



The Printed Letter Bookshop

Katherine Reay

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Amid literature and lattes, three women come together and find that sharing one's journey with best friends makes life richer.

When attorney Madeline Carter inherits her aunt's bookstore in a small town north of Chicago, she plans to sell it and add the proceeds to her nonexistent "investment portfolio." But plans change when Madeline discovers the store isn't making money and she gets passed over for promotion at her firm. She quits in protest, takes the train north, and decides to work at the store to prep it for sale. Madeline soon finds herself at odds with employees Jessica and Courtney; when she also finds herself attracted to an affianced man, it only confuses the entire situation.

After blowing up her marriage two years earlier, Jessica has found solace working at the bookstore and a kindred spirit within its owner, Maddie Cullen. But when Maddie dies and her niece, Madeline, barges in like a bulldozer, Jessica pushes at the new owner in every way--until she trips over common ground. Soon the women are delving into online dating and fashion makeovers, and Jessica feels the pull to rediscover her art, a love she thought long behind her.

After a night of bad decisions leaves the store in peril, Courtney arrives and tries to save the day. While she, too, found sanctuary in the little bookstore, she knows it's under-insured, in the red, and will never survive. When she discovers her teenage daughter has played a part in vandalizing the store, Courtney taps into strength she didn't know existed--or had long forgotten. The quietest of the three, she steps up and finds a way to save her family, the store, and the precious friendships that have grown within it.

The Printed Letter Bookshop is the story of friends who find each other--and themselves--in a place none of them ever expected.

The Printed Letter Bookshop Details

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Author : Katherine Reay

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Martha says

If you are a book lover, a book that features other book lovers warms your heart. This book is totally that way.

The author takes a story of friendship surrounding books that will make you wish the bookstore truly exists somewhere. One thing that is unique about this story is that none of the characters have it "all together".

They have messed up, some more than others. They were not really destined to be friends, until life throws them together.

Love, forgiveness and finding what is truly important in life are the themes of this novel. It is published as Christian fiction, but it is more for the thread of hope, love and forgiveness throughout the novel than for sermons, bible verses and quotes.

I found myself wanting to highlight portions of the novel and remember what was said. I would highly recommend it.

I obtained this book through the publisher and NetGalley. The opinions contained herein are my own.

Miki Mackennedy says

The Printed Letter Bookshop by Katherine Reay is the story of three women drawn together after the death of the owner of the bookshop. Each woman is trying to find her place in the work with the bookshop at their center.

Madeline's aunt and name sake dies and leaves her The Printed Letter Bookshop right as her planned future seems to dissolve around her. Janet, the divorcee, is left to figure out how to move on from the wreckage she created in her life and marriage. Claire is feeling middle-aged and irrelevant. They each manage to find their way with the support of their deceased friend and each other.

It was a sweet, light read. The author also gave the patrons of the bookstore their unique identities and recommendations.

I do wish that the characters had developed a little more.

I received an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for my honest opinion.

Jamie says

Reay's best book and I love her books. This one was fabulous and when I wasn't reading it, I was thinking about it. I absolutely loved it! Go get it right now!

(Thank you to the publisher and Netgalley. Although I'm buying a copy for my shelf too)

Ana says

When it comes to bookish things – characters who are readers, writers, or publishers; classics retellings; a real-life author's fictionalized story – I pretty much read any genre. When it comes to contemporary romance novels, there has to be something more than family drama or the love story to draw me in: a cosy little bookshop is one of those things!

However, the story just was not gripping! There were things that I anticipated from the opening chapters, which were soon confirmed: the will, the love interest (a quasi-meet-cute at your aunt's funeral does make for a creepy relationship start in my books), what is going to happen with the bookshop. At first, I didn't like any of the three female characters, particularly Janet, and although Claire and Madeline warmed up to me, it wasn't enough to keep me engaged. I also couldn't buy into Maddie's - Madeline's aunt - blind love for her niece...

Unfortunately, this meant that I couldn't continue with the novel. It was indeed unfortunate, as from the description it looked like a charming bookish read, but it simply wasn't for me.

If you are looking for a novel that portrays female friendship in a Hallmark type of setting and has plenty of book-related treats, this is a handy pick.

