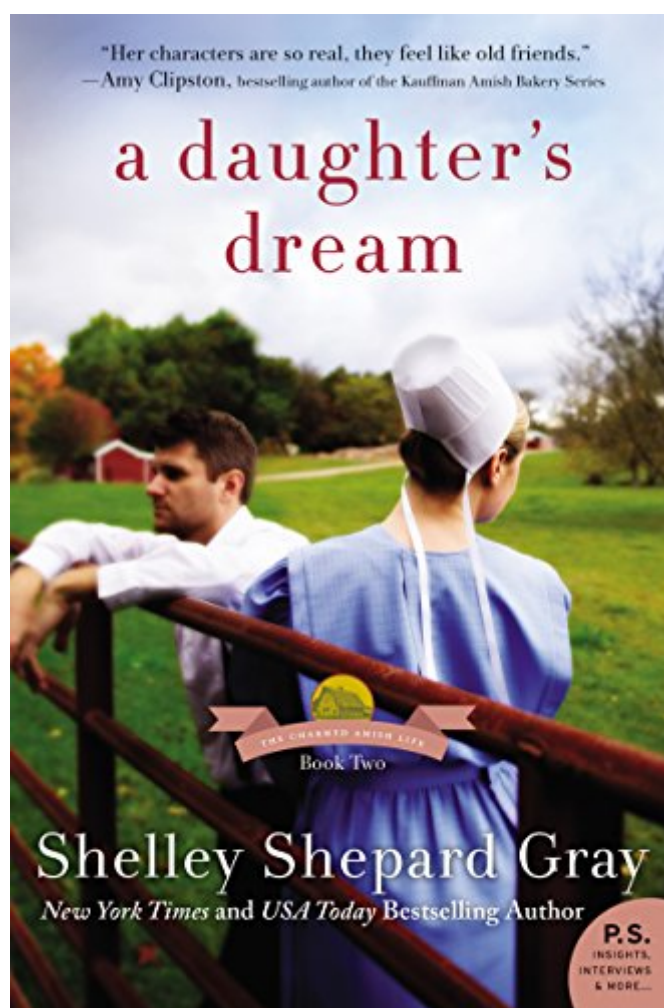


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A Daughter's Dream: The Charmed Amish Life, Book Two



Synopsis

In Shelley Shepard Gray's second book in her Charmed Amish Life series, a young teacher and farmer discover they have much in common, especially when it comes to healing old wounds from the past and finding love in one another. Rebecca Kinsinger has always dreamed of being a teacher. But when she's given the opportunity she's been waiting for at Charm Amish School, she's dismayed to discover that teaching is hard work—work she's afraid she's not very good at. That is, until Lilly Yoder joins the class. A thirteen-year old who's just lost her parents, Lilly is in need of someone like Rebecca. For the first time since starting her new job, Rebecca feels a sense of purpose. But when she meets Lilly's uncle, Jacob, his good looks and sweet, easy-going temperament are hard to ignore. How can she even entertain romantic thoughts of Jacob when his niece is her student? Suddenly becoming Lily's sole caregiver, Jacob Yoder never thought he'd be a single parent—or a farmer. Having been living in Florida as a carpenter, Jacob feels more at home wielding a hammer than a backhoe. The only bright spot in his life is Rebecca Kinsinger. As Lily and Rebecca develop a bond, Jacob's fondness for the pretty teacher grows, too. But when a fateful accident brings them together, Rebecca and Jacob must choose between duty and desire. Will they follow the path before them? Or set out to find true happiness—and true love?

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Customer Reviews

A Daughter's Dream by Shelley Shepard Gray is one of those stories that calms you and gives you a sense of peace, even with the many profound topics it delved on. After reading A Son's Vow, Rebecca is one of the my favorite characters, and I was happy to see she's the title character. Shelley continues to give Rebecca a strong voice in this second book of the series, with the addition of a certain sensitivity. As she attempts to follow her dreams, readers are pulled into her life and ponder with her. I've dreamt with her and walked in her shoes, and that's what makes her so comforting. With comfort, there are always some tugging as well. Jacob and Lilly's story of learning to deal with grief and find strength with and for each other, allowing their relationship as parent/child to grow. Lilly's struggles, from teenage angst of grief, new place, new friends and misunderstanding brings the emotional aspect of parenting to light. Shelley's a master of giving readers a story that you can imagine, so inexplicably in your life or in your mind as you read. Her gentle touch of various themes of sacrifice, love, family and dreams blend and interlace so well, that you raced through without realizing. I finished A Daughter's Dream much quicker than I would've liked and wished there was more. A story I read, and then decided I can't let it end, so I reread the last few chapters. Rebecca and Jacob's simple love story, Peter and Lilly's budding romance, Rachel and Marcus' acknowledgements, and Lucas and Darla's new marriage all progressed before my eyes. Also, you must not miss what Jacob says to Rebecca on page 236-237. It melt my heart. There's just a certain calmness with developed simplicity and genuineness, and A Daughter's Dream is all that.

I really enjoyed my trip back to Charm, Ohio (though if it's your first visit, no worries--it would work okay as a standalone too) and seeing Lukas and Darla and their respective siblings again. I was intrigued by Rebecca in book one and wanted to see her story. There just aren't enough romance heroines named Becky, IMHO. ;) A Daughter's Dream is all about figuring out what you're meant to do with your life...and with whom. Several stories are interwoven with that of our main couple's, Becky Kinsinger and Jacob Yoder. Becky and brand-new-to-Charm Jacob are all kinds of adorable together--but first they have to find the work that God has prepared them to do. At the start of the novel, Becky's sure that teaching is her true calling, but spending just part of a day as a substitute

teacher has her questioning her ability (not surprising, because subbing is so not a fun job. I speak from experience here. It really is different when you're in your own classroom vs subbing in someone else's--but I digress). Jacob found fulfilling work in Florida as a carpenter, but has had to move back to Ohio and in with his parents in order to take over guardianship of his newly-orphaned 13-year-old niece. Jacob decides to give up carpentry to help his father farm the family land, but is it the right decision for him? Jacob's niece Lilly is grieving--but that's not the real reason why she appears to not love school as much as she did in the past. Rachel, Charm's schoolteacher, is determined to find out what's behind Lilly's apathy and change it for the better. Meanwhile, Lilly's having some trouble fitting in at her new school, though she has attracted the attention of one unexpected individual.

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