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Fisher's "The return: An Amish beginnings novel" (book review)

Kathleen F. Kempa
Southeastern University

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Book Reviews



Fisher, S.W. *The return: An Amish beginnings novel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 331pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9780800727505

Suzanne Woods Fisher is a very talented author. She has written many novels about the Amish. Her stories center around the Amish way of life. She reveals the simple but demanding faith that rules the lives of her characters. Her stories feel simple, but address the many complexities of life. Fisher's books would be an excellent addition to any library and particularly any Christian library. Her stories emphasize the strength and courage that comes from a strong faith in God.

In *The return*, Suzanne Fisher wrote a compelling historical novel about pioneers in Lancaster County in Pennsylvania toward the end of the 1700s. The main characters are Amish. She unrolls the story gently, despite narrating truly atrocious events. Fisher shares the Amish faith in God's love and mercy through the characters' unwavering adherence to their beliefs in the face of tragedy.

In the story, Betsy Zook was dragged away from her home along with one of her brothers during an Indian raid in which her parents were massacred. Betsy was approximately 16 at the time of her capture, her brother was a couple years younger. The Indians marched them for days away from their home. Betsy and her brother were traded away to other Indian tribes. Both did their best to adjust to their new lives because of the faith teachings they learned from their parents.

The story of how other Amish, who lived near the massacred family's farm, coped with the loss of their friends, how they addressed life with neighboring native Americans, provides the background to the rest of the story.

Fisher provides some very surprising twists to the story line. She introduces an excellent history of the pioneers. She shows the hardships and joys of the life that early American immigrants faced. She also enlightens her readers about the lives of native Americans in Pennsylvania during the late 1700s. *The return* is highly recommended as an excellent historical fiction and a very fun read.

Reviewer

Kathleen F. Kempa, Southeastern University