*Thanks to NetGalley & Thomas Nelson for the opportunity to read a digital ARC in exchange for an honest review. ***The Printed Letter Bookshop*** RELEASES MAY 14, 2019.*

Hélène Louise says

This story is the kind I love to read : a story about ordinary people, meeting in special circumstances which will have a great impact on their lives.

The premises were good, a young woman who inherits a lovely bookshop where two older ladies still work after the recent death of a beloved aunt - beloved but estranged since a dramatic quarrel between her and the young woman's father, the deceased own brother.

There are some mysteries: why this woman who seems to have been an angel, worshipped by all the town, has reacted so violently for money? Why one of the other women working in the shop is being violently spurned by all her family and all the town after her divorce?

There are also some predictable developments: a romance, friendships, revelations about the aforementioned mysteries.

Theoretically I could have loved this story.

But at the third I decided to stop reading.

At the third of the book the mysteries were already stretching too thin: There were hints that the divorced woman has been cheating on her husband but she's treated by absolutely everybody like she had committed infanticide! The deceased aunt is depicted as so perfect (too perfect, I was beginning to find her insufferable) that the fault was probably on the brother side. The expected friendship and romance were still keeping me

waiting.

Those promised developments were still at their very beginnings, as if the author thought that waiting for them would improve the reading experience.

It didn't.

Above all, I still wasn't interested in the story, even putting aside all this grating narrative tricks. I wasn't absolutely bored, but nearly so. I hadn't connected with any of the characters and couldn't care less about their futur. I was reading half-heartedly, hoping for some sparkle, any sparkle.

To be honest it wasn't the author's fault, as she took many pains to depict all the characters, with many details that I usually crave in this kind of story. She was also very enthusiastic about books, giving various references. But all this efforts were in vain, the story remained for me tasteless, bland, flat. The characters weren't endearing, there wasn't the least tiny hint of humour and I was getting annoyed by the insistence of concealing those mysteries like the Holy Grail while fantasising upon the bookshop and Wondrous Maggy (the late aunt) (too much of a good thing is nauseating, yes, yes even bookshop, perfect old dead lady and books' lovers).

In the end it wasn't a read for me. Dull and excruciatingly lacking brillancy. Nothing like my beloved Victoria Clayton's books, alas.

(I thank Netgalley and Thomas Nelson--FICTION for sending me the ARC in exchange for my honest review)

Nora St Laurent says

All bookish people will love this story. It's fun, intriguing, has a mystery and a splash of romance. It takes place in The Printed Letter Book Shop a place I'd love to hang out in and work at. The author does a brilliant job of placing readers inside the shop as the customer and then as an employee/owner of the store.

Maddie is the founder and creator of the shop, Janet was an artist and put up inviting window and end cap displays. Claire was great at running the business end of things. Madeline (Maddie's name sake) just inherited this special book store that the community embraced and adored. They didn't want to see it close.

Here's a peek at the store, Claire asks her customer, "Have you read The Secret Garden?" "Too long ago to remember it."...Claire opened the book and said, "Mary Lennox begins her journey in a new and unfamiliar land, but makes her mark on it. She transforms it and reviews the people around her as well as herself. She blossoms...And when you're finished come back, we'll talk some more."

I love that the author invites the reader into this special place and the reader is also on the receiving end of book recommendations, where they describe books, give quotes from books and talk about books Maddie has recommended to the three people who run the book store, Janet, Claire and Madeline. Each list was personally handpicked by Maddie herself and given to each of them after her death by her attorney Greg Frankel.

The author states, "Maddie's list to each woman was a love letter – so I'll let Janet, Claire, and Madeline keep them private. On the other hand, I can't help giving a peek behind the curtain...." .Quote from book,

Madeline says, ...”I remember Aunt Maddie saying you could lose yourself in a book and, paradoxically, find yourself as well.”

Madeline was a lawyer in a prestigious firm and worked hard to hopefully make partner. She didn’t want anything to do with this book business. It was her Aunt’s thing. But Madeline’s life takes a sharp turn into an unexpected zone and she finds herself getting to know her Aunt Maddie and her family in ways she never thought possible. It changes the way she looked at her Aunt, parents and herself. She begins to question what’s important in life.

All three women realize that The Printed Letter Bookshop is more than a book store it’s a place where they can bloom and grow in friendship and in healing for themselves and the community. Things change for these three women as their friendship develops and they start to trust each other.

