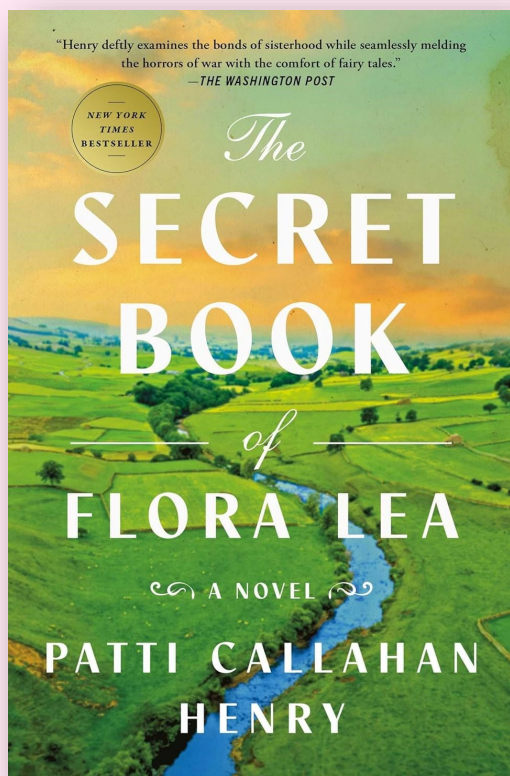


Le Coeur de l'Artiste



BOOK REVIEWS, ARTISTIC CRAFT, JOINING OF CREATIVE MINDS

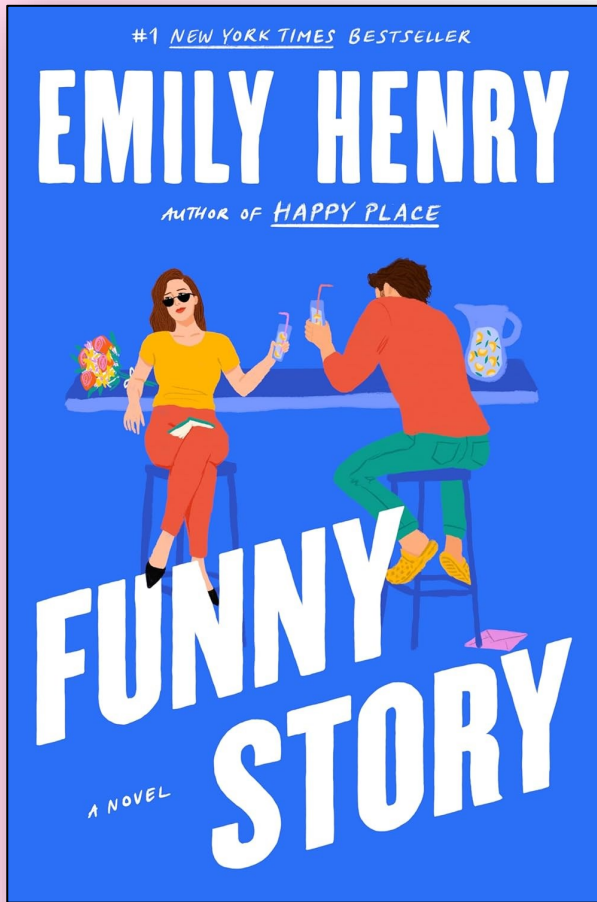
FEBRUARY
2025



“Not so long ago and not so far away, there was once, and still is, an invisible place that is right here beside us.” Is the start of a story within a story. One that lasts between years of strife and victory, love and lost, death and life. But better said by Henry...”I desired to tell a tale in a mystical landscape that echoed with the enchantment of storytelling, a story of sisterly bonds, and first naïve love, of innocence, loss, and maintaining hope against all odds...to tell a tale that might ring with these words by Mary Oliver: “Said the river: image everything you can imagine, then keep on going.”

The Secret Book of Flora Lea will emotionally impact each reader who picks it to read. It begins with a story about the Pied Piper program- Britain’s plan of evacuating children out of England to safe areas where they may survive the war. Two girls are evacuated to Oxford—a place Hitler said he wouldn’t bomb because he wanted to keep it—and housed with a woman who takes them in. The oldest girl is a storyteller, loving fairy tales of wonder and adventure. It is when the younger girl comes up missing that the story takes and revolves around a tale told by the older girl, helping the young girl’s fear. Whisperwood. The story travels years in memory and jumps continents until it finally returns to heal loss and pain. I couldn’t put it down until it was finished. The story remained with me for days after reading it. I would definitely recommend it to anyone who loves stories like I do.

