



Your Basic Swiss Family

J.F. Perkins

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In the third part of the Renewal Series, the hidden community in the Coffee County countryside teaches the painful lesson that fairness and justice carry a cost, and reveals the story of how the Carter family carve a home from the southern woods in the chaos of post-Breakdown America.

Your Basic Swiss Family Details

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Michael says

To start off, this is not a full-length book but the second of a ten-part series of short stories: it will take you less than an hour to read this one and each of the other stories. If you haven't read the first book of the series (Renewal without any of the numbers after it), you need to read that one first then progress in numerical order through #10.

Similar to the other books in the series, the author sets you into a futuristic (and believable) outlook of America several decades after a nuclear destruction of organized society, with frequent flashbacks / narrations of what happened immediately after to the surviving families. I could actually visualize the various scenes and situations, and found myself wondering "what if" or "what would I do" while reading not only this one, but the other stories in the series. The author does a good job of wetting your tastebuds and wanting a little more at the conclusion of the story - hence, let's go purchase the next book of the series. Overall, the series is very good and I highly recommend it.

I will point out I did read all ten of the stories of the series one right after the other as the series is good: while good, it was a little annoying to having just strapped myself in to read for a while then finding the various stories ended and I had to go buy another.

Chris says

Unlike traditional post-apocalypse fiction, Perkins writes of a hopeful future. Volume 3 continues the story of Terry and Bill, flashing back and forth between future and past. A happy future is a refreshing change.

Nikki says

I love these. I wish they were longer. I read them in the bath. I'm finished before the water gets cool. Really great story. Love the characters and the dual time lines. I would by this in one big set if I could.

Katherine says

Terry Shelton is a 20-year old Reclamation Engineer in/around Tennessee. This takes place around 40-50 years after a series of nuclear bombs are detonated in America, some resulting on EMPs that knock out all electricity. The government does not recover and smaller county and state governments are running the show. The rich people in the areas have created basically a feudal system for their own benefit. Although electricity has been restored, it is unreliable at best. However, many people still believe the government is going to send help so they accept the way life is. The job of Reclamation Engineers is to ride out into the country and survey land to decide if it can be used for anything (e.g. farming, agriculture, housing). In the first book, Terry discovers a community that has been kept hidden not far from town. The community is self sustaining and works well together.

In the third series, this peace is tested when the "Judge" from town decides he owns the land the community

sits on. Terry has to ride out and discovers more about how the world is really working.

This is a really good series. After each book, I am disappointed though, in its length. The author would do much better (or would have done) if he had just combined the books. Really, it's one great story, broken out into Reader's Digest like installments. I do like that we get two stories - the one from the current future and one from the past (2012- actually) which explains what happened after the Breakdown and how the small community of Teeny Town truly came into being.

Felicia A says

Great world-building and awesome dual storyline in this post-apocalyptic/renewal & rebuilding type of book.

It's about 35 years after the "Breakdown" (nuclear missiles worldwide, all hell broke loose, etc., etc., etc.). Since the nukes headed for the US were detonated in space, there is little bomb damage or fallout (not really believable, but it's not a big plot hole). The struggling survivors have slapdash governments and plans and such, but life pretty much sucks. A good group has an amazing town and life, but they keep hidden for obvious reasons. The protagonist stumbles onto it, and the backstory is great.

Big major problem is that this is probably only novella length, which is personally very annoying, and in order to make it great, probably 3 or 4 of the novellas in the continuing series need to be combined into one book each, and could make a great sequel or trilogy, depending on how far the author intends to take the series.

I sat for the last two days and read the remaining consecutive books in this outstanding series. LOVED the series, but hate the novellas. They need to be combined into one fantastic book.

David Galloway says

All of my comments on the Renewal series can be found in the first installment of the story.
