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Pam Rhodes

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The country church of St. Stephen's, Dunbridge, under the leadership of the formidable Rev. Margaret Prowse, is getting a new curate. The whole congregation is abuzz as the shy but earnest Neil Fisher arrives to take up his very first post.

Though intimidated by Margaret, he is determined to overcome his shyness and immediately sets out to meet the congregation. As often occurs when a man of the cloth is single, his mission becomes somewhat sidetracked when his attention is first drawn to Ros, the spiky single mum who looks after the vicarage garden, and then commandeered by Wendy, leader of the church music group, who is determined to bag herself a vicar for a husband. And if that isn't enough, he also has to contend with his opinionated mother, who strongly disapproves of her son's vocation.

Featuring a charming mix of colorful characters, *Fisher of Men* transports readers to the quaint village of Dunbridge where the quiet miracle of life is revealed.

Fisher of Men Details

Date : Published March 22nd 2013 by Lion Hudson (first published October 1st 2012)

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Author : Pam Rhodes

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Genre : Christian Fiction, Christian, Fiction

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From Reader Review Fisher of Men for online ebook

Ann says

A charming gentle read about a curate in the Church of England in a small village dealing with church matters and his mother and two romances.

Judio says

This ended abruptly. I turned the page and then turned back, thinking that I'd lost a line, or even a paragraph. Then I turned back again, thinking that a page had been torn out.

But no - the author decided to do a cliffhanger a la a TV serial and just - stopped.

Like she decided - 'hey, why write more when I could put it all into another book and bring the readers back?'

I am not pleased. So this gets just two stars. It would have got three, but a stunt like that deserves just 2. It wasn't even a 'cliffhanger' point. D'oh.

Mayda says

This engaging tale will charm and delight you. New curate Neil Fisher is sure of his calling but uncomfortable speaking in front of people. Meeting all the people of his new parish is a challenge, but he soon comes to know and love them. Perhaps a little too well. While one member of his flock sets her cap for him, Neil finds himself drawn to another member of the community. Author Pam Rhodes does a wonderful job in creating believable and likable characters and placing them in a marvelous village setting. With humor as well as pathos, she weaves together the lives of these people as they cope with serious problems along with the joys of life. This novel will appeal to nearly everyone, but especially to those who are privy to the inner workings of a church. This story will leave you eager for the next installment in the series.

Kathryn says

A wonderful story of a new curate coming to a new church. Neil Fisher wants to belong to the church and community. He fits in just fine. I loved every minute of this book.

Jo Hurst says

This was a nice gentle read, but I can't help feeling it was too gentle and at points lacked depth. Neil has arrived at St Stephens ready to learn how to be a curate and soon is involved in parish life. The faith side of

the book was well developed and the scene by an elderly mans bedside had me in tears. Although his ordination to deacon was washed over and it wasn't that clear where he was initially in the process. However the romance storyline was left wanting. Neil has two central women, one way too pushy and the other clearly perfect for him. He somehow ends up dating one of them, but this is so old fashioned in nature it's not clear to the reader what is going on. No wonder poor Neil is confused. The problem with not writing much physical romance is that it just doesn't feel real to read. We can't simply pretend it's not there and expect the reader to fill in the blanks without hints. The 'romance' with the girlfriend feels like a friendship where the woman is manipulating things to her advantage. The end of the book was a little disappointing as it doesn't finish but just stops. I love a good series but I do like each book to work as a stand-alone as well. Still I liked this enough to look out for the next ones as I do want to make sure Neil gets the right girl!

Shannon says

This is a delightful story of St. Stephens' Parish in the town of Dunbridge, population 6 000. Neil Fisher, afraid of public speaking, is on his way for an interview with Reverend Margaret Prowse to see if he might be the man for the job as curate, and for him to see what he thinks.

The fun begins as we are introduced to Margaret and her interesting ways, along with her dear hubby Frank and their less than friendly cat, Archie. Something comes up, as it often does when one is a minister and Margaret is off. Neil goes to check out the church which like the congregation he will soon meet, comes with its own quirks. You will have to read the book to find out the unbelievable events that follow, and the reaction by Margaret and Frank.

A slew of fun, interesting and quirky characters make this a comical, yet so real read. You will laugh, you will cry, you may even shake your head in disbelief, but as the sister of a pastor/minister, trust me, life in a small town holds much more fun and entertaining situations than one might believe.

But that is just the beginning. There is also the overbearing mom, and women of romantic interest, so there is a little something for everyone.

I would definitely recommend this book. If you have not previously been a fan of books from the UK, or 'English' books, I would encourage you to press on through a couple of chapters and you will be hooked. It would have been nice to have had some of the terms explained at the back of the book, but not essential to the story. This is the first of three in The Dunbridge Chronicles, and I can't wait to read the second, which is already published and the third which is due out soon.

