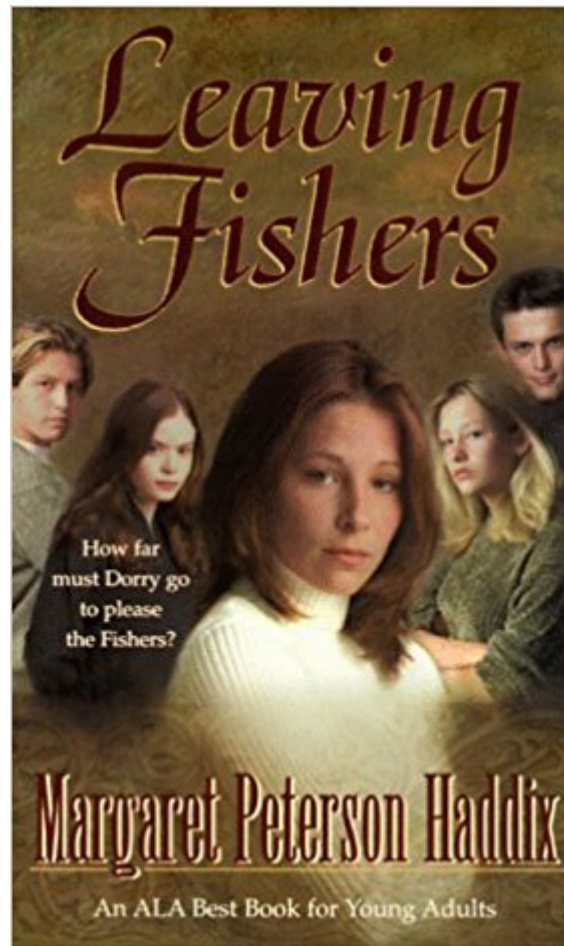




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Leaving Fishers



Synopsis

Dorry is unbearably lonely at her new high school until she meets Angela and her circle of friends. She soon discovers they all belong to a religious group, the Fishers of Men. At first, as Dorry becomes involved with the Fishers, she is eager to fit in and flattered by her new friends' attention. But the Fishers make harsh demands of their members, and Dorry must make greater and greater sacrifices. In demonstrating her devotion, Dorry finds herself compromising her grades, her job, and even her family's love. How much is too much? And where will the cult's demands end?

Book Information

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Christianity

Customer Reviews

A lonely new girl is drawn into an evangelical Christian club, then disillusioned by its cultishness;

PW praised the author's "evenhanded" treatment. Ages 12-up. (May) Copyright 1999 Reed

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Grade 7-9. For high school junior Dorry Stevens, the move to Indianapolis from the small town where she has always lived is difficult and lonely. When Angela invites Dorry to join her and her friends for lunch, Dorry is flattered and excited. Through her new friends, she learns about The Fishers of Men, a religious group to which they all belong, and meets Pastor Jim, its charismatic leader. The group invites Dorry to parties and eventually to a retreat where she decides to join the church. Angela, her guide and discipler, not only engages Dorry in Bible study and church activities,

but also gives her tasks to discipline her and make her a better Fisher. Dorry's parents worry about the ever-increasing control Angela has over their daughter's life. After a disastrous attempt to convert the children she is babysitting for to the Fishers, Dorry makes the agonizing decision to leave the group in spite of their harassment to stop her. With this decision comes the understanding that she has been involved in a cult. The realistic ending is not "happily ever after," but one of self-realization. Haddix has written a thought-provoking, riveting novel with strong, though rather stereotypical, characters?the victim, the recruiter, the charismatic leader. Her carefully constructed plot reels readers into the book in much the same way Dorry is reeled into the Fishers. Although the ending is slightly didactic, it does not detract from the forceful impact of the book.?Janet Hilbun, Sam Houston Middle School, Garland, TXCopyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a terrific YA novel about a lonely young high school girl, Dorry, who's just had to move to a new city and high school, and whose insecurity, low self-esteem and loneliness is exploited by an authoritarian religious cult, The Fishers, that has spread to her school. It is a chilling, riveting, realistic, acute, age-appropriate and psychologically real and sympathetic and gentle story of this youngster's thoughts and feelings, loneliness and doubts and self-hatred and recovery as she gets manipulated into the group until events in the story lead her to the self-respect of leaving it. You can read about the book from other reviews; I just want to correct a few misunderstandings in the very few negative reviews. The novel is not anti-Christian; it is anti-cult, as we all are, and pro-Christian, pro-religion, for personal dignity and seeking. The story makes perfectly clear that this cult believes that it's the only true church, that any Christian church (including evangelical) that isn't run by "Pastor Jim" is evil and Godless and unbelieving, and that new cultists need to be "re-baptized" and never associate with even Christian parents and siblings and family unless they serve "Pastor Jim." Again SPOILERS: After leaving, Dorry says that "I still believe in God. Just not the sick and twisted version Fishers gave me." (259) And when a former "Fisher" and now a skeptical friend tells Dorry that "Religion's evil," Dorry's reply is: "No. Fisher's was. Religion isn't." And she sums it up: "When I left Fishers, I didn't leave God. I left because of God." (P. 253). It's terrific YA literature, not at all heavy-handed, and the gripping storyline itself carries with it a fascinating and clear-minded inoculation against the lure of authoritarian cults.

This book was one of my favorites by Margaret Peterson Haddix . She is on of my all time favorite authors . The thing I didn't really like about it was the ending because she didn't say anything about

about how fishers is now that everyone knows there secret and how Dorry`s life is without Fishers and how lara is. There are A LOT of typo errors like instead of I they would put 1. U can still understand what they say though . Great read though !!

Great book for teens. Leads to great discussions.

Como nuevo

I give this a five. the book looked new. I am very happy with this book :) Thanks you very much.

Great book. Haunting.

Once I had started, I didn't want to stop. It was a very captivating book. The only complaint I have is that the way Dorry talked in the book at times wore a little on my nerves, but overall it is an excellent book.

It has been hard for Dorry to adjust to her new town. Her old town was tiny, with a small high school and a group of friends she had known her entire life. She felt safe there, even though her parents told her she was a mistake and they hadn't intended to have her twenty years after her brother and sister. In this new place, Dorry is attending a much bigger school with more students, none of whom are very friendly toward her. She and her parents have to live in a tiny apartment in a bad part of town, because they haven't been able to sell or rent their old home. After many days of eating lunch alone and feeling miserable, a pretty and popular girl comes over and invites Dorry to eat lunch with her and her friends. Dorry is overwhelmed that this girl would seek her out, and she is thrilled by the attention her new friends lavish on her. Little by little they tell her about their church, and she begins to attend parties and other gatherings with them. At first the church seems like a lot of fun. The parties are good, and Dorry goes to an unbelievable retreat with some other church people, where they have fun and also some serious discussion about religion. Dorry agrees to be baptized and to become a member of the church. Once inside, though, things change. Dorry is assigned a mentor who gives her difficult commands to live up to. She constantly feels guilt and resentful, and likes the church less and less. Is it a dangerous organization? Or is Dorry simply not holy enough to get the full effect of the church? This is a fascinating look at the way a cult operates. It was much scarier than I would have thought, and this book made me see why people would join cults and then stay

with them. I liked how Dorry didn't totally reverse her beliefs at the end of the book; she allowed them to evolve into something that made sense for her. I hated the way Dorry's parents first totally ignored her, then didn't do anything that might have helped her once they saw that something was wrong. I also kept thinking that Dorry should have been able to see how mean Angela was and should have known that she didn't deserve that type of treatment. I suppose that would have eliminated Dorry's feeling of being trapped in the cult, though.

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