



Return to Exile

Lynne Gentry

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A twenty-first-century doctor travels back in time to third-century Carthage to rescue her husband, but the arrival of a deadly epidemic forces her to make an impossible choice in this fast-paced second novel in The Carthage Chronicles series.

Dr. Lisbeth Hastings salvaged two things from her accidental trip to the third century: her mother's stethoscope and her child. Making a life for her daughter Maggie back in the present is difficult, but returning to ancient Carthage is impossible. However, when Lisbeth learns her husband is slated to die a martyr's death, she must find a way around the impossible to save him.

Cyprian Thascius returns from political exile a broken man. He's lost his faith, the love of his life, and his purpose. When Ruth, an old friend, proposes he marry her to restore his position and protect his estate, the disgraced nobleman accepts. But when Cyprian's true love suddenly reappears, his heart becomes as imperiled as the fledgling church.

As Lisbeth and Cyprian reunite to battle a new epidemic and save the oppressed community of Christians, the chasm between the two of them seems too wide to bridge. But when Maggie contracts typhoid, Lisbeth must choose: stay and save the man she loves, or return home and save her daughter?

Filled with gripping action and raw emotion, this incredibly compelling adventure of star-crossed lovers will keep you engrossed with every turn of the page.

Return to Exile Details

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Author : Lynne Gentry

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From Reader Review Return to Exile for online ebook

Colleen B says

Historical fiction is just fascinating sometimes. I love that Return to Exile had the fantasy aspect of Lisbeth (a modern day doctor/scientist) time traveling back to the first half of the 200s AD. I just find the blending of historical facts meshed together with fictional story. It always just leaves me with a truer than fiction feel... even with the unbelievable time travel aspect. I find myself looking for information about Cyprian to compare to the story. The true details that are woven into the story are just fascinating.

Return to Exile was particularly interesting to read right now since measles and vaccinations are so prevalent in the news today. Lisbeth is a doctor in current day fighting a measles outbreak. Her thoughts really brought to light for me the details of how dangerous measles can be. One mother's infection surrounding the time her family boards and airplane and spends a week at Disney before coming down with symptoms... and the slow spread... were just frightening. And then... to have her travel to a time dealing with the plague... which Lisbeth has diagnosed as an original measles outbreak (which whether true or not I'm not sure of) just really had me thinking about the devastation of an untreated communicable disease. The idea that if one generation of a disease can be eradicated through vaccination in 200 AD would mean it wouldn't ever effect people in 2015 in just overwhelming to think about. And then coming forward to think if everyone in 2015 would follow through with vaccinations would mean that people in 2815 would never have to suffer.... it just pushing home how truly amazing science and medicine are in the history of people.

Add the romance of Cyprian and Lisbeth... an Return to Exile could be considered a tragedy. Their love, and suffering, and during a time of such devastation (political, medical, emotional....) made for an amazing story. I didn't read book 1 (although I was able to catch up with the story). The ending of book 2 (and the sneak peek at book 3) have me on the edge of my seat wondering what will happen next with Lisbeth and Cyprian... and their families and friends.

Anne says

I expected more excitement after reading the first book. But it took ages for things to move on and I lost interest and had to go back to it after a time. Not half as good as the first book and these books are more expensive than most so not sure I will buy the next one.

Amanda Geaney (Christian Shelf-Esteem) says

This past weekend I sat in my comfy chair and allowed Lynne Gentry to take me on a journey back in time. Return to Exile, the second book in her Chronicles of Carthage series, packs loads of drama with a sprinkling of adventure.

Gentry thoroughly conveys the plight of the church in Carthage, a sign of great research. She then infuses modern medicine into the plague riddled city in such a way that I was reminded of a time that I worked alongside Army corpsman. Just as the corpsman showed incredible skill in field medicine and improvisation, Lisbeth and her mother also had to pool their knowledge in order to treat their burgeoning patient load. I was intrigued by the church's willingness to serve their persecutors thereby demonstrating the love of Christ to their enemies.

