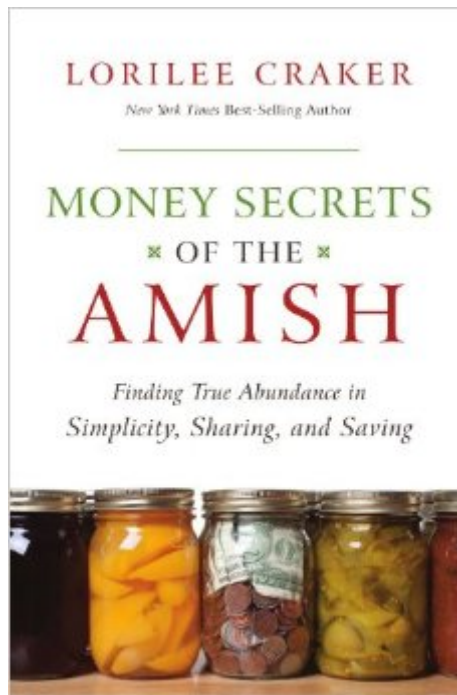


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Money Secrets Of The Amish: Finding True Abundance In Simplicity, Sharing, And Saving



Synopsis

Take one thoroughly modern gal with a recessionary income problem, mix with the practices of a culture that has proved to be recession-proof, and what have you got? A financial planner in a straw hat. When writer Lorilee Craker learned that the Amish are not just surviving but thriving in the economic downturn, she decided to find out why. What she found was about a dozen tried and true financial habits the Amish have employed for generations that will make your cash last longer and help you build wealth. Craker provides tips to...use it up, wear it out, make do, or do without...rethink your gift giving...repurpose, recycle, and reuse...eat like royalty for a peasant's pittance. Packed with practical, simple, and smart money saving ideas and teeming with great insight into the sensible Amish ways, *Money Secrets of the Amish* will entertain you with stories and retrain your brain to be the savvy money saver you always dreamed you could be.

--Beth Wiseman, best-selling author of *Plain Promise* and *Seek Me With All Your Heart* Sometimes touching, sometimes humorous and always helpful, author Lorilee Craker pulls us into the family rooms of the Amish and shows us how they make ends meet. Story after story illustrates savvy money management: trading for goods and services, shopping for bargains, living with less, avoiding debt, curbing the desire to impress others. And Craker's journalistic bent provides plenty of takeaway value for the non-Amish. A very worthwhile read whether your bank account is bursting or busting.

--Suzanne Woods Fisher, author of *Amish Peace: Simple Wisdom for a Complicated World* and *Lancaster County Secrets* (Revell) This book is like an Amish basement shelf loaded with Mason jars full of Plain money wisdom. Self-confessed "Fancy" gal Lorilee Craker rolls up her sleeves and cracks them open one-by-one, figuring out how to fit Amish principles to a non-Amish life. She succeeds, and so can you! Read *Money Secrets of the Amish* and add weight to your wallet.

--Erik Wesner, *amishamerica.com*; author of *Success Made Simple: An Inside Look at Why Amish Businesses Thrive* *Money Secrets of the Amish* is a practical, doable guide, and it's such fun to read. Lorilee's voice is as engaging and lively as ever, and the wisdom she shares from the Amish community is both inspiring and instructive. I just finished the last page, and my mind is buzzing with all sorts of ways to waste less, want less, and spend less.

--Shauna Niequist, author of *Cold Tangerines* and *Bittersweet* Lorilee inspires and impacts your everyday life with this marvelous little read. From buttons to bakery you suddenly realize this conversation is not about just pinching a few pennies but about transforming how we view our everyday lives. I applaud Lorilee for asking the hard questions and pressing in to find honest answers. Forget the mall, kick back and soak up the delicious wisdom of a life well lived. Thank you Lorilee for shaping my everyday! --Tracey Bianchi,

author of *Green Mama Money Secrets of the Amish* isn't so much about making money; it's about family, discipline, and redefining what "wealthy" means. This is a great read that helps us all to see more clearly what's really valuable in our lives. --Jeff McMahon, award-nominated musician and national director/runner with the Team McGraw endurance program

