



The Wednesday Daughters: A Novel

By Meg Waite Clayton

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In the tradition of Kristin Hannah and Karen Joy Fowler, Meg Waite Clayton, bestselling author of *The Wednesday Sisters*, returns with an enthralling new novel of mothers, daughters, and the secrets and dreams passed down through generations.

It is early evening when Hope Tantry arrives at the small cottage in England's pastoral Lake District where her mother, Ally, spent the last years of her life. Ally—one of a close-knit group of women who called themselves the Wednesday Sisters—had used the cottage as a writer's retreat while she worked on her unpublished biography of Beatrix Potter, yet Hope knows little about her mother's time there. Traveling with Hope are friends Anna Page and Julie, first introduced as little girls in *The Wednesday Sisters*, now grown women grappling with issues of a different era. They've come to help Hope sort through her mother's personal effects, yet what they find is a tangled family history—one steeped in Lake District lore.

Hope finds a stack of Ally's old notebooks tucked away in a hidden drawer, all written in a mysterious code. As she, Julie, and Anna Page try to decipher Ally's writings—the reason for their encryption, their possible connection to the Potter manuscript—they are forced to confront their own personal struggles: Hope's doubts about her marriage, Julie's grief over losing her twin sister, Anna Page's fear of commitment in relationships. And as the real reason for Ally's stay in England comes to light, Hope, Julie, and Anna Page reach a new understanding about the enduring bonds of family, the unwavering strength of love, and the inescapable pull of the past.

Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Reader's Circle for author chats and more.

“The present and the past intertwine beautifully and inevitably in Meg Waite Clayton's winning follow-up to *The Wednesday Sisters*. From the beguiling Lake District setting, to a completely charming (and spot-on) portrayal of Beatrix Potter, to the way the Wednesday daughters strive to unpuzzle both their own choices and their mothers' legacies, every layer of the novel delivers. *The Wednesday Daughters* is utterly rich and satisfying.”—**Paula McLain**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Paris Wife*

“A captivating novel about mothers and daughters, lifelong friendships, love affairs, betrayals, and redemption. Clayton transports us to the English Lake District, an area rich in literary history and romance, where her characters’ secrets unfold in ways both satisfying and surprising.”—**J. Courtney Sullivan**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Commencement*, *Maine*, and *The Engagements*

“Beautiful storytelling . . . [Meg Waite Clayton] delves deep into the human heart . . . and [will] keep you hanging on until the very last page is turned.”—**RT Book Reviews**

“*The Wednesday Daughters* is a bewitching escape of a novel. The characters became my beloved companions. I wanted it never to end.”—**Elin Hilderbrand**, author of *Beautiful Day*

“Heartwarming . . . filled with memorable characters.”—**Bookreporter**

Selected as Recommended Summer Reading by *Chicago Tribune* • *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* • *San Jose Mercury News*

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Editorial Review

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Clayton follows up her popular book-club selection *The Wednesday Sisters* (2008) with this story featuring the now-grown daughters of the women from the original novel's writing club. Ally's daughter, Hope—accompanied by the two other “Wednesday Daughters,” Anna Page and Julie—travels to England to clear out the Lake District cottage her mother used as a writing haven. The women discover a stash of Ally's old notebooks, which seem to be written in code. Why would Ally have needed to keep secret writings, and what is the connection to the project she was working on at the end of her life (a biography of Beatrix Potter)? Why did Ally feel drawn to travel all the way to England to write? As the women try to unravel the puzzles left behind for them, they confront their own secrets and longings, as well as tapping into the eccentric life of Beatrix Potter. Fans of the first novel will be interested to see how the family secrets come to light and just where Beatrix Potter comes into play. --Rebecca Vnuk

Review

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“Fans of *The Wednesday Sisters* will relish this new work, which intersperses captivating journal entries within its chapters and easily deserves to stand on its own. Given Clayton's vivid imagery and rich historical detail, readers will almost be able to see Beatrix and her husband rowing along the tarn at sunset.”—**Publishers Weekly**

“Charming, thoughtful and atmospheric in that way only Meg Waite Clayton can write, *The Wednesday Daughters* is a jewel of a book. It's told with a deep and lovely understanding of generational ties, and it celebrates what ultimately matters most. Fans of *The Wednesday Sisters* are going to fall in love all over again.”—**Sarah Addison Allen**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Peach Keeper*

“With delicate, precise strokes, Meg Waite Clayton illustrates and explores the intricate effect of the secrets we keep, even from those we love, in *The Wednesday Daughters*. This is the perfect novel for every mother, daughter, and sister to read, savor, and discuss over a pot of tea.”—**Melanie Benjamin**, *New York Times*

bestselling author of *The Aviator's Wife*

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About the Author

Meg Waite Clayton is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of four novels, including *The Wednesday Sisters* and *The Wednesday Daughters*. She was a finalist for the Bellwether Prize (now the PEN/Bellwether), and her novels have been translated into languages from German to Lithuanian to Chinese. She's also written essays and opinion pieces for the *Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times*, *Forbes*, *Writer's Digest*, *Runner's World*, and public radio.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Winston Nakashima:

This *The Wednesday Daughters: A Novel* book is not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is usually information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This particular *The Wednesday Daughters: A Novel* without we recognize teach the one who reading through it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry *The Wednesday Daughters: A Novel* can bring once you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even telephone. This *The Wednesday Daughters: A Novel* having very good arrangement in word in addition to layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

Carol Rodgers:

Reading a publication can be one of a lot of action that everyone in the world adores. Do you like reading book consequently. There are a lot of reasons why people enjoy it. First reading a book will give you a lot of new information. When you read a reserve you will get new information because book is one of several ways to share the information or perhaps their idea. Second, reading through a book will make you more imaginative. When you studying a book especially tale fantasy book the author will bring that you imagine the story how the figures do it anything. Third, you can share your knowledge to other folks. When you read this *The Wednesday Daughters: A Novel*, you are able to tells your family, friends and also soon about yours book. Your knowledge can inspire the mediocre, make them reading a guide.

Marcella Aragon:

Reading a reserve tends to be new life style on this era globalization. With examining you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world can easily share their idea. Publications can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their very own reader with their story or even their experience. Not only situation that share in the textbooks. But also they write about the data about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors in this world always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write for their book. One of them is this

The Wednesday Daughters: A Novel.

Florence Williams:

The reason why? Because this The Wednesday Daughters: A Novel is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap it but latter it will zap you with the secret that inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who have write the book in such incredible way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book have such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking way. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I were being you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

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