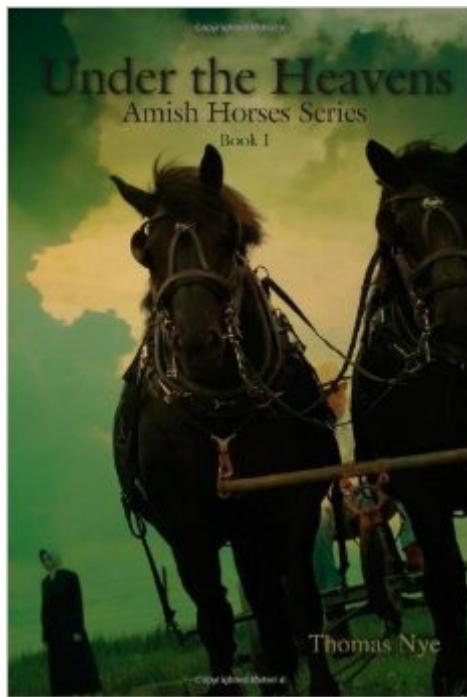


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# Under The Heavens



## **Synopsis**

Lenny happened to notice his blurry reflection on the windowpane. He knew it was his image; nevertheless, he couldn't recognize his own face. Those almond-shaped eyes and dark-brown hair belonged to him, yet, inside, he felt disconnected from his past, having never known his own father. Grandpa had insisted, "Leonard, needs to come spend a summer at the home-place ..." A teenage boy, struggling with his identity, reluctantly leaves his modern, city-life behind and enters the slow-paced, mysterious world of the Amish. Grandpa teaches Lenny to farm with draft horses, a tranquil experience that seeps into his soul, changing his perspective. A neighbor girl appears while he is working in the fields, weaving a romance in the fabric of his summer. Lenny discovers that everyday on an Amish farm is an adventure. Thunderstorms rumble above, as a fragile relationship, between an Amish family and their non-Amish visitor, begins to unravel. Daybreak in a cow pasture, plowing with horses, enchanting moonlit buggy rides, and picturesque sunsets are all part of life, Under the Heavens.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The author, a gifted storyteller, writes a tale about things close to his heart and based on his experiences: horses and the Amish. I was delighted to read this book because I've always loved horses, in spite of the lack of opportunity to feed that particular fascination, and I enjoy reading about the Amish. In addition, I soon realized once I started reading this book that it afforded me many trips down memory lane with every description of the farm our main character spends a summer living on. Leonard's foray into experiencing summer at his Amish cousins' Iowa farm came

at his grandfather Jesse's request. He was an angry young teen who wished he was anywhere but on a farm. He lived in a city. Living on the farm would be like moving to a foreign country. The black, heavy storm clouds that blew in with him seemed to reflect his attitude perfectly. It didn't take him long to sense that his Uncle Albert's family was not exactly enthused about his presence with them either. Grandpa Jesse, however, began to pour all his time and energy getting to know Lenny. Before he even realized it, the teen had entered into training as the farm's Horse Boy. He didn't object because he loved the horses, a fact that drew the two closer. Being the Horse Boy wasn't easy work. He woke up with the rooster crow. He had to learn from scratch all the nuances of using horses for farm work, while at the same time learning other chores he was expected to do in between, such as milking cows. There were plenty of cousins to share the jobs with, but they were always busy from sunup to sundown. It occurred to Lenny that he had as much to learn from the horses as he did from his grandfather. To him the horses seemed to read his soul and his heart.

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