



The Highland Bookies
will review

The Rapture of Canaan
by
Sheri Reynolds

Wednesday, March 3
10:30 a.m.

at the home of Judy Bush
5045 Bur Oak Lane

805-7043 regrets only

The Rapture of Canaan by Sheri Reynolds

Name	Grade	Comments
★ Nora Ruppert	A	I loved this book - the insight into "Group Think" & how cults work. I thought Reynolds did a great job of explaining the mentality that keeps people entrapped & how the human spirit triumphs anyways .
★ Sheryl Davidsen	A	I really enjoyed this book. It was hard to put it down. I grieved for the community under the rule of this horrible Grandfather but rejoiced in love of Nura's love for the world outside & her child Canaan.
★ Jan Lewallen	A	I loved this book, but not sure why! I loved her writing style! I was able to read as a 3rd party & not get involved. I could stay interested - tried to ignore how "Grandpa" was like my own dad!
★ Anne Pinkerton	A	Couldn't put it down. Fascinated and repulsed at the same time. Could not stand the mind-numbing, blind devotion to the tyrant Grandfather. Wanted to SLAP these people!
Martha Boon ★	B-	Great book & discuss. Very intriguing to read, but I didn't like the cruelty, unforgiving, loveless society that they lived in, in the name of religion.
Judy Bush ★	A	I enjoyed the story - thought the plot was cleverly told. It made me think about my own beliefs and why I do things.

The Rapture of Canaan by Sheri Reynolds

<i>Name</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Diane Davis 	A	

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Sheri Reynolds

BOOKSHELF

[A Gracious Plenty](#) (1997)
[The Rapture of Canaan](#) (1996)
[Bitterroot Landing](#) (1994)

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Literary Specialty: Literary fiction

The Score: Three books, including the number one bestseller *The Rapture of Canaan*

Date of Birth: August 19, 1967

Place of Birth: Conway, South Carolina

Education: Davidson College, A.B., 1989; Virginia Commonwealth University, M.F.A., 1992

A Tireless Self-Promoter She's Not: Reynolds told *USA Today*, "I have never wanted to be someone in the limelight. If I could picture (being) on *Oprah*, it would be under the couch, not on it."

MEET THE AUTHOR

Acclaimed novelist Sheri Reynolds once gave her avocational interests as saints' lives, medieval visionaries, and *Star Trek*. Certainly, Reynolds's study of religious figures has informed her stories of spiritual seekers who are often shunned by their communities (and, while hardly an outcast, Captain Kirk was also a seeker of sorts). Grounding her work in the contemporary American South, Reynolds has created a gallery of soulful, brave heroines who discover sacred territory in the natural world (*Bitterroot Landing*), in everyday miracles (*The Rapture of Canaan*), and in the world of the dead (*A Gracious Plenty*).

Sheri Reynolds grew up on a farm in rural South Carolina. She was a teenager when she began writing *Bitterroot Landing*, winning virtually every award in her high school. After receiving a degree in English from Davidson College, Reynolds earned her master's degree in creative writing from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1992. Two years later, she published *Bitterroot Landing*, a *San Francisco Chronicle* bestseller.

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Reynolds's sophomore novel, *The Rapture of Canaan*, won admiring reviews but its sales were lackluster--that is, until Oprah Winfrey selected it for her book club and sent it shooting to the top of the bestseller lists. Reynolds, who has been a college instructor since 1992, currently teaches literature and writing at Mary Old Dominion University. She lives in Norfolk, Virginia.

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