When Lisbeth returns to Carthage there is a surprising plot twist. It was so profound that it created in me a lasting distaste for Cyprian, Lisbeth's husband. It wasn't how he handled the situation but rather his inaction and lack of sympathy for those involved that put me at odds with his character. Later, I was disappointed that this man was nominating himself into church leadership while he had unresolved personal issues. Pride and ambition were definitely his weaknesses.

Initially I felt that the story was muddled by the author's attempt to reestablish ground work which was laid in book one. However, once Dr. Hastings steps back in time, the storyline comes into focus and the tempo picks up. For me, the last quarter of the book whizzed by.

By the end both Cyprian and Lisbeth's demonstrated a great deal of character growth. Even though they sought to control their own fates; God gradually shows them who is control... Him.

I received this book free from the publisher through the NetGalley review program. 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."

Katie says

Thanks to NetGalley and publishers for providing an advanced copy of this novel in exchange for my honest review.

I don't know how to rate this book. I LOVED Healer of Carthage, it's one of my favorite reads of 2014. But I put this book down in frustration and vowed that I just wouldn't finish it. I dislike not finished books, especially when I loved the first book, so I picked it back up and finished it.

Like the previous book, the writing is great and the historical details seem realistic and well-researched. My problem with this book was the story. I didn't like the characters and the stupid decisions they made.

(view spoiler)

With my issues about this book, my rating should be lower. But I thought about this book for an entire day. Stewed over the characters and their problems. And I had to finish it and see what happened, even though I was so mad. Any book that can bring me to those emotions and bring me to keep reading despite those emotions should get a couple stars for that alone. I finished it a couple nights ago and still am not certain what to say about it. I can't say that I liked it, but I couldn't put it down. And I will read the next book.

Mark says

Time travel books are a rarity on the Christian market, so this book intrigued me when I got the chance to review it. I requested it, did enough research to realize I should read the first book in the series before I read this second book, so I ordered book one, read it, and loved it. I then went onto this book.

In the books, the main character, Dr. Lisbeth Hastings, goes back in time to the 3rd century, A.D. The author does a fantastic job of describing the scenes and setting for what it might have been like at that time. Well done descriptions of places in books go a long way in setting the tone for a great book, and it was well done. Most of the same characters were back from the same book, good and bad, and I really like the characters in the book. Some of these people face impossible choices, all faced with the reality they could end up in the arena for daring to serve Christ. Although the book is fictional, it brought to mind how easy we have it here in America, and that many Christians through the ages and today face true persecution and death for serving God.

The books aren't the genre I usually read, but I enjoyed both books and am looking forward to the third book, and eagerly wait to see how the author wraps things up. They are as page-turning books as the suspense I love to read. Highly recommended series.

Sarah Vanscoyoc says

Another 5 star book from Lynne Gentry!

Return to Exile is the second book in Lynne Gentry's The Carthage Chronicles. It continues the story of Lisbeth Hastings and Cyprian Thascius, six years after the first book left off. I loved the first book and had very high expectations for this one. I can happily say that it met them all!

I was quickly drawn into the story and couldn't put it down! As I have come to expect, Lynne did an excellent job with the historical and medical details, as well as the descriptions. She brings Carthage and third century Rome to life so vividly that I had trouble pulling myself away from it. I could picture it so clearly and often felt as though I was actually there. One of the things I love/hate most about this book and Lynne's writing is the realism. If you're looking for a feel good, happily ever after story, then I don't recommend this book. It will challenge you, change the way you view things, and leave you thinking about it for days. It may also leave you wanting to pitch it against a wall after you read the last page. That's pretty much a given with her books. She is one of the few authors that can evoke such an emotional reaction from me.

