

Why I Left the Amish



with author Saloma Miller Furlong

Furlong's return to the Amish community for her father's funeral frames the story of how she came to leave 24 years earlier. One of seven siblings in a dysfunctional family, Furlong endured the violent outbursts of her mentally ill father, lack of protection from her mother, and physical and sexual abuse at the hands of her older brother Joe. She recounts a life defined by the austere traditions of the Amish and the pressure to obey and conform. "The Amish life is not about saying no, Furlong says. "It's about going along."

After leaving the Amish, Furlong married and had two sons. She graduated from Smith College in May 2007 with a major in German Studies and a minor in Philosophy. While she was at Smith, she completed an internship with noted Amish expert Dr. Donald Kraybill at Elizabethtown College. During her thirty-year struggle of coming to terms with her Amish past, Furlong has gleaned a better understanding of herself and of her heritage. She brings a nuanced and balanced perspective to her memoir, which offers a rare look behind the organdy curtain that separates the Amish from the outside world.

Books will be available for sale and signing

Thursday, February 23 at 7:00 pm

**at the North County Branch
of the Hunterdon County Library**

65 Halstead Street, Clinton

This program is FREE and open to the public

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