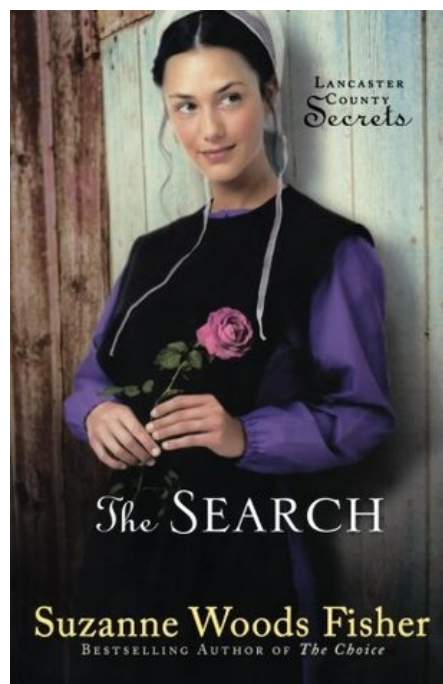




The Search

Suzanne Woods Fisher

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Fifteen years ago, Lainey O'Toole made a split-second decision. She couldn't have known that her choice would impact so many. Now in her mid-twenties, she is poised to go to culinary school when her car breaks down in Stoney Ridge, the very Amish town in which her long-reaching decision was made, forcing her to face the shadowed past.

Bess Reihl is less than thrilled to be spending the summer at Rose Hill Farm with her large and intimidating grandmother, Bertha. It quickly becomes clear that she is there to work the farm--and work hard. The labor is made slightly more tolerable by the time it affords Bess to spend with the handsome hired hand, Billy Lapp. But he only has eyes for a flirty and curvaceous older girl.

Lainey's and Bess's worlds are about to collide and the secrets that come to light will shock them both.

Beautifully written, *The Search* is a skillfully woven story that takes readers through unexpected twists and turns on the long country road toward truth. Fans both old and new will find themselves immersed in this heartwarming--and surprising--tale of young love, forgiveness, and coming to grips with the past.

The Search Details

Date : Published January 1st 2011 by Fleming H. Revell Company (first published December 3rd 2010)

ISBN : 9780800733872

Author : Suzanne Woods Fisher

Format : Paperback 298 pages

Genre : Amish, Christian Fiction, Amish Fiction, Romance, Fiction, Christian

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From Reader Review The Search for online ebook

Laura says

The Search by author Suzanne Woods Fisher is the third book in the Lancaster County Secrets series. While I never read the first two books in the series - The Choice and The Waiting, I did not feel confused at all. As so often happens with series books, we never get enough of the details that went before it and can sometimes feel as if we've walked into the middle of a movie, with no idea what is going on. Not so with The Search. This book could be read as a stand alone, so if you didn't read the other books don't worry.

In The Search, I was introduced to Lainey O'Toole. Lainey made a decision years ago that she has kept secret for many years. Unfortunately, her car breaks down in Stoney Ridge - the very town in which her decision was made and now it is coming back to haunt her.

Bess Reihl is spending the summer with her Grandmother at Rose Hill Farm in Stoney Ridge. Her grandmother, Bertha Reihl, got her there under false pretences and now Bess wonders how she will survive the summer. Until she meets Billy Lapp. However, Bertha has a few tricks up her sleeve that Bess isn't prepared for and soon her world and Lainey's collide in an unforgettable way that will change their lives forever.

I loved, loved, loved this book! I thought I was tired of all things Amish and then I read a book that makes me wish I could continue reading on after I'm done. This is a guaranteed good read! I give it 5 out of 5 stars!

Mary O'Brien says

****This is the third book in this series. If you haven't read the first two, you may not want to continue reading****

According to Goodreads:

Fifteen years ago, Lainey O'Toole made a split-second decision. She couldn't have known that her choice would impact so many. Now in her mid-twenties, she is poised to go to culinary school when her car breaks down in Stoney Ridge, the very Amish town in which her long-reaching decision was made, forcing her to face the shadowed past.

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Beautifully written, The Search is a skillfully woven story that takes readers through unexpected twists and turns on the long country road toward truth. Fans both old and new will find themselves immersed in this heartwarming--and surprising--tale of young love, forgiveness, and coming to grips with the past.