I had a hard time getting into this book at first because it seemed slow and it started off at a funeral. The author shows the funeral from all three women’s perspective Janet, Claire and then Madeline. It was a little confusing until I got my bearings as to who was who and how it related to the scheme of things. The author clearly labels the chapters, so you know who is talking.

At the surface I thought maybe this story was just going to be pure fluff and fun being in the book store sharing favorite books and book quotes but once I got my bearings the author takes readers deeper.

I was amazed at what each character had to deal with and how natural the spiritual thread was intertwined throughout the story and the trials, healing and forgiveness. It choked me up in parts. The author naturally lets the light shine in the dark places. Showing that sometimes it’s harder to forgive yourself and at other times it’s harder to forgive what’s been done to you. These ladies give each other the grace to take one step at a time as they recapture their lives, their hopes, dreams, worth and loves.

I highly recommend this book as a book club pick. It’s a rich story with characters you care about and all the things we love about books. This was the first novel I’ve read by this author it won’t be the last. This book is a keeper.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received a complimentary copy of this book from the Publisher. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission’s 16 CFR, Part 255 “Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising”

Nora St. Laurent

TBCN Where Book Fun Begins! www.bookfun.org

The Book Club Network blog www.psalm516.blogspot.com

Book Fun Magazine <https://www.bookfun.org/page/past-iss...>

Rachel McMillan says

From Endorsement:

The Printed Letter Bookshop is a softly elegant and invitingly intricate ode to books and the power of their communal solace. With the charm and insight of Nina George and the sheer reckless book love of Jenny Colgan, The Printed Letter Bookshop enfolds the reader in a welcome literary embrace. Reay's natural talent of putting the reader at ease in her fictional world is evident from the first page. But the story is also deceptively accessible, for the moment you fall into its continued spell, you are confronted by a mature narrative that allows three remarkably different women to become the unlikely heroines of their own stories.

Patti Whitson Stephenson says

I enjoy Katherine Reay's books and always look forward to reading her newest story. This one did not disappoint me. The setting of the bookstore is perfect—you have to love a bookstore that's a hub of a small town! But it's the characters that drive this storyline and give this book its heart.

The book opens with the funeral service of Maddie, the much-cherished owner of the bookstore. Although we don't actually meet Maddie in this book, we get to know her by the positive impact she left on the lives of those who loved her. Maddie unexpectedly leaves the bookstore to her niece, Madeline, a big-city attorney with plans for the future that do not include running a bookstore. Madeline loved her aunt, but has every intention of selling the bookstore. And that's where this heart-touching story really begins.

We view this story through the eyes of three women: Madeline, Claire, and Janet. Each one has a struggle or problem to solve in her life. As the three work together in the bookstore, strong friendships are developed. As Maddie's influence lives on through them, broken hearts are healed and new hope is given.

This is the type of Christian fiction I love best: An inspirational, well-written story about real-life situations combined with the themes of faith, hope, and love. Give this book a try. I think you'll love it, too.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher. All opinions are my own.

Deborah J. Nobles says

Reading a story about the power of books is so much fun. Madeline inherits her estranged aunt's failing bookshop. Janet and Claire are Aunt Maddie's loyal friends and employees. The three women attempt to overcome their grief, disappointments and heartaches to find common ground over their love of books and Maddie. Madeline finds the shop to be so much more than a "just a bookstore". She learns how the community comes together in the shop to support and nurture each other (oh, and maybe buy a book!). This story demonstrates how books can teach people so much about themselves and others in a moving and profound way.

Anitajt says

This book is a must read.

The strong characters Madeline, Janet and Claire felt like old friends retelling their story to me about how, what and why things happened.

It revolves around the The Printed Letter Book Shop, when you start reading it'll become clear as to why the

shopped is so called. The three women are all so different but help each other through they're personal problems, the matriarch who brought them all together was a special lady and knew they would achieve wonderful things. This was her legacy to them. Very cleverly written.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Thomas Nelson through NetGalley. Opinions expressed in this review are completely my own.

