



When The Roll Is Called A Pyonder: Tales From A Mennonite Childhood

Diana R. Zimmerman

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"With grace, humor, and sensitivity, Diana R. Zimmerman renders a traditional Mennonite farm family in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, as seen through a child's eyes and spoken in the hypnotic rhythms of a young girl's voice. The spirited speaker develops a rich sense of herself and her community as she grows up in a conservative religious context where "help means spank," and female children are reared for lives of obedience, modesty, and piety. This is a remarkably immediate work of memory and imagination—authentic, fair-minded, and unsentimental— suitable for readers of all ages."

—Julia Spicher Kasdorf, author of *Sleeping Preacher* and *The Body and the Book: Writing from a Mennonite Life*

"Diana R. Zimmerman has written a great American memoir. I was reminded of *Huck Finn* and *Harriet the Spy* and *Jo March* as I chuckled and gasped and laughed out loud through this book. You will love this little Mennonite girl, and she will lead you back to your own inner child. You will also start seeing the world through her eyes. You won't want this story to end."

—Shirley Hershey Showalter,
author of *Blush: A Mennonite Girl Meets a Glittering World*

When The Roll Is Called A Pyonder: Tales From A Mennonite Childhood Details

Date : Published August 19th 2014 by eLectio Publishing (first published August 18th 2014)

ISBN : 9781632130464

Author : Diana R. Zimmerman

Format : Paperback 211 pages

Genre : Spirituality, Autobiography, Memoir, Biography Memoir



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Aleesha says

I received this book free from Goodreads First Reads. When I first started reading the book, it was difficult to understand. It was very choppy between stories and broken. Once I understood that the author was writing the story from the point of view of a little girl and the way she sees things in her life, I really enjoyed the stories and I enjoyed getting to know the little girl and the way she viewed things in her life. As a reader, go into reading the book as if it is a journal written by a little girl.

Shannon says

Received ARC - Thank you!

This is a charming portrait of the author's childhood growing up in the 1970's in a Mennonite family. The story is told from the point of view of the child, which makes for fast reading. This is **not** a coming-of-age story, and as such the book is focused in part on the author's parents, who at that point in her life are the authors main influences. The author describes a childhood full of love, tradition, and religion. While her parents are not always perfect, they are fair and loving and encourage her to grow into her own person. The author is the tomboy of the family, and she spends much time with her father learning things from him and at times fills the role of the son in a family full of daughters.

As a non-religious person, I was expecting to learn of a childhood deeply different from my own; however, in the end, I learned of a tolerant, disciplined family with much to be admired.

Dawn says

Very different writing style and perspective. It reminded me of the style of William Faulkner's stream of consciousness with a child's innocence and explanation of a society most people do not get to experience. It left me wanting to know what happens to this little girl and who she becomes.

Stephanie says

It took time to get used to the child's voice telling the stories of growing up in a Lancaster County Mennonite home in the 1970s.

Carolyn Lind says

This little book is both a delight and the authentic voice of a child growing up in a conservative Mennonite

home. Written with much humor and grace, the author has captured the unvarnished viewpoint of the child. For the humor as well as the grace and most of all for the viewpoint of the child she left behind, this book gets 5 stars.

Allyson Langworth says

Not exactly what I had anticipated when I started reading it but a great recount of the authors childhood. Is a quick, easy and intriguing read.

Would love to read more from this author in the future!

Kathleen Thompson says

Charming
