

# A CITY COP IN AMISH COUNTRY

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by Jack Kroll

From: Newsweek, February 11, 1985. © 1985, Newsweek, Inc. All rights reserved.  
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1       What you want from a thriller, besides thrills, is a little originality, a MacGuffin, as  
2 Hitchcock called it, to beguile you with its trick logic. You get that—and more—in  
3 “Witness.” The original screenplay by Earl W. Wallace and William Kelley brings together  
4 the scuzzy, violent, urban world of narcotics, murder, and crooked cops and the pastoral,  
5 time-warp world of the Amish, those pious, blackclad Pennsylvania farmers who live today  
6 much as they did in the seventeenth century. While on a trip with his widowed mother  
7 Rachel (Kelley McGillis), Samuel Lapp, a little Amish boy (Lukas Haas), witnesses a brutal  
8 murder in the men’s room of a Philadelphia railway station. John Book (Harrison Ford),  
9 the detective assigned to the case, discovers that the killers are corrupt cops. When they  
10 put a bullet into him, Book escapes to Amish country. Peace. Beauty. John loves Rachel.  
11 Vice versa. Consternation among the Amish. Anxiety among the crooked cops, who finally  
12 track John down in his idyllic hideout. Climactic, cross-cultural crunch.

13       Not every director could make this unlikely situation work. But Australia’s Peter  
14 Weir, making his first American-based film, does an admirable job. In his Australian  
15 movies, like “Picnic at Hanging Rock” and “The Last Wave” he’s dealt with mystery,  
16 murder, and the clash of incongruous cultures. The aborigines in “The Last Wave” are  
17 like the Amish in “Witness”—both groups, isolated in the modern world, have retained an  
18 almost mystic spiritual integrity. But, Weir has lost much of his portentousness while  
19 losing none of his extraordinary artistry. “Witness” is a feast of ravishing images and  
20 suspenseful rhythms: at a communal barn-raising, the half-built barn swarms with men,  
21 like bees making honey; at the police station, when Samuel identifies a photograph of the  
22 killers for John Book, Weir goes into sudden slow motion, creating an electric intimacy  
23 between the innocent boy and the hardened cop.

24       **Portrait:** As he showed in “The Year of Living Dangerously,” in which he cast actress  
25 Linda Hunt as the male half-caste Billy Kwan, Weir has a wonderful eye for the  
26 unexpected. Here Alexander Godunov, the Russian ballet dancer who defected to the  
27 United States, is immensely engaging as a young Amish farmer who has his eye on Rachel.  
28 Weir is superb with actors: Lukas Haas is angelic but real as Samuel; Josef Sommer seems  
29 to sweat evil as Book’s crooked chief; you can’t believe that Danny Glover, the saintly  
30 sharecropper of “Places in the Heart,” is the vicious murderer in this movie; Harrison  
31 Ford is tough, sweet, romantic, brooding, masculine—more like the easy-flowing old  
32 movie stars than almost anybody in his generation. And Kelley McGillis as Rachel is the  
33 most incandescent young actress to come along in a while. In her severe Amish dress she  
34 has the solidity and sensuality of a Frans Hals portrait. Turning from her bath to lock eyes

Springtime in Amish Country is a beautiful thing! [CLICK HERE](http://www.OACountry.com) for more about Ohio's Amish Country at [www.OACountry.com](http://www.OACountry.com)! #Amish #Ohio #Tourism (Doyle Yoder photo).  
Amish Country Store & Hand-Forged Homegoods. Nestled in the heart of Ohio's Amish country, Wendell August offers traditional craftsmanship with a modern feel. Come see us today and shop American-made. Amish Recipes Cooking Recipes Amish Store Berlin Ohio Millersburg Ohio Amish Country Ohio Amish Culture Holmes County Best Places To Vacation. Home | Best of Ohio's Amish Country. What to do and where to go in Ohio's Amish Country. Walnut Creek Ohio Amish Restaurant Places To See Places Ive Been Berlin Ohio Amish Country Ohio Holmes County Cleveland Ohio Weekend Getaways. Amish Country Gazebos provides "Amish taxi" services with non-Amish drivers for its employees so they can get to work without violating rules against owning a car. Credit...Ashley Gilbertson for The New York Times. The crowd around the table on this evening made for an Amish tableau. John and his wife, Lizzie, were there, along with Junior, his wife, their four daughters, and a son who had been born at home just five days before. Every cop in every city can tell you where you best not go, particularly after dark, right? Every big city has these issues. Only in the US we have a 1500 mile wide open border, a border half the country is determined to keep wide open, over which 95% of everything smuggled gets through. One Quora poster related that he and a buddy - both from out-of-state - were driving through Baltimore (#3 most crime-ridden city, and #2 for murder rate per 100K population - with less than 1/4 Chicago's population), and pulled off the freeway for some gas. They were very quickly pulled over by the cops. The Throughout this website we have provided extensive information on the Amish, their faith, lifestyle, schools, weddings, their history, and more. Many questions have been submitted to us about the Amish on a variety of topics. Those questions and their answers are included in the above sections where appropriate. Various questions not fitting into those categories are included below. Most of the answers to these questions were provided by the resident experts at the Mennonite Information Center in Lancaster, PA. "Can an outsider join the Amish church/community?" "A local Amishman recently remar Learn about Amish Country using the Expedia travel guide resource! Discover Amish Country places to stay and things to do for your next trip. Popular places to visit in Amish Country. Save World's Largest Cuckoo Clock to your lists. World's Largest Cuckoo Clock. Find out about the history of Sugarcreek with a stop at World's Largest Cuckoo Clock. Check out the shops and top-notch restaurants in this relaxing area. World's Largest Cuckoo Clock. Save The Farm at Walnut Creek to your lists.