

Contact: Christine Muller-Gipson
Litfuse Publicity Group
Phone: 727-219-6460
christine@litfusegroup.com
@litfuse

19011 8th Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98155
www.litfusegroup.com

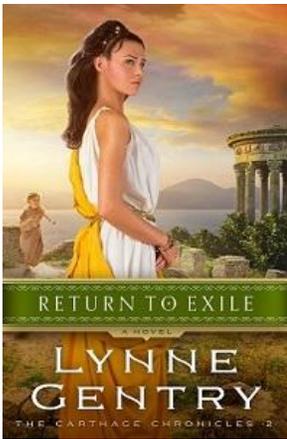


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PRESS RELEASE

Lynne Gentry captivates readers with time travel and Christian history

Book examines developing courageous love and faith strong enough to span the centuries



Seattle: Set against the backdrop of the birth of the Christian faith, fear and loss are pitted against the strength of a fledgling faith in **Return to Exile** (Howard Books/ January 6, 2015/ISBN: 978-1476746364/\$14.99). Readers who were left on the edge of their seats after closing the covers of *Healer of Carthage* will devour this second installment in The Carthage Chronicles and be challenged to examine their own courage in the face of adversity.

Six years ago, a mysterious time portal 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 epidemiologist in the present day, along with 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. As she struggles to answer her daughter's questions about where her father is, Lisbeth is left weighing the cost of trying to return to third-century Rome.

Meanwhile in third-century Rome, Cyprian Thascius comes back from political exile a broken man. He's lost his faith and the love of his life. He attempts to move on and face the danger looming over Carthage, but when his true love suddenly reappears, his heart becomes as imperiled as the fledgling church he seeks to save.

Third-century Christians had to make the difficult choice of whether or not to defy the Roman government, which continued to infringe upon their religious liberties. It's a choice not unfamiliar to more modern times. "The thing that struck me during this research process was how much Christians have suffered for their choices," Gentry reveals. "According to a recent survey, at least 75 percent of religious persecution around the world is directed at people of the Christian faith. I believe the day is fast approaching when the church will find itself backed against the wall. I pray when that day comes, I will have the courage to join the ranks of those who stared down arena cats, the guns of Hitler or the imprisonment of the Chinese."

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, *Return to Exile* is a spellbinding adventure of star-crossed lovers that will captivate readers with every turn of the page and leave them aching for the third installment in the series.

Beyond their enjoyment though, Gentry wants to see the book cut through the fog of readers' fears. "Like many people, fear of failure has held me hostage," Gentry admits. "It has only been through the perfect love of Jesus Christ I have found the courage to accept my imperfections. If the struggles Lisbeth and Cyprian faced encourage one reader to cast aside fear, I know there will be singing in heaven."

To keep up with Lynne Gentry, visit www.lynnegentry.com, become a fan on [Facebook](#) ([Author-Lynne-Gentry](#)) or follow her on [Twitter](#) ([@Lynne_Gentry](#)) and [Pinterest](#) ([lynnegentry7](#)).

Advance Praise

"*Return to Exile*, Lynne Gentry's sweeping saga of lost dreams, epic struggles, sinister passions and unrequited love — all playing out against the stunning backdrop of third-century Rome — returns to enthrall readers of her earlier *Healer of Carthage*. With surprising twists readers won't see coming, Gentry has created an inspiring story few will be able to put down until the final page. I am a huge fan of the Carthage Chronicles series and of author Lynne Gentry. Can hardly wait for the final installment to see how everything turns out for Dr. Lisbeth Hastings!"

~ Kellie Coates Gilbert, author of *A Woman of Fortune*

"Compelling. *Return to Exile* took me to a time period I had never been that interested in and built a sympathetic heart in me for the horrific things Christians had to face in that area and time. Because Lynne Gentry's characters are so well-developed, they took up residence in my thoughts and have lingered there for more than a week after I finished reading the book. Of course, I can hardly wait until the next book comes out. I believe every Christian should read these books to give them an awareness of how blessed we are to be able to live our beliefs without fearing for our lives."

~ Lena Nelson Dooley, author of the double-award-winning *Catherine's Pursuit*

"Author Lynne Gentry has done it again! *Return to Exile* is a high-stakes adventure filled with unforgettable characters and amazing historical details. Gentry doesn't just write with boldness and authenticity but delivers powerful messages in the midst of the plot twists and turns. Turn the page to return to ancient Carthage and join Dr. Lisbeth Hastings in this time-traveling journey!"

~ Elizabeth Byler Younts, author of *Promise to Return*

About the Author



Lynne Gentry has written for numerous publications and is a professional acting coach, theater director and playwright with several full-length musicals and a Chicago children's theater curriculum to her credit.

Her love for writing stories was born while growing up on a Kansas dairy farm as she longed for adventure and dreamt of traveling to exotic places. She likes to write stories that launch modern women into ancient adventures, such as *Healer of Carthage* (2014), which was the first in The Carthage Chronicles series. *Return to Exile* is the second, and *Valley of Decision* is expected September 22, 2015.

Gentry is also an inspirational speaker and dramatic performer who loves spending time with her family and medical therapy dog.

To keep up with Lynne Gentry, visit www.lynnegentry.com, become a fan on [Facebook \(Author-Lynne-Gentry\)](#) or follow her on [Twitter \(@Lynne_Gentry\)](#) and [Pinterest \(lynnegentry7\)](#).

Suggested interview questions

- *Return to Exile* takes readers from modern times all the way back to third-century Rome. What inspired you to connect these two eras?
- One of your main characters, Cyprian, is an actual historical figure. Tell us a little bit about him. How did you stay close to the truth of his life while still taking the freedom to spin your story?
- Tell us about the research you did while writing *Return to Exile*. Was there anything you found that surprised you?
- As you just said, Cyprian suffered a true crisis of faith. Why do so many fall victim to that fate when their expectations of the Christian life and reality do not match?
- Lisbeth struggles with control, but soon comes to realize control is an illusion. Can you think of something you've had to learn you can't control?
- As *Return to Exile* opens, we find a character who douses his body in expensive nard, or perfume, to cover the symptoms of his illness. We often go to great lengths to mask what is eating at us. Have you ever experienced the dangers of covering your struggles?

- As you were writing about the persecution Christians faced in third-century Rome, did you see any similarities between that time period and situations that occurred later in history?
- In *Return to Exile*, we notice in many ways, the third-century church was not raising arms against the powerful people who were doing serious wrong against those with less power and wealth. In your opinion, what is the difference between turning the other cheek and plain cowardice?
- Time travel is a huge element in *Return to Exile*. If you could time-travel, where would you want to go and what would you want to do?
- TV shows and films featuring time travel are all the rage right now. Why do you think that idea is such an alluring one? What does the Bible have to say about time?
- *Return to Exile* is the second book in The Carthage Chronicles series. The first book, *Healer of Carthage*, ended with such a cliff-hanger. When you're writing a series, does the story unfold as you write, or do you plan the whole series from start to finish before you start writing?
- You wrote this book from a lot of different points of view or in different "voices." Was that very difficult to do? Did you ever get confused switching back and forth?
- Can you give us any hints about what's coming next as you conclude The Carthage Chronicles?
- What do you want readers to take away with them after reading *Return to Exile*?

Lynne Gentry is available for interviews to promote the release of *Return to Exile*. To request a review copy, schedule an interview or for more information, please contact Christine Muller-Gipson, <mailto:christine@liffusegroup.com>.

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