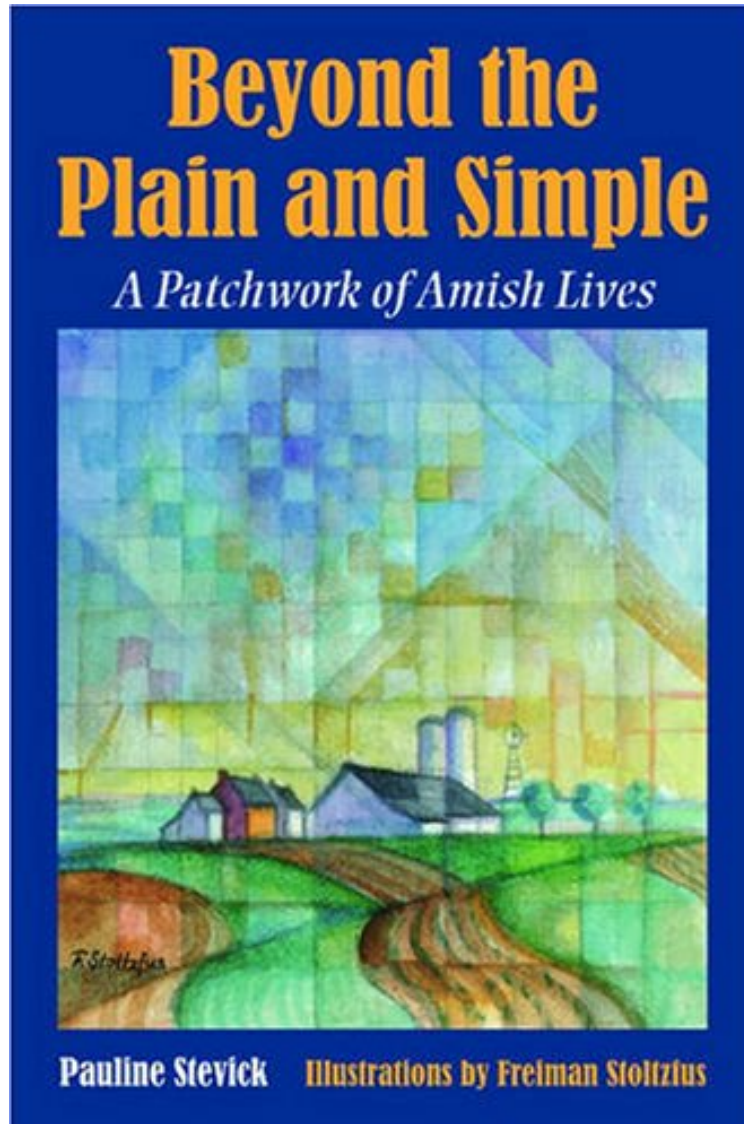


(Get free) Beyond the Plain and Simple: A Patchwork of Amish Lives

## Beyond the Plain and Simple: A Patchwork of Amish Lives

*Pauline Stevick*

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**Pauline Stevick : Beyond the Plain and Simple: A Patchwork of Amish Lives** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beyond the Plain and Simple: A Patchwork of Amish Lives:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great Friday night tub readBy Ruth A. WattsI savored every chapter in this book Friday nights in the bathtub. I felt refreshed by the read, as if I had taken a break from my frantic busy life, to bask a while in a simpler time and place. Pauline Stevick views Amish Life through friendships and associations made over the years with these unique, gentle people. Instead of observing them as odd, or strange, she helps us to see them as people like ourselves, with joys, sorrows, struggles - and, yes, questions. And she takes an

honest look at the pros and cons of their way of life - neither romanticizing nor criticizing. I was especially impressed as I came to grasp the significance of the interconnectedness among those of the Amish community. I've been able to make more sense of my trips to our area "Amish Country" after reading this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Clark E. Wagner Very Good Book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Loved it! Super interesting reading-very well written. By amiga Pauline Stevick's series of essays which appear in this book are based on her first hand experiences with the Amish people. Her visits with the members of this religious community are clearly written and quite engaging. Highly recommended for light reading and/or serious students of this culture.

A series of vignettes describing Amish people and customs Pauline Stevick has visited more than 50 Amish homes in numerous Amish settlements across the country. She has attended weddings, viewings, school sessions and programs, family gatherings, and more than a dozen church services. She has ridden in Amish carriages and has even slept in Amish homes. Through her close association with the Amish, she has gained unique perspective and is able to provide keen insight into a culture that is misunderstood by many. *Beyond the Plain and Simple* reminds readers that although the Amish dress in almost identical clothing, they have distinct personalities and convictions. In vignettes and reflections she reveals the ways in which members of the Amish community live out their faith against the background of their communal culture, all the while emphasizing their individuality. Topics range from Amish family values to women to a retirement community in Florida to an Amish intellectual. Stevick's eloquent narration is descriptive rather than expository as she often draws comparisons between Amish society and mainstream society, sometimes preferring the Amish ways and at other times questioning them. *Beyond the Plain and Simple* portrays the Amish as dynamic people who experience struggles, failures, and successes not unique to their community.

About the Author Pauline Stevick is adjunct instructor of English and interdisciplinary studies at Messiah College in Pennsylvania, where she has taught courses on faith and fiction, short story, and the literature of nature. She completed her undergraduate work at Roberts Wesleyan College, earned her masters from Millersville University, and has done extensive work at the doctoral level at Penn State University. Freiman Stolfus, a Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, native, has illustrated numerous books about the Amish.