



The Return

Christopher Pike

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Pike brings readers the terrifying sequel to his most popular novel (nearly 650,000 copies in print). Shari Cooper, victim of a murderous attack, is given a rare offer: to return to Earth, into the body of a depressed teenage girl, to become a Wanderer. Shari gladly accepts, but not everyone on Earth welcomes Wanderers. . .

The Return Details

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From Reader Review The Return for online ebook

Diana says

This one was a crazy roller coaster. It was a little slow starting but once it did, I couldn't get enough. To get a second chance at life with the people you love with the knowledge of past mistakes. I love the ending. Really great story.

Ashley says

This book is just proof that somethings are better left alone. It's one of the reasons why people hear the word "sequel" and cringe. Not a good follow-up at all. Boring and pointless.

Zoe Robinson says

While Remember Me was a fast-paced book with a little spiritualism here and there, this sequel foregoes plot in favour of chapter-long author tracts on spiritualism, new age hokum and how god is in everyone. This is NOT an appropriate sequel to an excellent novel.

A major disappointment.

Lindsay says

I'm not sure what happened between the first novel and this second story.....the first book was really good and had a bunch of crazy twist. this book however was HORRIBLE! It was almost as if a completely different person wrote this book. The story was choppy and seemed rushed. Things that should have had more explanation were written about in two sentences and thrown aside while other parts that needed no explanation were a whole chapter. I was extremely disappointed in this book. It was almost painful to even finish it.....

Jean St.Amand says

Well, great; Christopher Pike managed to crap the damn bed again.....page 309-520 was a good story, I really enjoyed it....and then, once again, he spoiled the whole thing by having a stupid ending....seriously, what is wrong with him? It is with a great deal of trepidation that I prepare to read the third and final story.

Roberta R. (Offbeat YA) says

Excerpt from my review - originally published at Offbeat YA.

Pros: Well-established female lead (well, part of the time, that is). A sweet siblings reunion.

Cons: Very small action. No real mystery. Some clichés. Some new age blurbs (if you're not into it). Weird and abrupt ending.

WARNING! Moderate sex references (though a not deliberately induced miscarriage is mentioned).

Will appeal to: Those who need more Shari Cooper.

When you reach perfection, you'd better not tamper with it. Most of the time, it doesn't work (very well). There's no denying I was excited when I found out that there was more to Shari's story. And, to Pike's credit, it wasn't a three-or-four-books-deal era back when he wrote this. Nowadays, most books are born with a sequel, often two or three, already attached. Remember Me was originally a standalone book, till - after five long years - Pike was struck with inspiration (ahem, not sure), or maybe Shari possessed him too, after her brother (see RM, I mean book 1). So Remember Me 2: The Return came to life - and Shari with it. In the sense that she was actually back, flesh and all. Only, she wasn't really Shari anymore.

OK, first off, the blurbs about this book are deceiving. There's no conspiracy against the Wanderers in RM 2. Now, onto the actual review. Let's start from where RM finished. (view spoiler)

RM 2 opens a year after Shari's death, with a total different story about a total different character. Poor, Hispanic, can-see-no-future girl as opposed to rich, all-American, eager-to-live one. Wrong side of town, wrong boyfriend. We follow Jean to a disastrous birthday party (history repeating), at the end of which something happens to her - we're not sure of what. It seems it all turned right in the end though, because after the accident (?) Jean is apparently able to recover (while her bf Lenny, also involved, is crippled for life). In the meantime, we also follow Shari (and later on, Peter) in the afterlife, chatting with a superior entity called the Rishi, a lot of new age blurb really - though I can't say I was annoyed by that. We learn that Shari can go back in someone else's body, if she agrees - and Peter too, but in his case, because he injured his previous body by purposely ending up his own life, he can't go back in a healthy body, but must suffer a disadvantage of sorts. Guess whose body will Shari wear? and Peter? [...]

Whole review here.

Blanca Cruz says

If i loved the first book i loved this one too !I liked how her and peter became wanderers and lives and learned from the rishi.

Dana says

Sadly enough, this book almost got a two. I think if it wasn't for my love for the character of Peter, it probably would have.

The Return did not live up to its predecessor unfortunately. This book had a lot of moments it could have done without (mainly, the random short story in the middle that was more self serving on the authors part seeing as how it didn't move the plot along at all) and the dialogue some of the time seemed more fanfiction than anything else. On top of that, I felt this book became too spiritual and relied more on this new notion of spreading a "message". Pike should have tweaked that to be less kitschy philosophical and told more about

the fact that these two characters did get a chance at life again.

The good things about this book, though? There are still laugh out loud moments. Despite feeling like the dialogue was off some of the time, when Pike did get it right, he really got it right. There were moments where this book was smart and funny which is what I had come to expect from reading the first novel. The character of Shari has actually grown through the series and the darker backstory of Peter is intriguing.

Overall, it is worth the read. But be prepared not to love it as much as book one.

Barbi says

I read this as a teenager and decided to read it again. I see the appeal that it had as a teenager.

Shari Cooper, who died in the first book has been given a chance to make someone else's life better as a Wanderer. She becomes Jean Rodrigues and tries to make her life better and those around her. There are flashbacks to her time not on Earth, throughout the book that bring the book together.

Stefani says

I've given up on this book... I bought the trilogy edition and loved the first story. The second one however, I just could NOT get into. Normally, when I find a book I like, I can't put it down. This one I had to force myself to pick up. I feel like since I didn't finish it, I'm not in a place to write a review but I found it to be slow and difficult to follow in places... one page the main character is herself, then she's a ghost inhabitant another dead girl's body, and then she's floating in space with her ghost friends. I gave it my best shot and read at least half of it, but I'm moving on (and creating a whole new bookshelf for books that fall in this category).

