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Can she move forward without knowing her past? Will he enjoy his present if he can't free himself from what he left behind? In the heart of the Adirondacks, Isabelle lives in the shadow of a dark family secret whose silent burden strips her family of emotional warmth and faith in God. Tyler belongs to the religious sect called The Faithful, which Isabelle's father dislikes immensely. Yet, because Tyler belongs to this group, Isabelle sees only a man devoted to his family and faith. She wants it; she gets it; they marry. And when the truth comes out, Isabelle faces two choices: Staying could endanger her child. Leaving could cost her life.

Always with You Details

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From Reader Review Always with You for online ebook

Christine Lindsay says

This is a Christian romance with a very intelligent twist and plenty of suspense. Have you ever wondered how people, especially young people, get caught in up cults that sound so Christian but are not?

Always With You pulled me right into the first chapter when we meet two young people, Isobel and Tyler, who have an instant attraction for each other, and who are both looking for the same thing—a constant and honest love. Isobel doesn't recognize the warning signs that the religious sect that Tyler belongs to is really a dangerous white supremacy group. All Isobel sees is the honest need in Tyler for love and acceptance, and for a while she too gets sucked in.

This book kept me on the edge of my seat, hoping for this young couple to find their way out of the lies and manipulation of this cult, and how Biblical truth opened their eyes to a compassionate God who loves all people of all races.

This is a romance, but also a suspense, and readers who like intelligent fiction will enjoy this. I recommend this book to men and women between the ages of 16 and 85.

Nora St Laurent says

This author pens a frightening tale that shows how easily lonely young people without family (support and love) can be easily drawn into a religious cult. Promises of unconditional love for one another was what Isabelle desired most. She just graduated high school and had plans to go to college. She desired to be an independence woman getting out from under her father's thumb. Tyler rescues her from what could have been a deadly situation. She learns he's part of a group called Faithful. They live on a farm with other families her father hated them. She didn't believe the rumors about this group. Would anyone believe what this man did to save her? Now was her chance to find out about the group first hand. She asks Tyler about the Faithful and what they believe. He says, "We believe in good, old-fashioned beliefs."

"Like the Amish?" Isabelle says.

Tyler continues, "In a sense. We believe our core of life exists around what God wants for us. Unlike the Amish, we tend to lean more toward the proactive side of where we stand in society...We don't believe in integrating society or multiculturalism."

Isabelle and her family didn't believe in God. What Tyler told her sounded what she was looking for; the unconditional love she didn't get from her father and grandmother. Things heat up when the leader of the group, Thomas wants to start grooming Tyler to take over his position. Thomas pressures Tyler to be sure that Isabelle – the outsider is committed to the Cause of the Faithful. He had to be sure she was one of them.

Isabelle had waved at the mailman and got a cold stare no other response. "Tyler had explained several times, the faithful members were downgraded to inferior human beings because our beliefs were different from the vast majority of America." She was experiencing that. Then she witnesses something in a children's Sunday school class that pricks her spirit and opens her eyes. They read from the Book of Guidance, "We are children of light. We cannot exist with the children of darkness. We must live separately from wrong doers...We serve a white God."

She questions what “White” God meant. She was told it means pure, holy. She thinks otherwise. It’s too similar to racism in her mind. She begins to question herself and others.

Tyler and Isabelle have been misguided about this group. The secrets they keep threaten Isabelle and Tyler. They are spiritually, physically and emotionally trapped. Can they find their dreams, have the unconditional love they seek? Raise a healthy family? Will they risk their lives to be set free from the bondage they find themselves in?

This story is all too real how smart people can get drawn into cults and causes like the Faithful. They don’t realize how quickly things can turn deadly, similar to groups like ISIS and Scientology that are thriving today. It’s only when people get deep into the core of religion that they find out what it really is. Some people never make it out.

This author includes twenty discussion questions to help the reader take the story deeper and it will help generate lively discussion at your book club meeting.

Disclosure of Material Connection: #AD Elk Lake Publishers

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher through The Book Club Network www.bookfun.org 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 “Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising”

Nora St. Laurent

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The Book Club Network blog www.psalms16.blogspot.com

Book Fun Magazine www.bookfunmagazine.com

Cynthia says

This brand new author did so many things RIGHT! I was suitably impressed and amazed she did so much in her first novel. I read it in TWO DAYS and I don't do that unless the story really grips me.