I was given this book by bookfun.org in exchange for an honest review.

Nancee says

Neil Fisher is the new curate for St. Stephen's Church in Dunbridge, England. A 25-year-old bachelor, Neil is faced with all of the challenges and lessons of a new curate. Please see the book description for an in-depth synopsis of the book.

Fisher of Men is a charming story of coming of age for Neil as he transitions from student to curate, and

proceeds in discovering life with its joys and disappointments. The characters throughout the book are delightful and varied, eccentric and annoying. Poignant and amusing, the story portrays humanness, wit, sensitivity and compassion. The cast of characters is eclectic. The setting is quite stunning, with descriptive elements that enhance the plot. Relationships play a very significant role in the lives of the parishioners of St. Stephen's Church. I enjoyed this easy read, but was disappointed at the abrupt ending to the book. This is not a stand alone novel, but the first in a series of books that need to be read as such. I enjoyed Neil's journey from curate to his threshold to the priesthood.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book from The Book Club Network's Book Fun For Readers Only group in exchange for my honest review. All opinions expressed are my own, and no monetary compensation was received for this review.

Michelle says

Fisher of Men, The Dunbridge Chronicles by Pam Rhodes

A great fast paced read. I was able to read it completely in one afternoon. The characters are realistic with everyday problems like you and me. This book was funny but serious at times. I was upset with the ending, I felt like I was left hanging. It is a sweet Christian romance. The author Pam Rhodes did a fantastic job of creating unique larger than life characters. I thought the mom Iris, was a hoot and just needs a swift kick in the pants. Neil Fisher the new minister in town had a lot to learn and learned a lot. Music Minister Wendy was a little manipulative. Claire atheist neighbor did not know she was searching for Christ. A great line up of strong personalities that come together to make a great story.

I would recommend this 4 star book to anyone searching for a light read. I want to give a high-five to the author Pam Rhodes and publisher Lion Fiction for bringing compelling Christian books that are entertaining and give hope to the reader with stories of faith. The Book Club Network Inc. provided me with this book in exchange for my honest review and I am so grateful for their, the authors and publishers generosity.

Lisa Johnson says

Title: Fisher of Men (The Dunbridge Chronicles)

Author: Pam Rhodes

Pages: 251

Year: 2013

Publisher: Lion Fiction

Neil Fisher is in trouble with his mother...again. Neil is a 25-year-old, single man, who has no siblings and an overbearing, domineering mother. She is always complaining to him or about him about himself! She has no fear of saying hurtful things about him or anyone else. Now he has gone and done it. He has refused to follow in his father's footsteps and become an accountant. Instead, he has continued his studies at theology seminary and is now been inducted as a curate. He is leaving for a one year apprenticeship in the small community of Dunbridge. Not only is this type of job below him, according to his mother, he will be in the middle of nowhere with no chance of advancement. Neil sticks to his guns and arrives in Dunbridge. He begins his learning of priestly functions from the current vicar, Margaret Prowse. She introduces him to the church family and community. As time passes, Neil becomes more comfortable with his duties and himself. He emerges from his shyness and awkwardness to reveal a wonderful man of God. He is a fantastic listener and knows how to ask the right questions when someone is searching for answers. He builds a relationship with members young and old in the community. I just loved his interaction with Sam, a preschooler whose mother is an atheist. Can Neil convince her that there really is a God? He enjoys their

lively discussions, but they are just friends...right? Wendy appears to be the perfect wife material for a vicar, and she certainly has her sights set on him. However, Neil is unsure he is ready for marriage, and he still thinks about that kiss with Claire under the mistletoe.

I liked that Neil shows the love of Christ in his actions as well as his words. He lets people know it is okay not to be perfect and still be a Christian; God doesn't expect perfection. He has such a heart to serve God. There are laugh-out-loud moments in the book as well as tender and poignant scenes that will tug at your heartstrings. The author has created people in her story that the reader can identify with in his/her own life to make the story come alive. I highly recommend this contemporary story of everyday life with all the ups and downs. The characters are down-to-earth and show real feelings, reactions and emotions. I can't wait for the next book titled, Casting the Net.

My rating is 5 stars.

Note: I received a complimentary copy for an honest review of this book. The opinions shared in this review are solely my responsibility. Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyurheart.blogspot...> . Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

Craig Bennett says

Excellent reading. By turns amusing, tear jerking, poignant and a window to a view of faith. I thoroughly enjoyed and can't wait to read the others!

Denita says

This is the first in the Dunbridge Chronicles. I thought it was a charming story. I was hoping it wouldn't be too cheesy as some Christian novels can be and it wasn't too bad in that department. I'm looking forward to reading the second book in the series.

Michele Bond says

Very much in the style of the Mitford series. There are no big surprises, no bad incidents, just a gentle read for those who love the Episcopal Church.

