



The Reversion (Stonemont Book 1)

Steven C. Smith

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Jim Wyatt had always said that if everything fell apart, he didn't want to just survive - he didn't want to notice. When the world did crash, his family's home of Stonemont became not only a refuge, but a place where it might be possible to start over again, and reclaim the American ideal.

Among the many novels in the SHTF/TEOTWAWKI genre, The Reversion stands apart – and, perhaps, alone. It does not follow the survival learning curve of the unprepared or minimally-prepared, as so many excellent books have already done so well. Rather, it is the story of a man who was prepared, and of how his preparation and foresight provided not only a safe haven for him and his family, but a re-start point for those who come together to survive the collapse of the world around them. As such, it is an unbelievably positive book about an unbelievably negative circumstance, and carries within it the lessons of preparedness and survival that every person should strive to learn.

Tightly woven into the story are threads of history, morality, politics, economics, philosophy and comparative justice – the kind America was founded on, the kind they had devolved to under the weight of an increasingly liberal and socialist society, and the kind that might re-establish a society reflective of America's original ideals. As these threads are woven into the fabric of the larger story of survival, the realization emerges that a great catastrophe enabled the return of what makes us, as human beings, truly happy and fulfilled, and that, perhaps, only a great catastrophe could.

The Reversion, written by an expert in survival and preparedness with an interesting government and non-government background, is destined to be an instant classic in the preparedness/survival genre. More than a good story, it is a manual and a resource for all who are interested in these fields, and deserves to be kept on your desk or chair-side table where it can be read, re-read and referred to often.

The Reversion (Stonemont Book 1) Details

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Sybil says

Interesting viewpoint

Reversion is well written with tight pacing and strong characters. The point of view is Christian Patriot and advocates personal responsibility. The politics are Libertarian without racial overtones. The focus is on preparations without an endless list of armaments and supplies. Instead, it speculates on building a civil sustainable local society reminiscent of Heinlein's *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*. Everyone works and the work has value is core to building a local economy. Views are interesting and practical. My caveat is that individuals can have values, ethics and morals without the religiosity. While the "no atheists in foxholes" saying has a grain of truth, a Christian government has been as historically destructive as modern Muslims. I disagree with Mr. Smith on several fundamental points but respect his views.

Pat says

If you like FOX news, you will love it.

I waited a day before I wrote this review because it will raise the ire of some who disagree. I feel a responsibly that force my impressions be made known. I am a Christian. I am not a Fundamentalist, however. Some of my best friends are Conservatives, otherwise they're great people; but I could not accept the protagonist in this story, Jim, as following the precepts of Christ as touted by the author. The first clue was Jim's concentration of study being the Old Testament. There is no evidence he ever even read the New Testament, where he might have learned of the Good News taught by Christ. I often saw a sanctimonious, self-righteous dictator who claimed he stood for American and Christian values but broke the Ten Commandments and the Constitution. He tortured before killing those he judged guilty in one major episode, showing no mercy. That is not Christian and is "cruel and unusual punishment", forbidden by our Constitution. Yet he evidently admired the killer of a National Guard leader who disagreed with him. Ultimately that might have proved appropriate but he had made up his mind he'd brook no interference regardless. Besides the killer was a family member. He had no appreciation for the government of the U.S.A., its history of leadership in the world, or its aspirations. Instead he saw only its flaws and promoted "survival of the fittest" in the name of capitalism. Somehow, I cannot believe the good he did do would win him points before the Ultimate Judge.

Robert C. Miller says

Good Story

A good story is one that in my opinion has a problem/crisis a strong central character supporting characters, a good plot and a set of morals. This story has all of these and though the introduction was sort of, not weak but minimal, enough full was added to give this story a believability. The inclusion of a Christian based morality and a believable crisis story makes this story very easy to read.

and the action though not overwhelming gives the reader a fast paced but not overwhelming movement to the story. I look forward to the next book in the series.

Lisa Rodgers says

A good book In P-A Genre

This was an enjoyable, but not quite the stunner that other reviews had suggested.

The most important message in the book, I think, was the message of Hope it conveyed. So many books in the P-A Genre are terribly bleak. This one has a far more positive message, and I deeply appreciate it for that.

Tammy L Petty says

Great Read!!!

One thing I have noticed in reading in this genre are some priorities. God Family and Country. We as a nation have gotten so far from these three things. This book really shows how important that these three things are. I can hardly wait for the next book in this series.

Quinton Young III says

A MAGA inspired conservatives can do no wrong liberals are doing the USA propaganda piece. I struggled to finish this overly cognitive dissonance diatribe but was determined to see it through. I actually believe the writer believes his own story. Another us versus them teotwawki vs

Valerie says

Excellent

Very well written with well rounded, capable, likeable people. This is how I hope that people who can help in a catastrophe such as an Emp do. Also this story is very informative without being preachy, you can learn from this one. I will have to buy this story & add it to my collection.

sara corcoran says

This is almost like an instruction manual for TEOTWAWKI

Great story, fantastic characters and so darn close to becoming true I'm not sure I'd call this fictional. Sure,

the story lags in some spots but it always picks right back up again. I was originally on the fence as to whether I'd keep reading this series but no longer. Gotta run got a book to read

None of your business says

Excellent

Loved the story, the morals and characters. I agree 100% with much of what is stated in it too. We have Lost our founding values and morals as well as our nation's soul lately. We are headed down an ugly path our founding fathers would be ashamed of. Too much entitlement, too much lack of person responsibility and family preservation. May we find time to change it back, before it's too late.