I loved seeing how much Lisbeth and Cyprian have changed and grown since the last book. The changes weren't always positive, but that's true in life too, and I enjoyed following them through the pages of another book. Lisbeth Hastings has spent the last six years trying to move on with her life, while also feeling chained to something she can't explain and doesn't understand. She is still stubborn and very strong willed, maybe even more so now that she has a child to care for. She is also a bit impulsive, though she tends over thinks things after the fact. She definitely isn't the stereotypical heroine and would not be mistaken for sweet or overly gentle, except with her daughter. She has built walls to protect herself from hurt and they have caused her to be a bit harsh in her view of the world and sometimes of others.

Cyprian Thascius has returned from exile to find he isn't the man he was before. His heart has hardened and his faith is on shaky ground. He is still strong and stubborn, which he needs to keep up with Lisbeth. The changes in him are more obvious than in Lisbeth. He used to be kind and gentle, but is now more apathetic than anything. When pushed to reach out to the Church he once loved, he questions if he's the right man for the job. Counted a coward by many, he feels he has something to prove to Carthage, but more importantly, to himself.

Their story started out a little slowly, as we catch up on the time between books, but it quickly picked up speed and kept me captivated until the end. I was a little surprised with how much I still hated Aspasius; I couldn't even begin to feel sorry for him. But as the story proceeds, I found myself growing and learning along with Lisbeth and Cyprian, as they learn what it means to love their enemies and live as Jesus did. If you're expecting a romance when you pick up this book, you may be a bit disappointed. While there is a touch of romantic tension here and there, it isn't a central part of the story. There are so many other things going on that I believe it would have detracted from the story had Lynne incorporated more. Lisbeth and

Cyprian find themselves remembering their past love for each other, but having not seen one another in years, and believing their love lost through time, they spend a decent amount of the book trying to rebuild the relationship they thought lost.

I found myself very challenged with the spiritual side of the story. I've always heard that the Bible is a living book, always relevant throughout the years and that fact is clearly shown in this story. I was able to empathize with both Cyprian and Lisbeth's struggles. Cyprian has lost his faith, his heart has hardened, and he can't hear God. He tells Ruth at one point that he can hear nothing but the wind. In the meantime, Lisbeth has found faith, but still struggles with control and trying to make everything right. There is a quote that caught my attention, "All this time, she'd believed the reason for her travels into this harsh world a simple one: she was meant to rewrite history. But now she knew she'd been dropped into the middle of these struggles so the past could rewrite her." - Lisbeth Hastings, page 343 There are many other quote-worthy moments, but that one snagged my attention and would not let go. It shows so clearly the change that occurs for Lisbeth and illustrates one of the main themes - even though we may not know God's will or understand why, He always has a perfect plan.

I do caution anyone who is sensitive to violence or medical descriptions, this may not be the book for you. While I loved how the Lynne's writing drew me in, this book is set in third century Rome during a plague and religious persecution. There are mentions of executions, though not in detail, and detailed medical procedures.

I very much enjoyed the many twists and turns throughout the book that left me stunned and trying to guess what might happen next. Lynne does a great job of building the suspense and giving the reader just enough information to have a general idea what would come next, without actually giving anything away. I also loved how each character had a very unique voice and stood apart from the rest when it changed to their point of view. I quickly knew who was speaking, before it said their name. I was sorry to say goodbye to the characters, though I know I will see many of them again in the next book. They become like family and I don't want the books to end.

I highly recommend this book if you're looking for a suspenseful story that will challenge you and leave you begging the author for the next one.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher for my honest review, which I have given. I was not required to write a positive review and have not been compensated for it in any way. All opinions expressed are my own.

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Staci says

Oh my goodness! I am so loving this series!!! What fun it is to visit Carthage in the 3rd Century and be a part of their lives.

I can hardly wait for the next book in the series to release in September!

Courtney Clark says

I really loved this second book in the series. Here's some of my thoughts:

Lisbeth faces some unexpected surprises and twists when she returns to Carthage. The story is so fast-paced, you have moments to get used to her new reality before the adventure changes and she's pulled deeper into commitments in the past.