Penny says

The Printed Letter Bookshop is a beautiful story of love, loss, misunderstanding, friendship, and joy. I'd love to have a bookshop like this one in my neighborhood. The store itself is an amazing character. The two ladies who work in the shop create the perfect tension to carry the story through to the end. I enjoyed watching Maddie grow into the person her aunt knew she could be. And I love the gardener. He's a sweetheart. Katherine Reay's books always captivate me, this one was no exception. She adds in so many wonderful literary references. This is definitely a story for book lovers. It would make a wonderful gift for the avid reader. I received a complimentary copy of this book from Thomas Nelson through NetGalley. Opinions expressed in this review are completely my own.

Sara Jo says

As an avid book lover, any story about a bookshop always catches my eye and this one did not disappoint. It's a lovely tale of 3 women in different stages of life, all coming to terms with changes that occur after the death of a loved one. Madeline seemed very cold and distant, but I quickly warmed up to her. Claire seemed a bit of a mousy doormat, but soon found her place. Janet was the odd one to me as she was very angry and rude in the beginning and her development seemed more sudden than the others. The three become friends over the course of the book in a way that felt more like siblings in a way and I loved the teasing and frank speech along with the encouragement. There were a few side plots involving each woman and I felt that Claire and Janet received more of the lion's share of detail here, but Madeline's story was fairly important to the entire plot of the book.

I also enjoyed that this was a modern day story with heartbreak and romance that involved God without preaching scripture. All in all, I started reading this at bedtime just to relax and ended up finishing it in one sitting. I love that the author is obviously an avid reader and graciously provides us a list of all the novels mentioned at the end! A must read for anyone who loves books and reading.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Thomas Nelson through NetGalley. Opinions expressed in this review are completely my own.

Anita Ojeda says

Katherine Reay's latest masterpiece is like soaking in a hot tub and then stretching out on the massage table. You want it to never end, although at times its honesty makes you uncomfortable. Sometimes, you turn the page and bump into yourself as words and thoughts spill out of Madeline, Janet, and Claire.

It's not often that a book serves as both entertainment and springboard for soul searching, but The Printed

Letter Bookshop qualifies. The story takes us into the angst of a young woman who unexpectedly inherits her Aunt Maddie's bookstore—an aunt Madeline hasn't had a lot of contact with since that fateful summer when something happened between her dad and his sister.

Along with the bookstore, Madeline inherits the shop's two employees. Janet, a bitter divorcée who can't forgive herself and whose secret estranges her from her adult children. Claire, the consummate stay-at-home-mom who has to go back to work to help ends meet and suddenly can't figure out how to repair the relationship with her oldest daughter.

The fourth character, Maddie Carter, leaves a legacy in the town the extends beyond the walls of her bookstore. Madeline, Janet, and Claire each seek to discover how Maddie's legacy will shape her future. An unlikely alliance turns into a friendship as the three women Maddie cared for face their pasts, their dreams, and their futures.

Ultimately, books reveal truth about us, and Reay's masterpiece is no different. Book lovers will love this book—not just because of the references to other masterpieces, but because it affirms within the reader the power of story to change and heal.

Emilee says

My first book of 2019 was a winner! I thoroughly enjoyed Janet, Claire and Madeline's stories. I was deeply touched by these characters and their relationships. I hated for this book to end. Katherine Reay did a beautiful job with this novel.

I won an Advance Reader's Copy. All opinions are my own.

Hannah says

Okay, so this is about three women and a bookshop...how much better does it get? Oh, did I say troubled bookshop and troubled ladies? Yep. This is a slow unfolding of everything that's going on, and plenty of small-town intrigue going on as well. Broken relationships, troubled kids, and so on. Can working together around the books, trying to save the bookstore, do anything to turn these women's lives around?

This one's more of a literary fiction than her previous ones have been, and the faith message is very subtle, but present: true peace is only found in God, not in an affair or in a bottle of wine. General market readers would probably hardly even notice it.

I will say a word of caution about the books quoted. Unlike *Dear Mr. Knightley*, which was the reason I discovered a few more clean authors (notably Anne Perry's mysteries), this book is about a bookstore and there are many, many books mentioned and/or discussed. Some are clean and some aren't (Lolita, etc). So for the younger readers out there, I'd advise checking any reading list with an adult or a more mature friend before making out a want-to-read list.

Content: drinking, books mentioned in passing that have content in them

Thanks to the publisher and netgalley for a free ebook. A positive review was not required.
