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The Believer



Synopsis

Will a forbidden love destroy all they know? Elizabeth Duncan has nowhere to turn. In charge of her younger brother and sister after their parents die, her options are limited: she can give in to the unwanted advances of an odious landowner; or she can flee. When Elizabeth hears that the Shaker community in the next county takes in orphans, she presents herself and her siblings at Harmony Hill. Despite the hard work and strange new beliefs around her, Elizabeth is relieved to have a roof overhead and food to eat. But life gets complicated when she finds herself attracted to a handsome young Believer named Ethan. Ethan has never looked on the opposite sex as anything but sisters, but he can't shake the new feelings that Elizabeth has awakened in him. Will Elizabeth be forced to leave the village to keep Ethan from stumbling? Or could Ethan's love for her change their lives forever?

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Customer Reviews

A Shaker romance sounds like a nonstarter idea for a novel, since the Shakers, a socially revolutionary religious sect, practiced celibacy. But therein lies the tension in this historical romance, Gabhart's second Shaker outing (after *The Outsider*). Raised by Shakers since the age of six, when he ran away from his river rat father, Ethan Boyd is a Believer—someone who has signed a covenant to join the Shakers. But he's thrown into emotional turmoil when Elizabeth Duncan and her two younger siblings, following the sudden death of their father, seek refuge in 1833 at Harmony Hill, the Shaker community in Kentucky where Ethan lives. Elizabeth is also escaping from a predatory landlord with designs on her. A number of supporting characters are well drawn, including

Elizabeth's siblings Payton and Hannah and the kind Shaker, Issachar, Ethan's benefactor. Other characters are more like caricatures. Elizabeth's landlord is an Oilcan Harry, mustache-twirling kind of villain. On balance, the book rings with researched authenticity and will appeal to Amish romance fans. (Aug.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Will a forbidden love destroy all they know? Elizabeth Duncan has nowhere to turn. In charge of her younger brother and sister after their parents die, her options are limited: she can give in to the unwanted advances of an odious landowner--or she can flee. When Elizabeth hears that the Shaker community in the next county takes in orphans, she presents herself and her siblings at Harmony Hill. Despite the hard work and strange new beliefs around her, Elizabeth is relieved to have a roof overhead and food to eat. But life gets complicated when she finds herself attracted to a handsome young Believer named Ethan. Ethan has never looked on the opposite sex as anything but sisters, but he can't shake the new feelings that Elizabeth has awakened in him. Will Elizabeth be forced to leave the village to keep Ethan from stumbling? Or could Ethan's love for her change their lives forever? Living just thirty miles from a restored Shaker village in Kentucky, Ann H. Gabhart has walked the same paths that her characters might have walked in generations past. Gabhart is the author of several books, including the bestselling *The Outsider*. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I was so incredibly disappointed in this book. It is a complete lesson on the shaker cult movement and was very boring. Another reviewer - to my shock and amazement- said they would gladly recommend it to someone interested in Christian fiction. This book is NOT in any way, shape or form considered Christian. The founder of the shaker cult considered herself to be sent from God as a savior. That in itself blasphemes God's word, labels it as occult as it "preaches another gospel " that is contrary to the true Gospel. I would not recommend the book to anyone. The story line is almost non-existent and it is more a very detailed account on the shaker following .Additionally, i have to take Publishers Weekly review to task here. -as they stated that readers of Amish Fiction would enjoy the book. Shakers are not Amish! There is no similarity other than the manner of dress.

I have to admit I found what I learned about the Shaker religion interesting ... wierd but interesting ... no wonder it died out! I have to admit this was not my favorite christian reading by far ... normally I

really enjoy my books but I can't say I did ... I enjoyed the knowledge more than anything ... but I would not recommend this book ... it held my interest more from a learning perspective but I don't think I will be reading anymore of her books or about this religion ... I normally follow my authors ... and was disappointed ... I am sure others feel the complete opposite however and am glad ... I feel guilty but it just was not something I truly enjoyed. I felt sad that the family was broken apart .. I felt bad that so many died ... I just was not happy throughout the book and I read my books yes for knowledge but also for enjoyment and happiness which I did not feel I got in this book. Other's however I am sure read for other reason ... and are going to feel otherwise fortunately! Sorry!

The Shakers Movement isn't just fiction, but a true lifestyle for a few. There aren't many left. They keep themselves shut off from the world, live in a community with assigned chores, male & female in separate housing & say that marrying is a sin. The only way their numbers grow is by converts. Ethan was taken as a young child by his dangerous biological father. He was able to escape by jumping off a raft. Brother Issachar found him & took him to his Shakers' Compound. That's where Ethan grew up, learning & adhering to their beliefs. When Elizabeth's father died & she buried him their evil neighbor came for her to marry. She ran with her brother & sister to the Shakers for safety. This is a story of not having to be in the Shakers to be a believer, but just needing to be a believer in the Lord. It's about thinking for yourself with God's guidance & not letting a cult leader tell you how to think or live. I'm thankful to be a member of a church that preaches the Word & loves its members.

Elizabeth Duncan has run out of options. With her last living parent gone, two siblings to care for, and no where to live, she turns to the last hope that remains. Remembering the Shaker village in the next county that her father told them stories about, she packs up her brother and sister and presents herself and siblings at Harmony Hill. Despite the strange beliefs that swirl around them, she is relieved that the Shakers provide a roof over their heads in exchange for the labor of their hands. Even though they are provided for, Elizabeth finds herself attracted to a young Believer named Ethan. He is beginning to see her as more than a sister, and Elizabeth fears she will be asked to leave the village in order to keep him from sin. Will she be able to leave her siblings behind forever? Or will Ethan bring himself to acknowledge the love growing in his heart? This was quite the tender love story, despite the oxymoron of a Shaker romance. Ethan was quite naive to anything and everything in the world, but curious, just like every normal child who knows nothing of the outside. Having grown up in the Shaker village keeps him from experiencing life as he should have, and he

is very childlike even as a young adult. A good story line and an entertaining plot. I enjoyed everything about this book, and I really fell in love with all of the well written characters. I give it six stars.

Very interesting story. Great author.

Years ago as a young girl I read this book and have never forgotten how much I enjoyed it. Just read it again and enjoyed it 45 years later as much as I did then. A very easy and decent read.

This book is a definite page-turner. The sincerity of the characters, and the obvious historic research kept me reading and longing for more I know little about the Shakers, and thus found this novel quite interesting. Though I had figured out what the eventual outcome would be, there were many twists and unexpected happenings.

It was interesting to learn some of the Shaker ways in this book. Don't agree with all of them, but then where would this world be if everyone agreed with everything. It was a good book and I do recommend it. One can feel for the main characters and understand some of their troubles. Good Ending. Won't spoil it for you.

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