

Book Review

Leaving Lancaster

By Kate Lloyd

© 2012, David C. Cook, \$14.99, 357 pages

Reviewed by Barbara Major Bryden

Esther Fisher regrets many of the events in her past and the lies she used to hide them. When her ill mother writes begging her to come home, Esther hesitates. To go home would force her to acknowledge the lies she has told for years and face the people she has hurt.

Holly Fisher, Esther's thirty-something daughter, has always wanted a family. Raised in California by her mother, a small picture of her dad is the only family photo they own. She yearns for a grandmother her mother has insisted was dead.

When Esther shares the news that her family is begging her to come home to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Holly is furious. How could her mother have denied her the family and heritage she has longed for her whole life? Suddenly the Amish buggy on the porch of her mother's Amish store begins to make sense.

Circumstances work together to allow the two women to fly to Lancaster. When they arrive, the difficult job of reconciling individual relationships and three generations of families begins. Holly feels an immediate kinship to the Amish community, but is unsure how to respond to the love and rules that guide their lives. Esther struggles to forgive and be forgiven. Both grapple with anger and deep emotional wounds.

However, it seems God planned good for both women. And two courting buggies travel the narrow roads.

I was fascinated with this well-written book. Lloyd deftly deals with the devastation lies and rebellion bring and the healing power of forgiveness. Readers will cheer for Esther and Holly as they negotiate the hills and valleys of their lives in Lancaster.

The author includes an epilogue and fifteen insightful questions for book club readers to consider.

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