. I love to spend time among the amish when I'm able.....and when I'm not, a turn of the pages in this book quickly projects me there.....and into the more peaceable lifestyle they have, at least momentarily. Their lifestyle is not easy....but certainly more peace-filled. I give this book 5 stars - but would give more if I could. I highly recommend this book - if you love the amish and want to spend time with them....or want to learn more about them....this will give you an inside look.

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