



Just Plain Fancy

By Patricia Polacco

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Naomi Vlecke lives with her farming family in an Amish community in Pennsylvania. The Amish first came to Pennsylvania in the early 1700s, and to this day preserve a religious and "plain" life-style. As part of her household chores, Naomi looks after the chickens with her little sister, Ruth.

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Just Plain Fancy By Patricia Polacco Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #315163 in Books
- Brand: Dragonfly Books
- Published on: 1994-03-01
- Released on: 1994-03-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.88" h x .14" w x 8.56" l, .31 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 32 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Naomi and Ruth are sisters who live on a farm in Pennsylvania's Amish country, where people take pride in their uncomplicated lives. But Naomi complains that everything in her life--from her clothes to her chickens--is plain. The girl longs for "something fancy." When she and Ruth find an unusual egg by the side of the road, they place it in their hen's nest, hoping it will hatch. It does, and the bird that emerges is obviously not a garden-variety chick. The sisters name it "Fancy," and keep its existence a secret from the grownups, who they fear will shun it. On the day the elders of the community have gathered for a working bee, Fancy breaks out of the henhouse and spreads its feathers in front of the group. By this time perceptive young readers will have gathered that Fancy is a peacock--and Polacco's pictures reveal it to be a magnificent one at that. Naomi is praised for raising such a beautiful bird, and learns that some kinds of "fancy" are acceptable. Polacco's warm story and sensitive illustrations offer a fresh, balanced perspective on Amish life. Ages 4-8.

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From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 3-- Polacco's clear, lively, watercolor/pastel crayon illustrations play with varying perspectives in a way calculated to draw children into a world of order and simplicity: the Amish country of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Readers are introduced to Naomi and Ruth, Amish sisters, aged about ten and four. One day, while searching for mislaid eggs, Naomi tells Ruth that she longs for something "fancy" in her otherwise "plain" life. Her wish is fulfilled when the girls discover an unusual egg. When it is hatched, a very special chick emerges, appropriately named Fancy. Fearing that he will be considered an outcast because he is too fancy to be Amish, the girls keep their pet a secret for nearly a year. Finally, at a summer working bee, the bird can be contained no longer. He spreads his glorious plumage across two whole pages, and readers and the elders discover that he is a very handsome peacock. One of the elders calms Naomi's fears, telling her that a peacock is God's handiwork and that there can be no shame in their pet's being what he was meant to be. Brimming with details of Amish farm life, the illustrations are bound to inform as they entertain. The characters' expressive faces, the energy of the drawings, and the appropriateness of composition to mood and content of the story all unite to make this a picture book that's sure to tickle readers' fancy. --Carey Ayres, Port Washington Public Library, NY

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From the Publisher

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lois Yale:

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to learn everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or even goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They can be reading whatever they have because their hobby is reading a book. How about the person who don't like reading a

book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book if they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you should have this Just Plain Fancy.

William Grimm:

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