This book was my favorite in the series! Not only did I cry my eyes out, I also laughed so hard I cried!! I loved everything about this book! I loved how Bertha had a wild side to her! I loved how Bess grew fond of her grandmother in such a short time! I loved how it took a silly incident to bring her son Jonah home for a visit! The mischief that Bertha was up to was hilarious! I loved the bond that Bess had with her father, Jonah and how Bess grew to care for Lainey. I loved how Lainey realized that she didn't need all the "extra's" in life. All she needed was her faith in God and the people she loved. I personally have always wondered what it would be like to live as the Amish do. We tend to take so much for granted and forget that it's the simple things in life that matter most!

The book did leave you wondering if there may be another one to follow somewhere down the line. This book also touches on second chances. I am sure we all have asked for a second chance before! A truly great read!

I rate this book 5/5!

Renee says

One thing I can say about Suzanne Woods Fisher is that she is keeping the Amish fiction genre fresh. Confronting issues such as war, alcohol abuse and even "fun" topics like growing roses makes Suzanne's books stand out. If you're looking for a tender, gut-wrenching all around awesome story pick up one (or all) of her books. Usually one to shy away from too much Amish fiction I can safely say that I will definitely be reading more of it in the future if they are stories like this one.

The Search follows Englischers, Lainey O'Toole who inadvertently winds up in Stoney Ridge, the small town she left years ago and Amish teen, Bess Reihl who is visiting her ailing grandmother for the summer. What ensues involves grief, loss, and the affects of long kept secrets. While not as dramatic in terms of dealing with war and conflict as The Waiting or The Choice, The Search had its own unique storyline and characters. For most of the story the matriarch of the Reihl family, Bertha and her rose garden brought so many people together and came to represent the strength and tender care that must be had and given when dealing with humans AND roses alike. I think this entire series is a keeper and a must read for fans of the genre. I would also ask you to give this a chance even if you're not a fan of Amish fiction, as it just may change your mind!

I received my complimentary copy from the publisher in exchange for posting my honest review.

Jocelyn Green says

Here's what I love:

■ This book has great characters in it. The portly grandmother is so full of personality she is one of them most memorable I've read in a long time—certainly not would you would expect to find in an old Amish widow.

■ The primary setting is a rose farm! I've never been to one, so I found the description of daily operations fascinating.

■ English and Amish characters meet in this book, and one side decides to convert to the other side. I won't tell you which one, but the development of her decision is very tender.

■ This is a story of redemption. The end of the book is extremely satisfying for those of us who love happy endings.

■ One of the main characters, Bess, matures from a love-sick teenager into a young woman with better judgment. I love the self-respect she ends up showing at the end.

■ The novel seems to me to be on the short side. At first, I was disappointed by this, but it's actually good for busy people who love to read but can't enjoy a super long novel because by the time they get through it, they forget what happened in the first half.

I highly recommend this book.

Laura says

The Search, by Suzanne Woods Fisher, is my first introduction to Suzanne's writings about the Amish. I found her style refreshing, real, transparent, and unique.

Refreshing in the way she describes the scenes in such intricate detail, the raw emotions that spill out unexpectedly, and the guarded pain held deeply, pulling you into every experience. Real in the way she portrays the many circumstances that could easily happen today, in just a slightly different fashion. Transparent because you could 'read' Mammi's facial expressions and body language, feel Bess's attraction to Billy, and empathize with Jonah's pain and tragedy. Unique in how she draws out the strength of her characters in their own personal way, making them special and lovable. At least most of them!

You learn how one widow makes a new life for herself that pulls in her love of roses and the ingenuity of a young man trying to establish himself in the eyes of his father.

The underlying secret Suzanne has running through the book has you on edge, wondering if or when it will be told, and how it will affect each character if it is exposed. She weaves in the aspects of forgiveness and healing, which are essential in everyone's life. I am sure you will find this a heartwarming story that resonates throughout your own life.

This book was provided by Donna of Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group, in exchange for my honest review.

Joan Bolen says

Loved the whole series. Fantastic writer who holds your attention. Keeps the reader wanting more.

