

Why I Left the Amish: A Memoir



There are two ways to leave the Amishone is through life and the other through death. When Saloma Miller Furlongs father dies during her first semester at Smith College, she returns to the Amish community she had left twenty four years earlier to attend his funeral. Her journey home prompts a flood of memories. Now a mother with grown children of her own, Furlong recalls her painful childhood in a family defined by her fathers mental illness, her brothers brutality, her mothers frustration, and the austere traditions of the Amishtraditions Furlong struggled to accept for years before making the difficult decision to leave the community. In this personal and moving memoir, Furlong traces the genesis of her desire for freedom and education and chronicles her conflicted quest for independence. Eloquently told, Why I Left the Amish is a revealing portrait of life withinand withoutthis frequently misunderstood community.

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