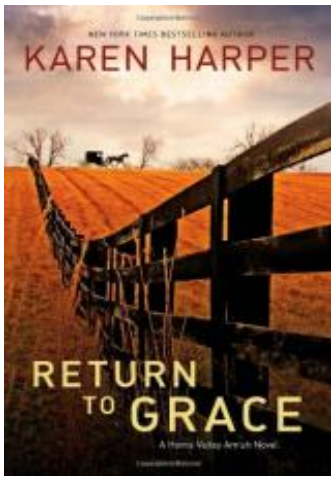
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Return to Grace: A Home Valley Amish Novel

by Karen Harper



About the Book

Hannah Esh fled the Home Valley Amish community with a broken heart, throwing herself into her worldly dreams of a singing career instead. But as much as she tries to run from her past, something keeps pulling her back. On a whim, she brings four worldly friends to the Amish graveyard near her family?s home for a midnight party on Halloween. But when shots are fired and one of her friends is killed, Hannah is pulled back into the world of her past.

The investigation into the shooting uncovers deep-buried secrets that shock the peaceful Amish village to its core. Determined to prove her value to the community she left behind, Hannah attempts to bridge two cultures, working closely with both handsome, arrogant FBI agent Linc Armstrong and her former betrothed, Seth Lantz, now widowed with a young daughter.

Caught between Seth and Linc, between old and new, Amish and worldly, Hannah must chose her future. Unless a killer, bent on secrecy, chooses it for her.

Discussion Guide

1. Hannah Esh becomes a rebel when she flees her Amish people for the world. Although joining the goths seems a reach for an Amish girl, are there any similarities between the Amish and the goths?

2. How far into the book did you realize who the culprit is? Were you swayed to think it was someone else along the way?

3. Although the obvious ?forbidden love? in this novel is between an Amish woman and an FBI agent, Hannah sees her feelings for Seth as forbidden too. Why does she fight so hard against giving in to her love for him, especially when he obviously still loves her?

4. Hannah?s relationship with her father is especially emotional since he?s the local church bishop, expected to set a good example. When Hannah discovers a secret he?s hidden, it makes things worse between them. How is their relationship resolved? Why are father/daughter relationships so volatile? Have you had difficult days from defying or ?breaking free? from your father?

5. Do you think Hannah made the right choice to choose the man she did, the career and life style she did? Why or why not?

6. Is Ray-Lynne wrong not to trust the sheriff? Ray-Lynn functions in this series as a friend and counterpoint to the Amish heroines. Is she easier to identify with than the main character?

7. When Hannah leaves the Home Valley, is she running to something or from something? Did Hannah need to leave her community to appreciate them? Would she have been as happy if she had never left?

8. Linc and Seth are very different and come from different worlds. What does Linc Armstrong see in Hannah, a woman so different from others he has known? How does Seth see Hannah? What is similar? What is different? Why?

9. Many people are drawn to learning more about the Amish. What do you find appealing about the way the Amish live? Do you think you could live an ?Amish? life?

10. Hannah and her friends Ella and Sarah all deal with being Amish in different ways. Why do you think they respond to their culture in the ways they do?

Author Bio

New York Times and *USA Today* bestselling author Karen Harper is a former Ohio State University instructor and high school English teacher. Published since 1982, she writes contemporary suspense and historical novels about real British women. Two of her recent Tudor-era books were bestsellers in the UK and Russia. Harper won the Mary Higgins Clark Award for DARK ANGEL, and her novel SHATTERED SECRETS was judged one of the best books of the year by *Suspense Magazine*.

Critical Praise

"Multidimensional characterization, fascinating details about Amish culture and a twisting, complex plot make for the kind of rich reading experience readers have come to expect from Harper."

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