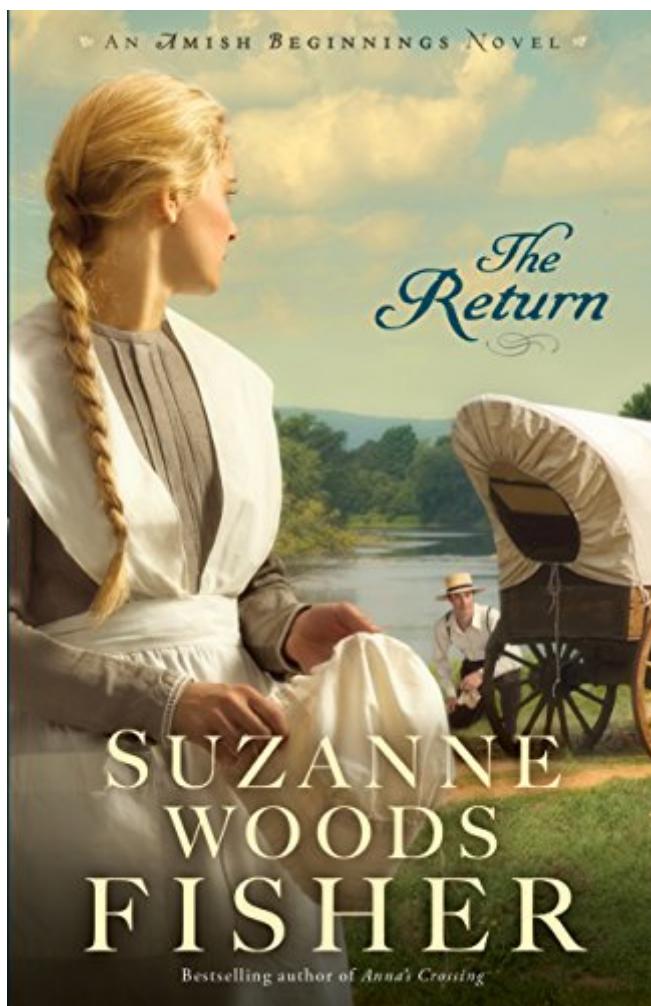


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# The Return (Amish Beginnings Book #3)



## **Synopsis**

Beautiful and winsome, Betsy Zook never questioned her family's rigid expectations, nor those of devoted Hans, but then she never had to. Not until the night when she's taken captive in a surprise Indian raid. During her captivity, Betsy faces brutality and hardship, but also unexpected kindness. She draws strength from native Caleb, who encourages her to find God in all circumstances. She finds herself torn between her pious upbringing and the intense new feelings this compelling man awakens within her. Handsome and complex, Hans is greatly anguished by Betsy's captivity and turns to Tessa Bauer for comfort. Eagerly, Tessa responds, overlooking troubling signs of Hans's hunger for revenge. When Betsy is finally restored to the Amish, have things gone too far between Hans and Tessa? Inspired by true events, this deeply layered novel gives a glimpse into the tumultuous days of prerevolutionary Pennsylvania through the eyes of two young, determined, and faith-filled women.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed this book! It is what I expect from Ms Fisher! It deals with Anna's and Bairn's family 25 years later! It tells about racism in pre-Revolutionary War! I suggest you sit down with it when you have time to read the whole 333 page novel at once! You won't want to set it down!

The hardships they endured is hard to imagine but also to understand the Indians plight was more clearly understandable.

These are the best books!

Excellent

Suzanne Woods Fisher has shown her versatility and expertise as an author as never before in her enthralling new saga, *The Return*. The readers' emotions are immediately swept away on a violent incursion by savage Indians against the first Amish settlers in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Beautifully kind-hearted, Betsy Zook, is brutally captured by Indians and her devout Amish faith is put to the ultimate test. My heart was broken for this lovely, courageous young woman just on the threshold of new love...so not deserving the cruel injustices inflicted upon her. Enter two handsome, brave heroes—Indian native, Caleb, brave, strong, and tender-hearted...and passionate, loving Hans, the man Betsy unwillingly left behind. In my initial estimation both are worthy of her love, but which man will capture her heart? In my opinion this is Suzanne Woods Fisher's best novel to date and I have been a fan of hers forever! Impeccably researched and inspired by true historical events, this novel may be enjoyed by both men and women alike. Not your cushy, cookie-cutter Amish fiction novel, Ms. Fisher tells it like it was and the picture she paints isn't always pretty. Certain secondary characters add humor and warmth to the story, and I was so intrigued by the huge, wild black stallion! Although *The Return* reads well as a stand-alone, I hope readers will be sure to order *Anna's Crossing* and *The Newcomer* (Books 1 and 2) to get better acquainted with these unique individuals!

Betsy Zook is a beautiful, young Amish woman engaged to be married to her beloved Hans. Tessa, one year Betsy's junior is infatuated with Hans and can't help but wish Betsy would disappear. Then Betsy does. The Zook family farm is attacked by Native Americans; the parents are brutally murdered and the two older children, Betsy and her younger brother, are carried off into the wild to

be sold or traded. The remaining Zook boy, who hid in the trees, comes to live with Tessa's family while plans are made to find his siblings. Tessa is horrified. She never wished something so horrible on Betsy. And yet, this could be her chance to win over the distraught Hans, assuming Betsy never returns. The Return is a complicated historical fiction set in an Amish community a decade before the Revolutionary War. By complicated, I mean, there are multiple points of view and subplots stacking on top of each other. Betsy, Hans, Tessa, Tessa's mother Anna, and Tessa's uncle all take up primary focal points of the story. Their goals and actions bleed into one another. Two plot points take focus: romance and Native Americans. First, the romance. There is the love triangle between Betsy, Hans, and Tessa that takes primary focus. But there is another young man who loves Betsy and yet another who loves Tessa. I guess it's a love pentagon with Hans right in the middle? Talk about complicated and jealousy. Still, it was done well. Also, there is another romance going on in the sidelines. It is between Tessa's widower uncle and a widowed woman who is hired to tutor his wild twin boys. They have their own issues to overcome, and it was lovely watching them come together ... with a lot of kicking and screaming at the beginning. Second is the complex relationship between the Native American peoples and the European settlers. Most of the main characters in this book are German Amish settlers. They are pacifists and most would not wish any harm upon their Native American neighbors. Some of the other settlers have different views, however. As for the Native Americans, it is almost as equally divided. There are the peoples who wish only to live their lives in peace and contentedness, and there are others who plunder and destroy the settlers. Both sides are represented. Betsy sees it first-hand, between the bloody massacre of her kidnapping and her subsequent adoption into a Native American family. The first are cruel and murderous, the second, kind and peaceful. Her fiance, Hans can't see them the way she does, though. He determines that they are all evil, and he will do nearly anything to put a stop to their murderous ways. In the end, there are massacres of the settlers by the Native Americans, massacres of the Native Americans by the settlers, and peaceful people on both sides wanting to coexist. Complicated, but true to life. I appreciated how well it was addressed. I really enjoyed this novel. The plot was all over the place, but it was fascinating and intriguing on many levels. I highly recommend it. I did receive a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher, but it in now way influenced by review, positively or negatively.

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