Lynne's writing style is so easy to read, almost a conversational tone. Although a good portion of the story

takes place in ancient Carthage, I never felt distracted by that fact or by the unique blend of modern characters in that ancient time. I was anxious to see how Lisbeth and Cyprian's stories would continue. Lynne doesn't disappoint! We get to see their worlds collide again, with a new child in the middle.

One thing I loved about the first book was Lynne's way of reminding the reader that Lisbeth is from modern day but stuck in the 3rd century. She continues this with subtle humor and mentions of culture (Disney princesses!) and technology, while staying relevant to the story.

This story is one that will keep you on your toes, with drama that reads at times like a medical thriller. The themes of the story, though, are most important: letting go of fears, loving your enemies, and holding on to faith when it's hard. This is shown through the drama of the early church's challenges in culture and politics. Also, through a picture of the importance of family, no matter what boundaries and obstacles may separate them for a time.

Thanks a ton to Lynne Gentry and to Howard Books for the free review copy in exchange for my honest review. I'm so glad I was able to be on your team!

Beth says

I received this book from Litfuse Publicity for no charge in exchange for my honest review of this book. The opinions expressed here are my own.

Book Description:

How far would you go to save the ones you love?

Six years ago, impossible circumstances forced Dr. Lisbeth Hastings to leave behind the love of her life, not just in another country, but in another time. Her work as a top-notch epidemiologist and parenting her little girl helps alleviate the pain, but at night when her exhausted head hits the pillow, images of her beloved Cyprian haunt her sleep.

Cyprian Thascius returns from political exile a broken man. He's lost his faith, the love of his life, and his purpose. He attempts to move on, to face the danger that is looming over Carthage, but when Cyprian's true love suddenly reappears, his heart becomes as imperiled as the fledgling church he seeks to save.

Have the years that kept Lisbeth and Cyprian apart created too wide a chasm to bridge? In the midst of a new epidemic and rising oppression, will their love be the most costly fatality? Filled with gripping action and raw emotion, this spell-binding adventure of star-crossed lovers captivates with every turn of the page in this electric continuation of The Carthage Chronicles.

My Thoughts:

Return To Exile is the second book in Lynne Gentry's Carthage Chronicles series and it is fantastic! I read the first book, Healer of Carthage as one of the few books I have in my every growing TBR pile and it was a hit so I knew I had to find out what came next! Return To Exile takes place six years after the Healer of Carthage ends. Dr. Lisbeth Hastings is back in Texas working as an epidemiologist, the top in her field, and raising the daughter she had with Cyprian Thascius, her husband from 3rd Century Carthage. Cyprian

Thascius has been in political exile for six years and returns to Carthage a broken man, losing his faith and his purpose. Not long after he returns to his life and tries to move on, Lisbeth shows back up with their daughter in tow, because Lisbeth feels compelled to save Cyprian from his impending death that she read about in the history books. Armed with 21st century medicine she comes back to find out that Cyprian, Ruth, her Mother, and her brother have all moved on with their lives. Cyprian and Ruth have been married and are expecting their first child. As they struggle to work out the personal stuff, they work to also rid Carthage of another epidemic that is killing the rich and poor alike.

Return To Exile is a fantastic book in this great series by Lynne Gentry. As a huge fan of Christian Historical Fiction, I was drawn to this book and this series. This book takes readers back to 3rd Century Carthage where Ruth, Lisbeth's mother Magdalena, and other survivors of the measles are caring for any new break outs of measles trying to keep it under control. Lynne Gentry writes with authority about 3rd Century Carthage and other parts of the world at this time, diseases and disease control in the present and in 3rd Century, and the history of Carthage, and the history of Christianity. As I read this book, I felt like I was time traveling with Lisbeth and Maggie, transported to another time and place. I really felt like I was there with them experiencing the life and times of Carthage. The characters are wonderfully written and I think my favorites are Magdalena and Lawrence, Lisbeth's Mom and half brother. The love they have for one another and the way they give of themselves for the welfare of others is inspiring. Magdalena and Lawrence's faith gives them the strength to endure what they have had to endure. I could not put this book down, from the first page this book grabbed a hold and wouldn't let go. This is a fast paced, action filled book that keeps you guessing until the end and leaves you wanting to know more of this cast of characters. I recommend reading The Healer of Carthage first to fully understand the story lines. They are both worth the read! I highly recommend this book and series to anyone who enjoys Christian Historical Fiction, you will NOT be disappointed. I cannot wait to read Valley of Decision, the third and final book in this trilogy. Added bonus: there is an excerpt from this book at the end of Return To Exile. I give this book 5 STARS.