[BUY](#)



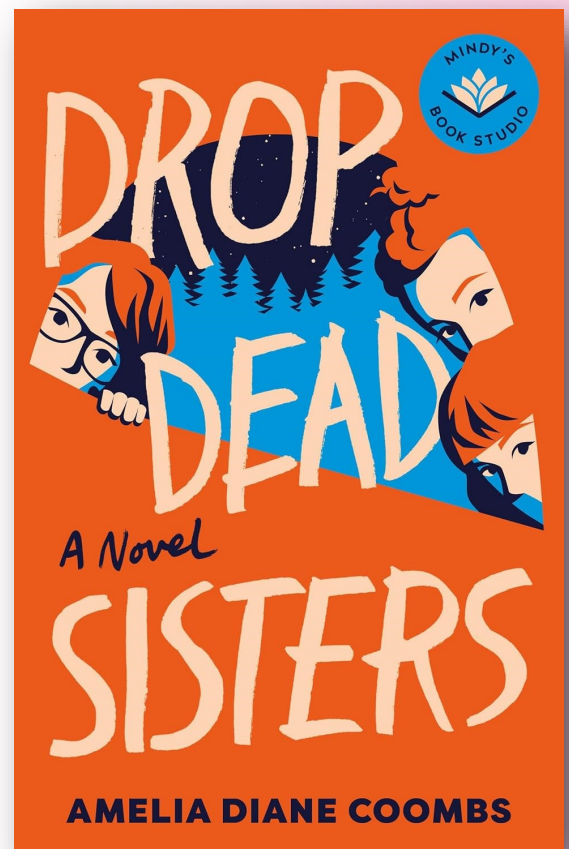
“Things go smoother if you don’t let people get a rise of our you...If you give them control over how you feel, they’ll always use it.”

This novel lives up to its title. And its premise is as convoluted as in finding love: Dumped by her fiancé right before the wedding, Daphne is forced to leave what she thought would be she and Peter’s home of domestic happiness. Having nowhere to go, she ends up becoming the roommate of the woman Peter left her for—already quite a rub. And, as we can guess, she and this new roommate, Miles, while working with their relationship griefs, find solace in each other. Add to this that Daphne is a children’s librarian with relationship issues with her parents. This is a joyful story. Not because the subject is joyful but because watching Daphne and Miles work on their relationship issues feels real and relatable. Also, isn’t it when we look back on what happened to us that we can find joy and laughter in the situation? **It’s definitely, a February read for the love of all that isn’t just a cherub shooting an arrow.**

[BUY](#)

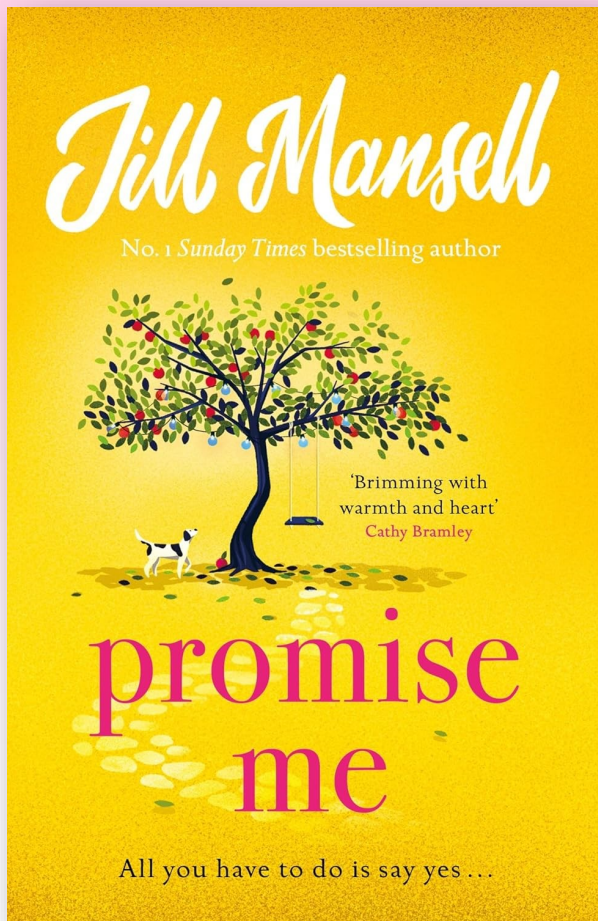
“Sisters. They’re the worst. Even when they’re helping you avoid jail for an accidental murder.”

“The worst kind of small talk is with family, the people you should be able to connect with.” So where does the author place Remi, the protagonist, in this story? On a camping trip out in the woods with family. The youngest sister, with two very successful, competent sisters, she feels less than in appearance, intellect, and placement in the family. It’s when she thinks that she killed someone that the sisters begin to bond. Have that dead body disappear, and now you don’t have a murder mystery but a unthreading of misunderstandings on the nature of family. Even more, the misperception we place upon others thinking WE are so much different. This is another book of fun and joy for February. Each and every family member is a character in personality, and eccentricity. You will probably recognize many of your own family members. Take February off for enjoyment with JOY as the reading fulfillment.