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Customer Reviews

In a time where money seems to be difficult to obtain yet easy to lose, I was excited to get my hands on this book regarding Amish money secrets. I do not know much about the author, Lorilee Craker, other than that she is a Mennonite who traveled into Lancaster County, PA to interview different Amish voices in regards to their money secrets--specifically, living simple and saving without depriving. The book is 217 pages long, but it is a very fast read. I received the book this afternoon and started reading at about 5:00 PM. It is now 9:55 PM and I am writing the review. The book is just an enjoyable read because it is relevant to the economic times of our society. We are all wanting to know how to live simple, not be deprived, yet able to save money to enjoy retirement or the occasional luxuries of life. Lorilee Craker introduces the reader to Bishop Eli King, Amos, Amish expert Erik Wesner, and more. One of the most memorable is Amos. He is a forty year old farmer who was raising fourteen children, renting a farm, and still managed to save \$400,000 over twenty years. Could you imagine what this guy could do with two kids, or three? Saving that much money is absurd. Lorilee said that she expected to see deprivation in the household in some way, but she never saw it. The family was well-fed, jovial, content with life. Amos was saving money in order to

stop renting the farm (\$1,800/month) and buy a farm of his own. Nevertheless, I could not get pass the fact that this man was able to save \$400,000 over twenty years with fourteen kids, a wife, and a rented farm. I am having a hard time managing to save 10% in a month and I only have a two year old. The money saving and frugal lifestyle as described in this book is easily doable...if you choose to do it.

Book Description: Discover the money-saving and wealth-building secrets of America's thriftiest people, the Amish. Author, journalist, and descendant of the Amish, Lorilee Craker, was just like the rest of us, feeling the pinch from the financial fallout of 2008. As a freelancer, her income was going the way of the dodo--family dollars seemed like an extinct myth, the bank account some archeological evidence of past prosperity. Then, inspired by a news segment covering her people, the Amish, and how they emerged from the economic crisis unscathed, she realized it was time to get back to her roots and learn a thing or two about their time-tested approach to personal finances. While the middle-class was wringing its hands over the family budget and the wealthy were weeping over their slashed portfolios, the Amish were content as always, spared from the cares of the world and worldliness. They not only had financial health to support their lives, they exuded a wholeness that eludes so many when the financial bottom drops out. In *Money Secrets of the Amish*, readers go on an "Amish money makeover," learning the choices, secrets, and disciplines that safeguarded the contentment and the coffers of America's favorite plain folk by spending less, saving more, and getting happier doing it.

My Review: I have always been intrigued by how the Amish live so when I was given the opportunity to review this book, I jumped at the chance. In today's economy I need to learn, not only for myself, but for my family, how to live within my means and be happy about it. Growing up, every year my family always traveled to Pennsylvania, so I knew a bit about the Amish and their culture.

Money Secrets of the Amish is a great read by author Lorilee Craker. The book claims on the back that "Craker provides tips to... use it up, wear it out, make do, or do without. Rethink your gift giving. repurpose, recycle, and reuse. Eat like royalty for a peasant's pittance." And let me tell you, this book does just that. I really love books on frugal living and finances, and I also love books about the Amish so I really couldn't go wrong with this book. This book was a very easy read, I finished it a few short days within receiving it. It has an attractive yet simple cover. The chapters end with a "My Amish Money Makeover" which highlights the key idea from the chapter. I like the concept of the "use it up, wear it out, make do, or do without" idea that the book talks about. Nowadays, it seems

like as soon as something has minor wear or the newest model comes out- that we have to rush to the stores to get it. After reading this book, I really wanted to get my boys some tricycles, but those are usually 20 or 30 or more new.. so my goal was to find some used ones on a site similar to Craigslist. Well, I found some, and if it weren't for just having read this book, I probably wouldn't have got them because they were ratty looking and the wrong color- purple and pink! So I thought outside the box... PAINT! I was able to buy some spray paint and these two tricycles, for a total of \$15!! Now they look brand new!What I really think is great about the book is how Craker has interviews with actual Amish families. I think it is amazing how they look at the big picture, thinking ahead to their children and grandchildren when it comes to their finances. Craker also is a fan of Dave Ramsey, and I love that she included tips from him in here. Overall, I think this is a great book!

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