



The Return

Dinah McCall

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The daughter of a forbidden love comes home....

As a legacy of hatred erupts in a shattering moment of violence, a dying mother entrusts her newborn daughter to a caring stranger.... Now, twenty-five years later, Catherine Fane has come home to Camarune, Kentucky, to bury the woman who'd raised her, bringing a blood feud to its searing conclusion.

At the cabin in the woods where she was born, Catherine is drawn to the ravaged town and its violent past. But her arrival has not gone unnoticed. A stranger is watching from the woods, a shattered old man is witnessing the impossible and Sheriff Luke DePriest's only thoughts are to keep Catherine safe from the sleeping past she has unwittingly awoken...

The Return Details

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Author : Dinah McCall

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From Reader Review The Return for online ebook

charmaine White says

Wow

Sharon Salas really knows how to make you laugh and cry. Yet still has you coming back for more. And you can bet I will.

Iami says

Series: stand alone

Characters: Luke DePriest / Catherine Fane

Setting: Camarune, Kentucky

Story line: Romantic Suspense - Sheriff / Justice

O.W. drama: no

Cheating: no

Cliffhanger: no

Cheesy: no

Debi says

Loved it, once I got over the first 30 odd pages. It turned into a page turner. I had a really hard time putting it down. She did an excellent job on the book and how it flowed. Even thought I had the Man in the Woods figured out within the first 100pages. I just got better and better..smiles.

Anna Todd says

Parts of this story reminds me of what I've heard about the feud between the Hatfields and McCoys but then there is another story that is woven in to give it real substance. There is a little bit of mystique, romance, and intrigue skillfully interspersed throughout to have kept me on the proverbial "edge of my seat."

Ayano says

Amazing! The first impression from the cover and the blurb wasn't convincing me to read it. But it started to draw me in to the story when it started talking about Catherine's parents. It's cool how author was able to turn gossip into a good story. And how it is uneasy to take back what it had spread.

Tricia Len says

I LOVE a book that makes me smile, then laugh, then get pissed, and then cry.... OMG! This story is beautiful and sad and wonderful and I am so happy I found it and that I read it. I wish there were more like it.

I am going to go in search of all of Dinah McCall/Sharon Sala's books I can find because she writes exactly what I want to read.

Liba says

It's 1973 and Fancy Joslyn Blair gives birth to her daughter, Catherine. She is secretly married to Turner Blair, the youngest son of Jubal, who hates her family. Fancy is 19, the last of the Joslyns. Turner is 21. She hides in the mountains, in a cave. Jubal decides to take his 2 older sons and hunt the girl- with vicious dogs! Turner tries to stop them, but fails and plans to leave the area. Fancy runs from the dogs and meets Annie Fane, a WWII widow, whom others call a witch. Fancy asks her to take the baby. Jubal's dogs find her... frightening scene, followed by a shooting...

It's 2000 and Annie is dead. Her adopted granddaughter, Catherine (a teacher) brings her body to Kentucky for the burial. The locals are still afraid of the witch and refuse to help her. Only the local sheriff, Luke, helps her, and Annie's cousins from out of town.

Two old women are afraid now- Nellie, the preacher's wife, and Lovie, once Annie's best friend and currently the richest woman in the area.

A strange hunter/ thief lives in a cave in the mountains. He carves beautiful wooden sculptures and watches Catherine. Later he'll be recognized as Turner Blair, who still seeks his child.

Meanwhile, Catherine has a shock- Jubal is alive, paralyzed, in a chair, unable to speak...but able to hear and hate.

Was Annie a witch? will there be a happy ending at last? for Romeo and Juliet in this story pay an awful price.

The name "The return" could mean either Catherine (and Annie) returning, or the return of Turner.

Dawn ♥ romance says

A good romantic suspense with an exciting beginning showing the damage hate can do. The action moved right along although parts I suspected early on. I particularly liked the hero and his ability to handle things. Katherine brings her gran to bury beside her husband and finds the towns people very unfriendly then sheriff Luke offers to help her.

Anita says

Nothing destroys people like mindless hate. The Blairs and the Joslins have hated each other for generations. Jubel Blair has decided to finish it by ending the Joslins forever - every last one of them.

Fancy Joslin and Turner Blair are star crossed lovers caught up in all this meaningless hate. They plan to escape but fate is not kind to them. Fancy gives birth in the cave she has been hiding in. She hears Jubel's dogs in the distance and runs. To late. Annie finds her, but the dogs are almost on them and Fancy is bleeding badly. Fancy gives Catherine to Annie and makes her promise to take her away from all this hate.