Patrick Barnes says

Nastier than most of the genre

I didn't get too far before I started skimming the book. I tried reading the book just to see how far the prepper thing would go. The story reminded me of an old Heinlein story "Farnham's Freehold" but is better written. Those ideas haven't gotten better with age (they have gotten nastier) but the writer does present his worldview clearly. It isn't pretty.

The book is more a prepper manual than a novel. It also makes it clear that survival is only possible to those willing to submit to a Christian theocracy, which also incorporates all of america's real values. I read another reviewer who spelled out the nastiness embodied in the writer's definition of christian, so I'll skip that issue.

From a historical perspective, I had trouble understanding the writer's idea of US culture. He doesn't think that several centuries of black slavery contradicts the image of freedom for all. The writers of the constitution encased slavery in their legal framework (which included the second amendment's cover for the mandatory slave patrol laws, blacks counting as 60% of a person for congressional seats, etc.). The laws restricted any voting rights to a minority (about 25%, I think) of white males, who met the property qualifications to vote. Women had no rights of any kind and it seems that condition fits the writer's picture of a healthy america. I guess this is where reversion leads.

The writing was just good enough to make the story and its themes seem reasonable, if you don't look at the story details. The resources needed to build this "manor house" would seem to be beyond the means of a former policeman, whose wife has no income but does have several very young children. The manor builders did most of the work by hand themselves? Was this before or after the three children? Did the parents of the main character purchase the extensive grounds in the exclusive neighborhood? The housewife disliked guns but love of (or obedience to) her man turned her into a gun toting mama? She's so independent that she has no decision making of her own? Is the establishment of hard gender roles, already in place in the MC's household really necessary for the survivalist haven?

The book and series use the ultimate libertarian fantasy. If you are the right kind of person, you'll be the recipient of wealth, fame and/or power because this society is the world model of fairness in opportunity, equality of all and If you're not it must be because you choose to be poor, powerless and more. Add Christian

fascism, women who know their place and the absence of the wrong sort of "people" and you have the start of the great again america. This is some scary stuff.

The story is not much of a novel but is instead an almost documentary narration of the obvious and the inevitable collapse of society. The characters in these types of books always find like-minded fellows (always fellows, usually ex-military and not minority) at the gas station, etc. It reinforces the notion that they represent a large part of the population and that the survival of the fittest is the common wisdom. The characters are always self-made men (women land the guy, If they are lucky enough to be chosen). It's interesting that inheritance of wealth and the wealth gap is never mentioned, yet the wealthy person by definition is always decent. I wonder why that is.

The MC hasn't contributed to the political health of his community, attempted to improve it or even made an effort to prepare it for the inevitable collapse of the country. Is the MC prepared, psychopathic or sociopathic? I dread imagining what happens to a Buddhist family or a South Asian engineer (man or woman) who stumbled across this oasis of calm. Of course in the next book, I feel confident that the wars begin and between old testament fury and an american flag those "people" won't be an issue any longer.

If you overlook all the implications of the writer's view that most people are not the "decent folk" worthy of surviving, the story could be comforting to readers who are certain they are one of the good ones.

Kristen Murphy says

One of the better ones

Good book, great characters. Awesome story flow.

Wyatt is a good dude, almost everything he says is wisdom. No minced words, just a straight shooter.

Many historical references lend to the story, showcase the authors knowledge.

Awaiting book two.

Sherry Studdard says

Narrow minded

My single biggest issue I had was the whole chauvinistic attitude of the book.

I couldn't finish. On the other hand, what I did read was well thought out.

Pam Shelton-Anderson says

I struggled a bit with this book. It was actually better written than many with few errors (the biggest with

Brin who was drawing a map and was suddenly named Stacie who they had just buried). It also had a lot of solid ideas on preparing and surviving a major disaster. I liked some of the characters, mostly notably Christian, Mike and Naomi. I struggled with so much religion being referenced and the Ten commandments being a guiding principle for being part of the Stonemont group. I struggled with the idea that 2 days after the EMP, a lawyer and his middle class wife and daughter would really be OK with executing criminals at the rode side; while they might get there eventually, I can't see it being that soon. I struggled with the fast separation into traditional male and female roles and the boring argument that women's work is just as important. I really struggled with the constant right wing assertion that liberals destroyed America so this EMP could be a blessing in disguise. Especially in this current environment, I wish this genre could really move past that and see the good and bad in both sides and not be so polarized. I am curious as to what happens if there is a next book, but am not sure if I can get past the things that I found as a negative.

Marcus Lee says

Good lessons good characters

One of the better series. Can't wait for next book. Stonemont gives me hope about establishing a society of freedom amidst the chaos which will come sooner or later.

Bonnie munn asido says

Great Start

Can not wait for the next book. Who is "Grim" and what does he want? There are a lot of uplifting moments in this book. I love the joy and general upbeat take on the collapse of civilization as we know it. Truly a unique look at the apocalypse.