Janice says

This is the 3rd book in the series

This one does mention people from the 2nd book but i would say that while there is 3 books in the series each are a book on their own so if you read one of the book you can but the series is worth reading

This is a good book the ending once again felt it left some questions which is the same with all 3 books

You really warm to Lainey & Bess as well as others in the book Simon he one you can understand a bit even if you don't like him too much I would say this is one well worth reading

Laura says

Title: THE SEARCH

Author: Suzanne Woods Fisher

Publisher: Revell

January 2011

ISBN: 978-0-8007-3387-2

Genre: Inspirational/Amish

Lainey O'Toole had to make a split second decision with far-reaching effects. Now, fifteen years later, she's on the way to New York to go to culinary school, but her car breaks down in the same town where it all began. Going into a bakery to make a phone call, Lainey instead ends up with a job.

Bertha Reihl wants her granddaughter and her son to come visit, and the only way she can think of to get Bess to Pennsylvania is to claim women's surgery. Bess is less than thrilled with the idea of spending the summer picking roses, but it beats having to go to summer school to retake algebra. Especially since her grandmother keeps coming up with these odd schemes.

Lainey and Bess's worlds are about to collide – and the secrets that are exposed will shock them both.

THE SEARCH is the third book in Ms. Fisher's Lancaster County Secrets series, but it easily stands alone. I enjoyed getting to know Bess and Lainey as well as some of the other characters, like Bertha's hired hand, Billy, Bess's father, Jonah, and Bertha. I especially loved Bertha and her wacky sense of humor and mischievous streak.

If you are looking for a great Amish story, then THE SEARCH is a book you'll want to consider. Discussion questions are included at the end of the book. I highly recommend THE SEARCH as well as Ms. Fisher's previous books (both fiction and nonfiction). \$14.99. 300 pages.

Lauri says

Lainey O'Toole makes a decision as a young girl that will forever change many lives. Her secret is known to only one person and that one person is Bertha (Mammi) Riehl...a force to be reckoned with! When Bess is summoned to her grandmother's home (mammi) she's not sure what to think, somewhat fearing this grandmother she doesn't know well, Bess spends her summer in Stoney Ridge learning Mammi's rose business and falls in love with mammi in the process. Love for Bess is not only for her grandmother but for Billy Lapp as well!

Soon, circumstances bring Bess's father to Stoney Ridge as well and he is mortified to learn of his mother's shenanigans! This woman is one of the more unlikely Amish women you'll meet, she just does her own thing and is really quite funny, once you get past her stern exterior.

Of course, when a secret is involved it ends up being revealed, but it's how the revelation happens that makes the story and this story is one that will break your heart yet make you feel a great love. Lainey is one person who really seems to grasp the full meaning of loving God as well as others and this book will make you

smile as the characters work their way into your heart.

As you can tell, I loved this book and I highly recommend it, I have read a lot of Amish books, and I love them all, but this book has a different twist to it that is rather refreshing!

I received a complimentary copy of this book for review

Rosemarie says

Interestingly, I thought book 2 was a Vietnam period piece because I didn't catch any historical references in book 1. However, in book 3, which referenced characters in book 1, the year 1971 was mentioned, so this entire series takes place during the Vietnam war.

This story is about a teenage Amish girl who travels from Ohio to visit her grandmother in Stony Ridge (Lancaster, PA) and an Englisch girl whose car breaks down in Stony Ridge. Both of their lives are tied together in a tragedy that happened years before, and a secret truth that brings healing to more than just the two young women.

I enjoyed this story and was saddened by it being the end of the series. I will be looking to read more books by this author.

Andi says

Suzanne has a way of pulling you into a story that you actually feel like you are the characters living in their world. This is a beautiful story of love, forgiveness, and healing. While it is #3 in a series it can easily stand alone. I highly recommend it! Go out and grab your copy and cuddle up by the fire for a great night or weekend of reading!

Giovanni Gelati says

* My Wife stepped in and read this novel and did the post.

I have to admit, I am a big fan of good stories written with an Amish backdrop. I don't know if this comes from having lived my entire life about 90 minutes away from Lancaster, PA and enjoying frequent trips there or my envy of a lifestyle that most of us will never get to experience. I am drawn in by the faith, dedication to family and community, natural beauty, and simplicity of the Amish people.

The words on the back cover of *The Search* describe this story better than I ever could, "Beautifully written, *The Search* is a skillfully woven story that takes you through unexpected twists and turns on the long country road toward truth. Immerse yourself in this heartwarming – and surprising – tale of young love, forgiveness, and healing."

