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THE AMANA COLONIES AT THE CENTER OF NEW HISTORICAL FICTION BY MELANIE DOBSON

With a backdrop of the community of The Amana Colonies, the Civil War, and a great love story, Melanie Dobson's new historical fiction title **LOVE FINDS YOU IN AMANA, IOWA** (Summerside Press, July 12th, 2011, \$12.99, original trade paperback) is both enlightening and entertaining.

The novel is set in the United States during the turmoil of the 1860s. As the rest of the nation is embroiled in the Civil War, the Amana Colonies have remained at peace. The people of the Amana Colonies live in a communal society and work together to provide all the necessities of life without the help of the outside world. At the center of The Amana Society is a strong faith in God and pursuit of community, intertwined with hard work, family life and the building of their colony.

Amalie Wiese is travelling to the newly built village of Amana in 1863. When she arrives in the colonies she finds that her fiancée, Friedrich has left to fight with the Union Army. Amalie fears for his safety as she also struggles with his decision to abandon the colony's beliefs. Matthias, Frederick's friend, stays back in Amana to work in the colonies. But there is something wrong with Matthias; he always seems angry at Amalie when there is no simple explanation for him to act that way.

Among the goods the colonies manufacture are much needed supplies for the war effort and Matthias decides to deliver the goods to the soldiers. When he leaves, Amalie realizes that her fear for Matthias's safety is equally as strong. What will become of Friedrich, will Matthias return safely, and will Amalie marry Friedrich? **LOVE FINDS YOU IN AMANA** is a richly told story of life in the Amana Society and the people who live and love there.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Melanie Dobson has written eight novels including LOVE FINDS YOU IN HOMESTEAD, IOWA. Prior to starting her own public relations firm, Dobson Media, she was the corporate publicity manager at Focus on the Family. She also worked at The Family Channel and has spent fifteen years in the publicity and journalism field. She received her undergraduate degree in journalism from Liberty University and her master's degree in communication from Regent University. She lives with her husband and two children in Oregon.

ABOUT THE LOVE FINDS YOU SERIES

The Love Finds You series of novels published by Summerside Press captures the flavors of the towns and cities in America that have alluring charm, great names and colorful histories. The series is romantic fiction that uses the flavor of these places and fictional stories about the people who live and find love there. Each novel in the series draws on the compelling history or the unique character of the real place. The stories center on romances kindled in a small town, lost and found again on the high plains, or newly discovered at exciting vacation getaways. Launched in 2008, the Love Finds You series has 37 titles with 1.5 million copies in print, and it is one of the most successful series that Summerside Press publishes. It publishes two new books every other month and its goal is to include at least one novel from each of the fifty states.

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Melanie Dobson is available for interviews.