It was easy reading and a smooth flow throughout the story with enough suspense to keep the reader engaged. Stock drew the characters so well, I wanted to step in and help straighten them out :) And there was even a surprise at the ending which was clever.

The book itself: the cover is perfect and definitely links to Adirondacks. The quality of the paper, ease of the print to read, all of it measured up so well. Excellent beginning for this new author and a debut novel.

Looking forward to her next book.

Kathleen Friesen says

At eighteen, Isabelle wants to move out of her father’s home, tired of his and her grandmother’s demands and lack of affection. She knows they carry secrets, which makes her feel detached from the family unit. But as this compelling story opens, a detour to the local park brings her face to face with a gang of young thugs intent on evil.

Tyler, a handsome stranger, rescues Isabelle with no regard for his own safety. What girl wouldn’t fall for such a hero? But Tyler belongs to a group abhorred by the townspeople, including Isabelle’s father. She ignores his warnings, eager to know everything about her brave hero.

Author Elaine Stock skillfully brings her characters to life, and in spite of the whispered dangers surrounding *The Faithfull*, I found myself hoping these two young people could rise above their pasts (and present) to find God's grace and love.

Always With You is one of those rare novels that purposely strides where few novels dare to tread as it deals with the bondage and warped perceptions within a cult. While the faith element is subtle, its message is clear: God's grace is of utmost importance.

I believe *Always With You* carries important lessons, and I am pleased to recommend it. This book earns four stars. Disclaimer: I have not been reimbursed for this review; all opinions are my own.

Kathleen Rouser says

Always With You by Elaine Stock evokes the angst of youth along with the trials of burgeoning adulthood in an original way. I am impressed with this debut novel, which deals with issues of acceptance, prejudice, and the deceptions of cult living—all wrapped inside a romantic and suspenseful story.

This book brought me right into Isabelle's life and her struggles. Once Tyler comes to her rescue, like a knight in shining armor, she is smitten. Stock captures young love well, especially when the desire to be loved and accepted overshadows reason, so that Isabelle only sees what she wants. This so echoes what we often see in real life!

Stock makes the reader believe how two young people from completely different dysfunctional backgrounds could be deceived into joining an evil cult like *The Faithful*. Their overwhelming desire to belong to something that looks secure and believe in something larger than themselves draws them in. The writer conveys such struggles with passion and depth.

It takes some shocking truths to jolt Isabelle and Tyler into reality and see just how much danger their growing family faces. The author handles Isabelle's journey into motherhood tenderly, along with her desire to protect her baby at any cost. Stock ties together many threads of the story with surprising developments and *Always With You* delivers a message that with Biblical truth and compassion, there's always hope.

There is some mild sensuality and realistic violence, which are handled tactfully and give greater depth to the story. Over all, *Always With You* is a fresh and gutsy page turning read with a thoroughly Christian message. I look forward to reading more from this author.

Patricia Bradley says

Be warned - Elaine Stock's debut novel, *Always With You* is a hard book to put down!

Seeking the love she never received from her family, Isabelle falls in love with the white knight who saves her from a gang attack. Tyler has everything she ever wanted--a "family" who seems to love and respect him, and a direct line to God's love.

But, things are not as they seem and once Isabelle discovers the truth about Tyler's family, she has to decide whether to run with her newborn baby or stay and trust Tyler to protect her.

Elaine captures the angst of young love especially when both are vulnerable and the desire to be loved and accepted overrules the warning signs that things are not as they seem.

Ann says

Wonderful debut novel. I was pulled into the story line and the lives of Isabelle and Tyler from the first pages and was kept reading to see what was going to happen next. The author gives a eye-opening insight into what it means to be a part of a cult and the dangers of following a religion that is not based on truth. It is also a wonderful story of how God can and does deliver when you seek His truth and a beautiful picture of how He is a God of second chances. There are lots of twists and turns to the story that make for an very interesting read. I very much enjoyed this book, and I definitely will be looking for more from this author.

AnnaLee Conti says

A good read that gives insight into why young people are attracted to cults. Suspense-filled love story you'll not be able to put down.

Marin Thomas says

Always With You is a riveting read-- compelling characters and a fast-paced plot full of twists and turns! Isabelle and Tyler are each seeking acceptance and love. It's that vulnerability that blinds them from the truth and leads them down a dangerous path. This is an emotional story of good vs. evil that demonstrates how easily the vulnerable in society can be led astray. But Stock ends the story on a hopeful note when her characters find their way back by seeking His truth.