The Search is the third book in Suzanne Woods Fisher's series *Lancaster County Secrets*. I have not read the first two, but with the author's great descriptions and attention to detail, I felt as if I was right in the middle of the story. It was as if I knew the characters and their personalities. The feelings of love, forgiveness and especially healing were beautifully portrayed. Throughout are snippets from sermons that really hit home. They pertain to specific situations but could be applied to our lives as well. Here's an example, "But a few years ago, I went to a church service and the pastor happened to be preaching on the difference between

divine forgiveness and human forgiveness. I knew I couldn't forgive others without God's help. He said that we fail in the work of grace and love when there is too much of us and not enough of God." That one made me stop and think.

All in all, *The Secret* is a really nice blend of a good storyline, likable characters, very detailed descriptions of scenery and personalities, along with many fine examples of how living a life of love and truth will lead to happiness

"Available January 2011 at your favorite bookseller from Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group."

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Kav says

Another amazing retro read from one of my favourite authors. I just love how Suzanne Woods Fisher brings an Amish community to life! And *Stoney Ridge* is the kind of town I want to live in.

I laughed until my tummy hurt over Bertha's antics. Bess's grandmother is a law unto herself and she has a lovable way of mashing words that kept me chuckling throughout the read. But she's crusty and opinionated and downright intimidating at times as well. Kind of reminded me of Marilla Cuthbert (*Anne of Green Gables*.) But this isn't Bertha's story -- though she plays a pivotal role -- it's Bess and Lainey's tale.

I was gobsmacked in places. Literally stunned. And my emotions dipped and soared as the story unfolded. True confession -- I shed more than a tear or two. And spiritually moved by such faith-filled concepts as: "Are we going to be part of condemning a man? Or are we going to be a part of releasing him from condemnation?" (p. 191) A rich read that is sure to stir your emotions and get you thinking.

Amber Stokes says

What a beautiful, colorful book! From the descriptions of the rainbow of roses and pastries, to the descriptions of the rainbow of emotions found in the human spectrum, this book enchanted me and moved me.

What a vast assortment of characters! And I loved them all so much! Fifteen-year-old Bess and her grandmother made me laugh out loud on several occasions, and the first half of the book was full of funny moments among sweet settings. The story flowed effortlessly into more serious tones in the second half of the book, and I was deeply touched by the honesty with which Fisher wrote. The characters struggled. They grappled with difficult truths and decisions. And the ending left me with a bittersweet happiness.

The second book in the "Lancaster Country Secrets" series, *The Waiting*, was good and intriguing, but this

third book, The Search, satisfied me so much more. A thoroughly enjoyable read with an openness that is both tender and heart-rending, I highly recommend The Search!

With thanks to the publisher for providing me a copy of the book in exchange for my honest opinion, to be shared during the LitFuse Publicity Blogging tour.

Trinity Rose says

This is the first book I've read written by Suzanne Woods Fisher. So glad I found a new author that writes so wonderfully. "The Search" is the third book in the series Lancaster County Secrets. Even though it is the third in the series it was still very easy to follow along. So you can read this alone or with the other two. I believe it would be so neat to read the other two first. They are called "The Choice" and "The Waiting." It seems so many people write about Amish stories. I'm not a fan of many of them, because of the attitude of the Amish that only Amish can be right about their life and faith. In "The Search" I don't feel that opinion at all. Matter of fact one of the main characters is a Christian outside of the Amish community. She is a stronger Christian than some Amish in the book.

I love the mother/grandmother who is harsh/brisk on the outside, but has a most tender heart. She puts many people together to change their lives for the better.

The setting of the book is just so beautiful. The cover of the book shows a picture of one main character {Lainey O'Toole } who is holding a rose, and it's just beautiful. I like hearing the description of the rose farm and the beautiful country side. I would love to live on a rose farm.

The whole book really revolves around the decision made by a very young girl. Then years later all of these people are back together in the same place. You will see how one decision can change life for all of those involved.

In "The Search" you will find love, heartaches, illnesses, death, peace, forgiveness.

It is a book that I highly recommend for many days of reading pleasure and a book you will want to reread. Also in a few days I will have a giveaway for this book.

I received my free copy from Donna Hausler from Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group for my review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255