Ian says

So many middle novels in a trilogy can be a letdown after a big opening but Return to Exile does not fit into that mould. It builds on the foundations of the excellent Healer of Carthage and gives us more drama and enhanced characters. What appeals to me the most are the spiritual challenges that Gentry raises: the nature of sacrificial love, letting go of what we love, and exercising faith in the presence of extreme fear.

This episode in the trilogy mostly revolves around Lisbeth and Cyprian. Even though not too much time has passed since the end of the first episode, Carthage and its leader Aspasius are disease-ridden, Cyprian has snuck back into town unannounced and believing he will never see Lisbeth makes a big decision that will shock her greatly on her return.

Gentry writes beautifully and her theatrical background is clearly evident with how she so masterfully manages multiple POVs and showcases all the horror and tragedy of the disease-riddled city. Even though there is great darkness (and Aspasius is truly a nasty antagonist), we see the light of God's love and hope demonstrated through the very relatable faith journeys of Lisbeth and Cyprian. They both make mistakes, are torn between their own selfish desires and trusting in God.

I'm so looking forward to reading the final instalment which fortunately for me isn't too long away from being released.

Jalynn Patterson says

About the Book:

A twenty-first-century doctor travels back in time to third-century Carthage to rescue her husband, but the arrival of a deadly epidemic forces her to make an impossible choice in this fast-paced second novel in The Carthage Chronicles series.

Dr. Lisbeth Hastings salvaged two things from her accidental trip to the third century: her mother's stethoscope and her child. Making a life for her daughter Maggie back in the present is difficult, but returning to ancient Carthage is impossible. However, when Lisbeth learns her husband is slated to die a martyr's death, she must find a way around the impossible to save him.

Cyprian Thascius returns from political exile a broken man. He's lost his faith, the love of his life, and his purpose. When Ruth, an old friend, proposes he marry her to restore his position and protect his estate, the disgraced nobleman accepts. But when Cyprian's true love suddenly reappears, his heart becomes as imperiled as the fledgling church.

As Lisbeth and Cyprian reunite to battle a new epidemic and save the oppressed community of Christians, the chasm between the two of them seems too wide to bridge. But when Maggie contracts typhoid, Lisbeth must choose: stay and save the man she loves, or return home and save her daughter?

Filled with gripping action and raw emotion, this incredibly compelling adventure of star-crossed lovers will keep you engrossed with every turn of the page.

About the Author:

Lynne Gentry has written for numerous publications. Her new series, The Carthage Chronicles is a time travel, historical romance, adventure. She is a professional acting coach, theater director, and playwright with several full-length musicals plus a Chicago children's theater curriculum to her credit. Lynne is an inspirational speaker and dramatic performer. She loves spending time with her family or working the hospital oncology wards with her medical therapy dog Roman.

My Review:

After having to leave her true love behind in another era, Dr. Lisbeth Hastings began working as a doctor in the 21st century in Houston, Texas. Taking care of her daughter and staying busy with work, kept Lisbeth from focusing on all the pain and sadness in her heart. But all of that starts to change when her daughter starts asking about her father. And it also turns out that in Carthage, there is need for her to find a cure for the sick, and Maggie's father is there as well.

In Carthage, Cyprian Thascius returns from political exile to find that his wife is gone and that his life has been turned upside down. As this disease reeks havoc all around him, Cyprian must decide where his priorities lie, especially when Lisbeth returns and she has a companion---their daughter Maggie.