Stephanie says

Fannie Flagg is my favourite author; this is the only book by Pam Rhodes I've read, but she seems like the English answer to Fannie Flagg.

This is a great book for anyone who enjoys the Irish Country Doctor series by Patrick Taylor. Can't wait to start the next one, Casting the Net.

Becky Lewis says

Single Minister's Misadventures in Dunbridge...

Hmmm... Slight problem as I got on to post my review. I saw that the second book in the series, Casting the Net, Book II of the Dunbridge Chronicles, is already out. I had to download that immediately, as Fisher of Men left me hanging, and now I'd rather be reading!! Guess I am hooked, and I didn't expect to be, since as an American I can find English tales a little hard to follow.

However, Pam Rhodes does a supremely good job of showing us that human nature is the same, no matter on which side of the pond you may be. Enter young, single new curate, Neil Fisher, to the village, and the female persuasion sits up and takes notice. Some of them shouldn't be noticing, which makes Neil uncomfortable. How to handle the "Glendas"? Some notice and plan the romance for him, in cahoots with his overbearing mother, who doesn't think Neil should be in this profession anyway. And some ladies just are themselves, neighbors, and friendly, but just very welcoming and comfortable.

Of course, Neil deals with more than just possible romantic liaisons. He learns to handle weddings, funerals, visits in which he gives the sacraments, becomes friends to the elderly, learns his parishioners' problems and strives to help them. (One funeral is quite memorable!!) Rhodes shows a lovable, if somewhat insecure, bumbling young man who grows into his curate position and into the hearts of the people of St. John's. By the end of the book, I felt a definite affinity for this young man and grieved when tragedy struck and was also dismayed when Rhodes finished the book without resolving *affaires de coeur*. So.. the need for book two, and hopefully we'll see some of the same secondary characters again, like Debs, Margaret, Graham, etc. Anyone who has had to go out into the world and start a job on their own and also has an interest in the Almighty would enjoy this book.

One take away quote in favor of belief in a God one cannot see:" Imagine you are driving a car on a dark night. You have your headlights on, so you can see everything you need to know in the arc of the light ahead of you... But if you can only believe what you see and prove, what about everything that lies in the darkness alongside and behind the car?...Doesn't your instinct tell you there's all sorts of life going on in the darkness, whether you can see it or prove it? That's how faith is for me. I instinctively know God is there...beyond my vision, but alongside me, carrying me, caring for me..."

I received this book from bookfun.org in exchange for an honest review.

Jalynn Patterson says

About the Book:

The country church of St. Stephen's, Dunbridge, under the leadership of the formidable Rev. Margaret Prowse, is getting a new curate. The whole congregation is abuzz as the shy but earnest Neil Fisher arrives to take up his very first post.

Though intimidated by Margaret, he is determined to overcome his shyness and immediately sets out to meet the congregation. As often occurs when a man of the cloth is single, his mission becomes somewhat sidetracked when his attention is first drawn to Ros, the spiky single mum who looks after the vicarage garden, and then commandeered by Wendy, leader of the church music group, who is determined to bag herself a vicar for a husband. And if that isn't enough, he also has to contend with his opinionated mother, who strongly disapproves of her son's vocation.

Featuring a charming mix of colorful characters, Fisher of Men transports readers to the quaint village of Dunbridge where the quiet miracle of life is revealed.

About the Author:

Pam Rhodes for many years has presented the world's numberone religious television program, Songs of Praise on BBC. She writes for the UK national newspaper, the Daily Mail, and is also a successful novelist—author of The Dunbridge Chronicles, With Hearts and Hymns and Voices, and four other novels, as well as a number of additional books.

My Review:

The possibility of speaking in front of others is especially daunting but what if you are someone that actually has a job or calling that will require you to speak in front of people? You wouldn't think that people that are chosen to pastor a church would have that problem but I know some that are accepting this calling that are in fact shaking in their boots. So it is with Neil Fisher, but he soon realizes that he has to overcome his shyness and by doing so will in fact become a part of the lives of the congregation that he is so fearful of.

Each character has such a huge part in the telling of Mr. Fisher's role in the curate apprenticeship program. Each character is a larger than life character and they all blend together perfectly well! This book is part of The Dunbridge Chronicles series and will lead you to read the rest in the series because it leaves a lot of loose ends leaving you wondering what will happen to each character. The main character reminds me a lot of my husband and his current role that will be changing soon, because he will begin his "apprenticeship" program for ministry. He also has a fear of public speaking but God definitely knew what He was doing by calling him because his heart is huge for others. Neil Fisher begins to take this new role on as he travels a path that is somewhat precarious but must be done nonetheless.

If you would like to learn more about this book you can check it out at [this link](#).

****Disclosure**** This book was sent to me free of charge for my honest review from Book Fun.