Toni Shiloh says

I struggled with how to rate and review this book. Ms. Stock skill at pulling the reader in is evident from the opening scene of the novel. I had to keep reading to find out what would happen to Isabelle. She's grown up in a household of secrets and it's the desire to live an open and honest life that has her running into the arms of Tyler.

As I read, my brain went back and forth trying to decide if Tyler was a good guy or not, because he was part of a cult.

This book gives an explanation for how people can be duped and end up in a cult. I was often frustrated with Isabelle wondering how she could fall for it...but Ms. Stock weaves the tale so expertly, that I understood how her desire could put her in the wrong place. This is a great example of why people should read their Bible so they won't be deceived.

*I was given a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

**I give this 4 stars because of the writing style.

June Foster says

When I discovered that *Always With You* by Elaine Stock was her debut novel, my mouth dropped open. I could only hope the next book would be out soon. This is one of the best stories I've read in years. From the first chapter, the characters grabbed my attention and at the halfway point, I was so invested in the plot, I couldn't set it down. Literally.

Isabelle was raised in an atheistic home by her father and grandmother. Worse, her questions about her family history were always whisked aside, as if she had no right to answers. She longs for a family who accepts her unconditionally.

Tyler is a hardworking, responsible young man raising his twin brothers and sister after the death of his parents. Parents who beat and abused him physically and mentally. When the Faithful offered to take them all in, he readily accepted. Yet it was his worst mistake.

As each chapter unfolds, we discover more and more of the ugly truth. When the reader believes that the worst is over, more difficulties afflict the characters. The story is compelling, driving home a timeless truth.

Lisa says

Always With You is a cautionary tale of the dangers of keeping secrets, of following after false impressions, of swallowing one side of a truth as presented.

Lonely young people, one from a family of violent abusers and another from an austere but comfortable home, find each other during a moment of terror. Isabelle, a high school grad and waiting to get into the college of her dreams is rescued by Tyler, who lives on a compound of an outwardly innocent community. After her knight comes to her aid, she battles her family and the suspicions of her small town to look beyond their animosity toward the group who keeps itself apart from Outsiders. When she knows she can't win, she surrenders to the Faithful.

Tyler knows inwardly all is not right with the Faithful family who rescued him and his siblings as insecure orphans. But his desire to take care of his family, including his young wife, overrides other sensibilities and creates a desperate turmoil he doesn't understand and does not know who to turn to for help and trust.

Told from three viewpoints, one not introduced until the last part of the story, *Always With You* is a frightening page turner, making any parent want to go and hug his child, no matter the age. Twists and well-planted cues lead to some inspiring aha moments, as well as the possibility of surprise in that it is not completely predictable. Recommended for those who like gritty stories of redemption and reality mixed in with credible characters in inspirational fiction.

Frederick Schuepfer says

In this masterful story, Elaine Stock shows how "I love you" can mean many things. As our heroine Isabelle suffers and grows, love first mean her romantic feelings for a young stud muffin, then her desperate attempts at denial to hang onto her marriage in the midst of the quagmire of a hate cult, and finally her search for a

higher power who doesn't make her nauseous. Again and again the two leads chant "I love you" to each other as a desperate, useless talisman, until they finally seem to lose track of just who the other one is. If you're looking for a run-of-the-mill romance, look elsewhere. This book is far more rewarding.

Linda Maran says

A real page turner. Wonderful writing and great characterization. The author has combined mystery with love and good overcoming evil. Memorable...highly recommended.

Barbara says

I enjoyed this well written book. Strange how a good story can make you angry, sad and eventually relieved. This book deals with what happens when a twisted belief system revolves around a mere person, man-made rules and ideals. It also deals with how a difficult family situation can drive young people into dangerous and wrong choices. Yet, it also displays how a sovereign God is at work in lives that have not yet acknowledged Him. The theme of silence is not always golden was also there.

There were two quotes from the story that rang bells for me:

"Sweetie, everyone in this building sits in his or her own rocky boat. They come to church to become anchored in the midst of a choppy sea." Patrice grinned. "That's why I need to attend today. I'm in need of some anchoring too. Know what I mean?"

"...other people had misled me to the point of betrayal. Could I dare trust someone again without worrying if the relationship was a false one, full of lies?"

Worth reading, prepare to keep reading until the satisfying conclusion of this story.