Lisbeth returns to find that many things have changed with her husband. But soon the disease hits close to home and everything seems to be moving downhill quickly. Because of this the two of them will have to do some quick thinking before their beloved is lost forever.

While the two different story line's coming together could confuse me at times, I still liked the book. It has action and intrigue flowing constantly throughout, which makes a great page turner.

****Disclosure**** This book was sent to me free of charge for my honest review from Litfuse Publicity.

Carole Jarvis says

Reviewed on The Power of Words: <http://tinyurl.com/mk8prlr>

Sometimes a story will resonate and even make me uncomfortable because of the way it challenges my faith - and that is exactly what The Carthage Chronicles series does. Although I'm not a fan of time travel or third-century Rome, these stories rise above genre and setting with their entertaining narrative, rich characterization, suspense, timeless romance, and spiritual impact. So glad I stepped beyond my reading "comfort zone" to discover this series!

Return to Exile, which begins six years after Healer of Carthage, finds Lisbeth returning to third-century Carthage in an effort to reunite her family and change history. It can technically stand alone, but I would highly recommend reading the series in order for a deeper understanding of characters and events.

Cyprian is a strong, appealing character, and the crisis of faith he experiences in this story is inspiring. Prior to his exile, he had been a man of ambition, wealth, comfortable in his political status, and new to the faith. Now that is all changed and we find Cyprian "a broken and tired man who questioned the validity of a faith that required so much suffering in addition to the weighty sacrifice he'd already made."

Lisbeth, believing she was sent back in time for a reason, tries to take matters in her own hands and affect future events through her actions in the past. It's hard for me to understand the time travel concept, but this makes for a fascinating vehicle with which to explore a world we've only studied about in history. I love how Lisbeth's spiritual growth is shown in this quote: "All this time, she'd believed the reason for her travels into this harsh world a simple one: she was meant to rewrite history. But now she knew she'd been dropped into the middle of these struggles so the past could rewrite her."

Return to Exile's spiritual themes are what make it so challenging and relevant for believers today . . . Themes such as how we treat those who would do us harm, standing firm in our faith vs. compromise, and that suffering for Christ is a privilege. These words of Cyprian travel across time and touch us today: "Since when is pleasing Romans more important than pleasing the one God?"

I'm thankful for the freedom to worship that we have today, although I sense a gradual eroding of that freedom. And at the same time, the faith of my Christian brothers and sisters around the world is being put to the test in similar ways to what these third-century Christians in Carthage faced. Return to Exile provides many opportunities to pause and reflect, and I'm glad Lynne is able to use fiction in such a moving way.

I highly recommend Return to Exile, as well as the whole Carthage Chronicles is a series. I can't begin to imagine how Lynne will conclude this moving saga - but I'm sure that while it may be heartbreaking at times, it will also be victorious. Valley of Decision, the final book in this series, will be released later this year.

Thank you to Litfuse Publicity and Howard Publishing for providing a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Beth says

Healer of Carthage, book one of the Carthage Chronicles, was a sure recipe for success – there was danger, intrigue, romance and great historical details. In Return to Exile, those details are back in all of their fascinating glory. Again I found myself engrossed by how Lisbeth takes her knowledge of modern medicine and molds it and improvises in Carthage. Everything is set up for a story that I would enjoy just as much as book one, however, I must admit that I didn't enjoy this one nearly as much, and, at times, I felt disappointed while reading.

I think my initial disappointment started with the pace set in the beginning. I wanted to get back to the excitement, which for me was in the past. After about 50 pages of re-covering some of the ground from book one, I started to lose steam, which isn't a good sign that early on in a story. Once Lisbeth returned to Carthage, my interest grew once again. I knew from the summary that the characters were going to make some decisions that I probably wouldn't like. Even braced for this, it created a big disinclination in me for Cyprian, whose motivations are not explained, nor are his reactions to Lisbeth sympathetic. I found it hard to really sink in to the story because the characters didn't deal with the emotions and baggage that came as a result of their poor decisions. Once this big issue is glossed over, a major plot point occurs that basically eradicates the problem, and they never truly resolve their personal issues. It just made things seem altogether too convenient for my reading tastes.