Sorry Pike, I just couldn't tell if you were writing a ghost story or an alien sci-fi story...

Mariah Leal says

I was so excited to start this book because I loved his first in the trilogy and I quickly became disappointed. I haven't the slightest idea where he brushed up on his Mexican-American culture but it's so incredibly stereotypical and ridiculous it's comical. I kept thinking maybe it would pick up, and it never did. It's a truly terrible book in so many ways, the characters' personalities lack. Shari turns into an insanely stupid Mexican girl with insanely stupid Mexican friends. Dear Lord I can go on but I think I'll come back and finish later. Hopefully the next one is better or else wasted three days of my life for nothing.

Carrie (brightbeautifulthings) says

Although I'm sure I read them multiple times growing up, I've forgotten almost everything about the rest of this trilogy. I feel like I need to finish it before I move on to other Pike novels (even though The Last Vampire and Final Friends have been calling me lately). I started out thinking that perhaps Pike wrote the

last two Remember Me novels under pressure from his publishers since the first was such a success, making it less a product of love than a contractual obligation, but now I'm not sure. There's even less in Remember Me 2 that makes it widely accessible to the general public. If Remember Me was strange because its main character was a ghost telling her own story, this is even weirder. There are mild spoilers ahead for the first book.

After solving her murder from the afterlife, Shari is ready to go on—whatever that means for a spirit like her. When her Teacher offers her the chance to return to earth in the body of a troubled teenage girl, she accepts. As a Wanderer, she'll be given an important task for the betterment of humanity. Jean Rodriguez has given up on her life. Living on the poor side of L.A., she and her family scrape to get by each day, and Jean has just discovered that she's pregnant. On the one year anniversary of Shari Cooper's death, Jean survives a fall from a balcony, but like Shari's, it may have been no accident.

Structurally, this book is kind of a mess. The chapters move back and forth between Jean's life and Shari's experiences in the afterlife, and it isn't clear immediately what one has to do with the other. Shari's chapters are strangely didactic; Pike has a habit of veering into the spiritual. While there are few things more spiritual than a dead protagonist, it's less like a story than a series of philosophical theories. There's little resembling a plot for most of the novel; it's more like a lengthy set-up for something else.

There's an even odder section where Jean/Shari reads a story she wrote. I forgot most of the rest of the novel, but I remembered this story perfectly (it's the kind of thing that sticks in your brain, especially if you're a writer). As a younger reader, I didn't find it strange at all, but as an older reader, I'm less clear about why it's there. This isn't the first time Pike has included stories inside of stories; it's practically the premise of *The Midnight Club*, and *Master of Murder* also includes a short story written by the main character, who's a famous author, but it makes less sense in the context of Remember Me 2. Shari wants to be a writer, and it's suggested that her purpose as a Wanderer is connected to her storytelling, but this particular story seems unconnected to her Teacher's lessons and it doesn't seem to echo or advance the plot the way typical stories within stories do. It's just there, presumably for entertainment. This is an odd narrative device, but... I kind of like it? It takes the English teacher insistence that everything is a metaphor and turns it on its head. On the other hand, I can see some readers being irritated by a section of the book that apparently has little to do with the rest of the novel.

Jean Rodriguez is not the only instance where Pike turns his attention to characters of color who are struggling to get by, and since he's a longtime resident of L.A., I'm glad he pays attention to the reality of his city. I'm less certain about his representation (I don't recall a lot of my years of Spanish, but his strikes me as a little iffy), but I feel like it's a good faith effort. I still love the relationship between Shari and Jimmy the most; her love for her brother comes through so much clearer than her romance with Peter. The novel picks up pace in the second half and ends up being quite suspenseful, with a small twist I'm not sure I would have seen coming had I not read it before. Fans of Pike will probably find something to like about it, but it lacks most of the dark charm of the first novel, and I don't think it's strictly necessary to read them all. It's perfectly possible to enjoy Remember Me as a stand-alone, without the additional weirdness of its sequels.

I review regularly at brightbeautifulthings.tumblr.com.

Christina Drew says

The Return is the second book in the Remember Me Trilogy. It picks up a year after Shari Cooper's death.

Shari is given the opportunity to return to Earth as a Wanderer in another young girl's body.

The plot follows Shari, now Jean, as she tries to fulfill her purpose on Earth. The reader is brought back and forth between the present and the time just before Shari is returned to Earth. While Christopher Pike stays true to his roots with the ghost story, he also seems to expand his horizons in the scenes prior to her return. A great deal of time was spent talking about esoteric and metaphysical issues. I did enjoy this book because it challenged me to think beyond what my usual pleasure reading evokes. Yet, I think it is this same quality that can turn many Christopher Pike and horror fans off from this book.

I enjoyed this book for what it was, an experiment with the ideas surrounding life's purpose. It is not however a strong book when considered in its supernatural/thriller genre. It is a worthwhile read if you are looking for something deeper, without getting too deep.

Jessica says

I guess he tried to handle a POC character, but it still felt off. Liked that it had a bisexual character. Kind of ableist. Thought the references to his other books were cute. Will write more in my review of the omnibus.

Syrdarya says

Awful. The New Age material was boring and even ventured into offensive territory (historical figures' achievements the work of Wanderers?!?) and the storyline was odd and sometimes ridiculous.
