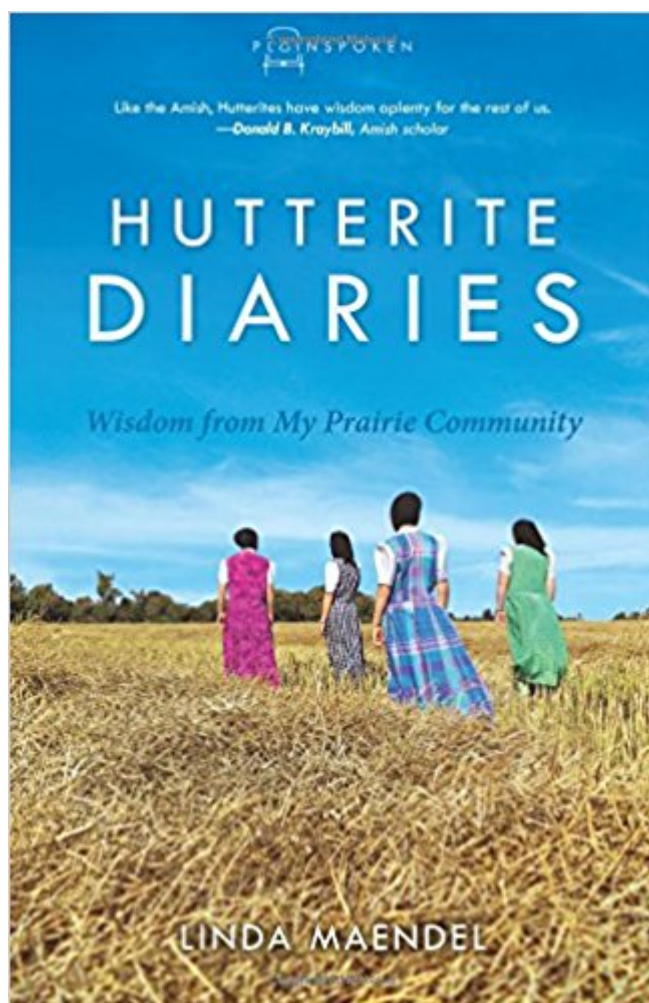


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Hutterite Diaries: Wisdom From My Prairie Community (Plainspoken, Book Three)



Synopsis

What would it be like to share all your possessions and live in Christian community? In *Hutterite Diaries*, Linda Maendel offers a rare glimpse into the daily routines and communal faith of her people, the Hutterian Brethren. From stories of working together to bring in the fall potato harvest to laugh-out-loud tales of sisterly love laced with revenge, Maendel invites readers into her Bruderhof, or colony, nestled on the prairie of western Canada. Here children and adults work, play, eat, and worship together, crafting a community of goods and living out an alternative to the individualism and consumerism of mainstream society. Because few outsiders know anything about the Hutterites, a Plain Christian group related to the Amish and Mennonites, this book offers a rare glimpse into Hutterite life. *Plainspoken* series real-life stories of Amish and Mennonites includes: Book 1 *Chasing the Amish Dream: My Life as a Young Amish Bachelor* by Loren Beachy Book 2 *Called to Be Amish: My Journey from Head Majorette to the Old Order* by Marlene Miller Book 3 *Hutterite Diaries: Wisdom from My Prairie Community* by Linda Maendel

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Customer Reviews

"A wonderful collection of true stories and insights, written by a thoughtful woman who loves the life she's been given."--Suzanne Woods Fisher, author of *Amish Peace* (05/18/2015) "I applaud Linda Maendel for giving us a unique firsthand account of her life on a Hutterite colony. It's wonderful to see Hutterite writers emerge and take their place in the mainstream!"--Mary-Ann Kirby, author of *I*

Am Hutterite and Secrets of a Hutterite Kitchen (05/18/2015)"Linda Maendel's clear vision and her loving heart wrapped me in a fine quilt of story as I read. Of all of the books on Hutterites that I have seen, this is the one that I cherish."--Joe McLellan, author of the Nanabosho series

(05/18/2015)"This book will awaken your longing for a better world. As I read it, I smiled, laughed out loud, and cried along with the author and her community. Linda Maendel takes you deep into Hutterian community life one gentle picture at a time."--Shirley Showalter, author of Blush

(05/18/2015)""Hutterite Diaries" is an insightful look into Hutterite colony life from an insider who not only describes what life is like there but why things are done in particular ways. Maendel's explanations will not only resonate with all Hutterites but also provide an important introduction to Hutterite life for non-Hutterites."--Rod Janzen, author of The Hutterites in North America

(05/18/2015)""Hutterite Diaries" is a welcome and long overdue contribution that fills a void in the daily events of a Hutterite. This book reveals a way of life that seems extraordinary to the outside world."--Paul M. Wipf, farm steward"Viking Hutterite Colony" (05/18/2015)"I so much enjoyed the

chance to step into the Hutterite community and feel a part of it. Linda Maendel's delightful use of the power of story makes the "Hutterite Diaries" the type of book that is universal and enduring."--Sigmund Brouwer, author of Thief of Glory (05/18/2015)"What an amazing book!

