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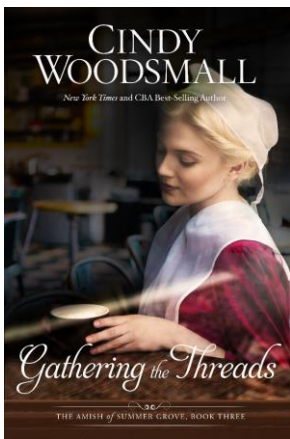


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# PRESS RELEASE

## What makes us who we are?

Cindy Woodsmall releases the powerful conclusion to the Amish of Summer Grove series



**Seattle:** How different would your belief system be if you grew up in a different culture? Would your faith in God be the same if you were raised in a different family? *New York Times* best-selling author Cindy Woodsmall poses these questions in the powerful conclusion to the CBA and ECPA bestselling Amish of Summer Grove series in **Gathering the Threads** (WaterBrook/August 15, 2017/ISBN 978-1601427038/\$14.99).

Woodsmall's latest series introduces readers to two young women, one English and one Amish, who were switched at birth and follows them as they discover what their lives would have been like had the switch never taken place. In *Gathering the Threads*, Woodsmall deftly weaves complex issues of identity into the story. What makes us who we are? Are we simply a result of our genetic ancestry? Does our family determine our future . . . or is there something more to identity? The book also deals with the prejudice many Christians feel toward other denominations and belief systems.

The series began with *Ties That Bind* (September 8, 2015) when Woodsmall introduced readers to Ariana Brennehan, a young Amish woman deeply invested in the beliefs of her family and Amish community, and Skylar Nash, an English college student struggling with a life of addiction, neglect and failure to meet expectations. Their worlds are turned upside down when they learn the families they have been a part of for 20 years are not biologically theirs.

*Fraying at the Edge* (August 16, 2016) found both women introduced to communities very different from the ones they grew up knowing. They both reeled with the nature of their true identities as Ariana fought to hold on to her convictions in a secular world and Skylar adjusted to life without modern technology.

In the third and final book of the series, Woodsmall brings the story full circle as each woman must decide where her future will be. Ariana's initial excitement to return home is mixed with doubts about the Amish way of life. Her time with her analytical, atheist father has opened her perspective and makes communicating with her Amish family a struggle. Her arrival also challenges Skylar's hard-won sobriety as Skylar struggles to see her place in a family restored. Both women find themselves doubting what love, relationships and family will look like in their futures.

Woodsmall hopes readers will glean the importance of reading, studying and thinking for themselves. "Don't let anyone in authority or any authoritative group, church or otherwise trick you into following them," Woodsmall warns. "Faith needs to go deeper than our understanding of the Word, just like love goes deeper than our understanding of the Word. I'm hoping readers feel encouraged that it is good for grace to outweigh their personal convictions that may or may not line up with God's Word as well as they thought."

*Gathering the Threads* is a perfect book for fans of Amish fiction that doesn't shy away from discussing difficult issues.

For more on *Gathering the Threads* and the Amish of Summer Grove series, visit [www.waterbrookmultnomah.com](http://www.waterbrookmultnomah.com).

## Advance Praise

"Woodsmall ends The Amish of Summer Grove series phenomenally. *Gathering the Threads* is the best of the three novels, bringing it all together in a meaningful and realistic way. Her storytelling skills are impeccable, drawing readers in and providing a sense of familiarity and friendship with the characters. The character development and progression are realistic and engaging. This series has a wide appeal, and readers should be very satisfied with the lovely ending."

~ RT Book Reviews (4 ½ star Top Pick)

## About the Author



**Cindy Woodsmall** is an award-winning *New York Times* and CBA best-selling author who has written 20 works of fiction, including her most recent series, Amish of Summer Grove. Her connection with the Amish community has been widely featured in national media outlets, including ABC's *Nightline*. The *Wall Street Journal* listed Woodsmall as one of the top three most popular authors of Amish fiction.

RT Book Reviews recently presented her with a Career Achievement Award and gave her latest release, *Gathering the Threads*, a Top Pick review.

Woodsmall and her husband reside near the foothills of the North Georgia Mountains.

Learn more about Woodsmall and her books at [www.cindywoodsmall.com](http://www.cindywoodsmall.com). She is also active on [Facebook \(@authorcindywoodsmall\)](https://www.facebook.com/authorcindywoodsmall).

## Suggested interview questions

- The Amish of Summer Grove series introduces readers to a pair of girls, one Englisch and one Amish, who were switched at birth. What are some of the challenges each faced when pushed to experience the life she would have lived had the switch never taken place?
- What are some of the questions about identity the girls must work through as they adjust to life with their new families?
- Today's news stories, even our social media feeds, are full of people arguing and treating each other poorly due to a difference of opinions. As Christians, how can we be respectful of others' beliefs while standing for the truth?
- Ariana was deeply conflicted between respecting the parents who raised her and the pull of the world outside the Amish community. How was she able to balance the two sides and still hold on to her faith?
- Explain the meaning behind the title of the book. In what ways was Ariana a "gatherer of threads"?
- Skylar experienced a culture shock when she arrived in Summer Grove. What lessons did she learn from her new Amish family that helped her overcome her battle with drug addiction?
- What lessons in hope and faith do you hope readers take away from reading *Gathering the Threads*?
- Is there a subtler, maybe even hidden lesson you hope readers consider as well?
- Some people who have never read Amish fiction usually have a certain perception of the genre without giving it a chance. What would you say to encourage new readers to branch out and try the Amish of Summer Grove series?
- *Gathering the Threads* is the third and final book in your Amish of Summer Grove series. Is it difficult for you to end a series and leave the characters behind?
- Can you share a little bit about the book you are writing next?

**To request a review copy of *Gathering the Threads*, to schedule an interview with Cindy Woodsmall or for more information, please contact Audra Jennings, [audra@lifusegroup.com](mailto:audra@lifusegroup.com).**

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