Fast forward 27 years. Catherine returns to bury Annie next to her husband and the town goes nuts. It was rumored that Annie was a witch and the hate is now focused on Catherine. Luke is having none of this. He sees a young woman who has just lost her grandmother and he steps up to help and protect her. And love her.

jenjn79 says

Rating: 3.5 / 5

I didn't realize until after I bought this book and started to read it that it was a reissue of an older Dinah McCall book (now put out in the author's real name, Sharon Sala). I had thought it was a new release from Sala, but luckily, it was a McCall book I didn't have yet so I didn't mind. It was a fairly good book, but not one of my Sala/McCall favorites.

Summary:

Years ago, a feud between families led to a terrible bloodbath near Pulpit Rock in Camarune, Kentucky. Young lovers Turner Blair and Fancy Joslin had planned to run away together, get married and raise the baby she was carrying. But by the end of the night, most of the members of the Blair family were dead or missing, and in her last dying breath, Fancy pleaded with local widow/suspected-witch, Annie Fane, to take her baby and get her as far away as possible. Annie complied and left town that night with baby Catherine, never to return again.

Years have passed and now Catherine Fane is returning to Camarune with her "grandmother's" remains, to bury her beside her late husband. Catherine is reeling not only from her grannie's death, but also from the story she was told by Annie on her deathbed, the story of what happened at Pulpit Rock. Catherine can't believe the truth of her beginnings.

And she can't believe how badly she's treated once arriving in Camarune. The locals think she must be a witch since they all believed her grannie was one. She's heckled, shunned, and attacked. But she has the support of local sheriff Luke DePriest, who is instantly smitten with Catherine. He offers his support and manages to win her heart. But there are secrets in Camarune. Secrets that are determined to come out.

Review:

My main comment about this book is that I wish it had been longer. It's only 312 pages and I thought it could have been about 100 pages longer. I wanted there to be more done with the revelations of what happened in the past, more about Turner, more with the reunion at the end. The story just felt a little incomplete to me.

It's also probably more than a little implausible. A lot of weird events happening together, things falling to perfectly, etc. The story was just a bit to perfectly manipulated to seem logical and possible. But that didn't bother me that much. It's fiction, after all, and anything is possible.

On the romance front, it was a pretty sweet story, but I can't say I was overly attached to it, or to Luke or Catherine. They were just nice to read about, and gave some fluffy-bunny feelings, but overall came off as unremarkable to me.

The book, for me, was pretty average, a little above average. Definitely not bad, but I've read McCall/Sala books that I liked much more. However, if you want a nice romance to read, or are a McCall/Sala fan, then this one is probably worth reading.

Emilia Campbell says

Wonderful Read

This book was amazing!!! Loved the story. Sharon Sala does it as usual. Loved the reference to scripture and having faith

Lyndi W. says

I always feel weird when I'm left with a feeling of envy after reading a romantic suspense. Like... people are trying to kill this woman, but I still want to be her. That can't be normal.

Carol says

As a legacy of hatred erupts in a shattering moment of violence, a dying mother entrusts her newborn daughter to a caring stranger.... Now, twenty-five years later, Katherine Fane has come home to Camarune, Kentucky, to bury the woman who raised her, bringing a blood feud to its searing conclusion. At the cabin in the woods where she was born, Katherine is drawn to the ravaged town and its violent past. But her arrival has not gone unnoticed. A stranger is watching from the woods, a shattered old man is witnessing the impossible, and Sheriff Luke DePriest's only thoughts are to keep Katherine safe from the sleeping past she has unwittingly awoken.

It's not what I really was expecting but I wasn't disappointed or sorry that I kept reading. It was smoothly written with the main characters being likable and believable. Even the towns people had their moments in the sun. All of the characters aroused emotions from pity, to exasperation mixed with shades of the Hatfield's and McCoy's. Overall an excellent read producing it's own kind of suspense.

Laura J Shepherd says

I loved this book. Only Sharon Sala...

This book was different. It resembled a modern "Amen Trail". It had that twist where the past played an important part in the story.

Kelly A says

This book had me from Chapter One, I had a really hard time putting it down for work and school =) I found it engaging yet not really suspenseful (I had the man in the woods pegged from the beginning). The author has a way of telling a story that kept me intrigued and wanting more, the details were unbelievable and I felt like I was actually there. Although not my typical read, this was my first book by this author, but certainly won't be my last. The characters were amazing, and I wish there would be a sequel following Catherine and Luke.