Informative, interesting, entertaining, and very well written. Through skillfully told stories, Linda Maendel, an insider, guides the reader on a journey exploring the world of a Hutterite community. Her book provides an important addition to the literature now available about Hutterite life."--John J. Friesen, professor emeritus"Canadian Mennonite University" (05/18/2015)"A wonderful collection of true stories and insights, written by a thoughtful woman who loves the life she's been

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What would it be like to share your possessions and live in Christian community? In *Hutterite Diaries*, Linda Maendel offers a rare glimpse into the daily routines and relational faith of her people, the Hutterian Brethren. With stories ranging from accounts of Hutterite weddings to a hilarious tale of an accidental baptism by salad dressing, Maendel invites readers into her colony. Here, nestled on the prairie of western Canada, children and adults work, play, eat, and worship together, crafting a community of goods and living out an alternative to the individualism and consumerism of mainstream society. Few outsiders know anything about the Hutterites, a plain Christian group related to the Amish and Mennonites. Maendel's story invites readers into deeper understanding of this community of faith, calling us to take seriously the example of Jesus and the early church in our daily living. Hear straight from plain Christians as they write about their daily lives and deeply rooted faith in the *Plainspoken* series from Herald Press. Each book in the series includes "A Day in the Life of the Author" and the author's answers to FAQs.

I had been looking forward to the publishing of this book since I knew about it from reading Linda's blog, and it does not disappoint. I think it very well succeeds in accomplishing the author's intention of sharing a picture of Hutterite life as it is lived in the early 2000s. Linda has a very flowing conversational style that gives the reader a feeling of being with her and hearing all these things first hand. I like the topics she chose to share very much. Linda writes about history, but also about the day to day life on a Hutterite colony, and special things that happen. It is clear that there is a strong bond among these people but also clear that they are very human, perhaps especially the children. Well done!

A quick read that's offers glimpses into the Hutterite life.

Frugality, simplicity and a strong faith are qualities I identified with growing up Mennonite in Lancaster County, PA during the 1950s. Linda Maendel has painted in bold colors a realistic picture of life in a similar culture, her Hutterite colony in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Mennonites and Hutterites both have Anabaptist origins in Europe, value close family ties, and oppose war. Using blog posts, newspaper articles, and historical research, Maendel recalls the hard work and strong sense of community that keeps the Elm River Colony thriving. Before reading this book, I had only a vague idea of Hutterite life. However, I learned that cooperation makes their world go round, basing this

belief on the New Testament teaching in Acts 2:40-47. While the colony members do not have personal bank accounts, colony leaders distribute funds to individual families and pay all Canadian government taxes. They are skilled at re-purposing too. The author's stories of fashioning an old desk into something new and creating lap quilts from patches are heart-warming. Reading Linda's memoir felt calming. As Valerie Weaver-Zercher mentions in her book *Thrill of the Chaste*, readers are drawn to stories like these because of the moral innocence exemplified, "chaste residents in a defiled world," as she puts it. I found it interesting that my friend Weaver-Zercher was Maendel's editor during book publication. Maendel is a consummate storyteller, a quality students in her German and English classes must relish. Through wit, humor, and an authentic voice, Linda Maendel is giving her Hutterite community a legacy to savor and to those yet to come a roadmap to follow.

"Hutterite Diaries" by Linda Maendel is an interesting read on a community unknown to many. Often mistaken for Amish, Hutterites share many similarities with the former but have Anabaptist roots and a large part of their teachings are actually in German. Their community is located in Western Canada and is known for their farming. "Hutterite Diaries" is somewhat of a memoir, written by a woman who has lived in a Hutterite community for her entire life. She shares humorous stories as well as some heartbreaking ones. Readers also learn about how their community works as far as cooking and working, and how the members all share their money and are allotted an "allowance" for the things they would like to buy. Linda also explains how her school and church services work. Hutterite members also have modern homes and vehicles and use modern technology, which is one thing that distinguishes them from the Amish. This book is a little different from what I expected. Each chapter is like a different diary entry and can stand alone without the previous chapters. As I said earlier, there are some humorous entries written, but Linda has somewhat of a dry old-fashioned humor so the jokes might not be humorous to all readers. It was hard to relate to way of living, but it was an interesting read none the less. I rate this book as 4 stars. I received this book for free from Litfuse in exchange for my honest unbiased opinion.

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About the Book What would it be like to share all your possessions and live in Christian community? In *Hutterite Diaries*, Linda Maendel offers a rare glimpse into the daily routines and communal faith of her people, the Hutterian Brethren. From stories of working together to bring in the fall potato

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My Review I wish I read the first book but, I enjoyed reading this book very much! I love to read about ways of life other than my own. I find it fascinating. I love the idea of living in a "community" which I do live.....there are 4 of us..two husbands and two wives. I am truly blessed in my life!!! I have always been drawn to books about the Amish. I believe it is because they live a simple life. It was interesting how this book was written like a diary hence the name of the book....it was an enjoyable read. I would recommend this to anyone who enjoys reading about the Amish or those who are interested in their lifestyle

About Author Linda Maendel is a Hutterite author, blogger, and educator who lives in Elm River Colony outside of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Find out more about Linda at <http://www.hutt-writevoice.blogspot.com>

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