



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of women who called themselves the Wednesday Sisters—had used the cottage as a writer's retreat while she worked on her unpublished biography of Beatrix Potter, yet Hope knows little about her mother's time there.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:

Patricia Vasquez:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open as well as read a book titled *The Wednesday Daughters: A Novel*? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have various other opinion?

Cheryl Phelps:

What do you with regards to book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material if you want something to explain what the one you have problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy person? If you don't have spare time to try and do others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? All people has many questions above. They should answer that question since just their can do that. It said that about guide. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is appropriate. Because start from on jardín de infancia until university need that *The Wednesday Daughters: A Novel* to read.

Pamela Cole:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition details. Even you love *The Wednesday Daughters: A Novel*, you can enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

Beverly McClendon:

The Wednesday Daughters: A Novel can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing The Wednesday Daughters: A Novel however doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource info that maybe you can be among it. This great information could drawn you into brand new stage of crucial imagining.

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