Although I didn't care for this particular aspect of the story, once I came to terms with it, I was drawn into the latter half of the story, and read through it quickly as the drama played out. Lynne is great at keeping the stakes high, and the tension in many scenes is palpable. She has created a villain in this story that made my skin crawl on several occasions. Many scenes evoke a visceral, cinematic quality. Magdalena is still one of my favorite characters; her selflessness is truly something to be admired, and for me, she is the true hero in this series thus far. Though I didn't appreciate all of their decisions, Cyprian and Lisbeth do make many admirable choices that put others before themselves and their own happiness. While they love each other, I think the truer love comes from that which they experience in their faith. Lynne's portrayal of their struggles to wage war on their fate or trust God rang true for me, and I think it will resonate with many readers.

My displeasure in some aspect of the plot and characters is certainly not something that will affect every reader, and in fact, I've seen many great reviews of this story. If you enjoyed book one, be sure to read this one, too, as the character development and exciting moments are to be appreciated. I recommend reading them in order, as they don't really work as standalones. Ultimately, I'm glad I read Return to Exile. The ending is quite the cliff-hanger, so I'm glad that I don't have to wait to read the conclusion to Lisbeth's story.

Bethany says

I really enjoyed reading the first book in The Carthage Chronicles, and was eager for the release of its sequel, Return to Exile. The idea of having a 21st century doctor go back in time to ancient Carthage was one that I thought had great potential, and was very unique. However, sadly I think that I enjoyed the first book in this series, Healer of Carthage a lot more than I enjoyed Return to Exile.

I've always been a fan of historical fiction that involves time travel, and always jump at the chance to read these kinds of books, since there aren't many out there. However I felt like there was just something that didn't work for me with this novel. I read the first 50 or so pages and the story just didn't seem to be going anywhere. I felt like the exciting part of the story should have already started (which would be the main character finally going back to ancient Carthage). I quickly became disinterested in the story, making it very hard for me to complete the novel having given it my full attention. I was sad that this is the way I reacted to the story, as I had hopes that I'd enjoy it as much as I enjoyed the first story. While the story did pick up after a while, I felt like by the time it did, I had already lost interest.

Despite the fact that I had a hard time getting "into" the story, I did enjoy reading the parts that did get exciting, although I felt like they were few and far between. While there weren't many parts that I felt really kept my interest, I will say that the few ones that did were really unexpected and really surprised me! I enjoyed the historical details of this story, and seeing the main character and how her lives were different in both time periods. It was neat continuing her story, I just wish it would have grabbed my attention more. However I by no means want to discourage anyone from giving this novel a try! Fans of historical fiction

with time travel interwoven should check out this series!

DISCLAIMER :: I received a free copy of Return to Exile from the publisher for the sole purpose of this review. I was not paid to write this review or promote this book, and all thoughts expressed are my own, completely honest and unbiased.

Laura A. Grace says

This was another great read from Lynne in the Carthage Chronicles. I'm not really into any kind of medical issues, but I was so fascinated with the medical side of things in this one. Amazing what Lisbeth and her Mom did for people in third-century Carthage (well even in today Dallas too).

One thing I was surprised by concerning this novel was the emotional turmoil. I didn't expect some of the decisions that characters made and the effects of those decisions on others.

Maggie was by far one of my favorite characters! I love her attitude and her bravery (even if she thinks she's not)! Ruth is a quick second as her faith and attitude was very inspiring.

The message was great and one I needed to hear of how we can't let fear dictate our lives nor can we control everything.

I am giving "Return to Exile" 4 stars because there were a few situations that irked me and felt a little bit repetitive from book one.

Overall, another great read from Lynne that has me eagerly looking forward to the final novel in the series!

(I did receive this novel from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts expressed are my own and I was not required to write a positive review.)