[BUY](#)

KINDLE UNLIMITED



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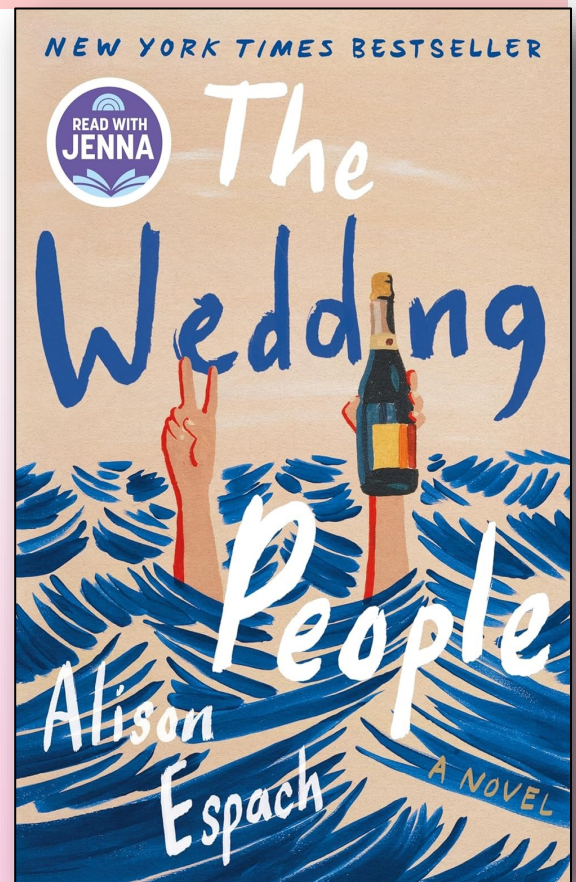
“Come and live with me on a friends-only basis,’ he said evenly. ‘And when I die, you will inherit everything. Walton House will be all yours.”

When I visited the Cotswolds in England, I jealously wondered what it would be like to live there. Mansell gives me a good idea in her feel-good, wonderful book *Promise Me*. Having lost her job as a caretaker and given notice by her landlord, Lou goes to visit a friend and ends up staying, having been employed by a wonderful curmudgeon of a character, Edgar. Edgar has trouble keeping personnel and promises Lou is told that if she stays to take care of him (he seems to have only been able to get along civilly with her), he will leave his mansion Walton House to her. Lou takes the deal but with only a half-serious consideration that the house will be hers one day. If you have visited the Cotswolds, then you will appreciate how wonderfully Mansell captures the atmosphere and essence of this setting and its populace. The novel is full of wonderful characters. Add in a wonderful love story subplot. **Now you have a read that has you begging for more as you turn to the last page.**

“This is the most important week of my life,” the bride said. “Same,” Phoebe says.”

Where did Espach come up with this idea? Lila is put into a hotel for a huge wedding party, and other woman is also a guest of the hotel, Phoebe, who was left by her husband for a younger woman and who checked into the hotel to kill herself. Dang! This is a story of contrasts. Lila seems to have everything new, wonderful, and perfect in front of her, while Phoebe feels like, without her husband, there is no reason to go on. The balance of the wedding guests makes a perfect reception to the question of: What happens when these two women meet? I was in utter delight-mode reading the story. Wondering the full time how the author was going to come to a happy ending. **The author finds just the right way to end the book whereby you sigh with relief and happiness when closing this book to pick up another one she has written.**

[BUY](#)



"Fans of Marilyn Simon Rothstein will devour this one. A fun and relatable debut."
-ROCHELLE WEINSTEIN, USA Today Bestselling author of *When We Let Go*

THE PERFECT LAUGH OUT LOUD DRAMEDY

AND THEN THERE'S MARGARET...

A NOVEL



"You can love your
mother-in-law,
doesn't mean you have
to like her..."



CAROLYN CLARKE

"But, somehow, out of all the protective mothers out there who would've embraced a relationship with their new daughter-in-law, I'd ended up with a mother-in-law more reminiscent of Cruella De Vil."

I, personally, was one of the lucky ones. I had a great mother-in-law (may she rest in peace) who embraced me as her daughter-in-law and strived to form me to be the best one possible. That's why this book is, at times, definitely laugh-out-loud-- because so many moments were relatable....even for the most perfect daughters-in-law out there.

"While studies have shown that living with a destructive force such as a mother-in-law is bad for your health, causing high blood pressure and diabetes. Two hens cannot share a house. This will kill me. I will die."

Whether you have a mother-in-law and you are happy or being terrorized, this book is a **great weekend read**. Get a **glass of wine**—the protagonist does—lots of wine—as Clarke imparts Allison's woes and funny encounters to an insightful resolution.

KINDLE UNLIMITED



All reviews presented in Le Coeur de l'Artiste are solely the views of the editor. No monies were received for giving the review.

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