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Everything We Keep: A Novel



Synopsis

Sous chef Aimee Tierney has the perfect recipe for the perfect life: marry her childhood sweetheart, raise a family, and buy out her parents' restaurant. But when her fiancé, James Donato, vanishes in a boating accident, her well-baked future is swept out to sea. Instead of walking down the aisle on their wedding day, Aimee is at James's funeral - a funeral that leaves her more unsettled than at peace. As Aimee struggles to reconstruct her life, she delves deeper into James's disappearance. What she uncovers is an ocean of secrets that make her question everything about the life they built together. And just below the surface is a truth that may set Aimee free...or shatter her forever. A luminous debut with unexpected twists, *Everything We Keep* explores the devastation of loss, the euphoria of finding love again, and the pulse-racing repercussions of discovering the truth about the ones we hold dear and the lengths they will go to protect us.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Finally have the time to review this book properly. If you want the short version, this is amazing fiction with so many twists and turns you'll never see the big ones coming. I actually tweeted the author while I was reading, "every time I think I know where this book is going, you pull the rug out!" This results in an usually fast-paced story (at least for women's fiction) of a woman struggling to overcome the grief of losing her childhood sweetheart - who was meant to be her husband - and figure out who she is in the wake of such terrible tragedy. But the kicker is all may not be as it seems. *Everything We Keep* is also a bit of a mystery novel, and it's one particularly large looming

question that keeps the characters and the readers guessing. Speaking of characters, Kerry's cast is incredibly well-developed and they feel like real people with virtues, weaknesses and plausible back story. She even made me fall in love with two men at the same time...which I knew wasn't going to end well for me! Add to that settings so vivid I want to pack up and live there and you've got an amazing story. I also want to say something about the epilogue because so many people have cited it as a reason for giving the book a low rating. No spoilers, don't worry. A) No matter what happens in the epilogue, that alone shouldn't be a reason to trash and book if you otherwise enjoyed it. B) This is the first book in a series, so you can't expect everything to be neatly tied up. C) Women's fiction is different from romance in that it doesn't require a happily ever after. You may still get one, but life is complex, and so fiction should be as well. Kudos to Kerry for an incredible debut that has made me a life-long fan.

What an enjoyable story! A few plot twists I didn't see coming and an ending you won't forget. Well developed secondary characters make me want to read their stories too. I give it 4 stars out of 5 because the women are potty-mouths and the number of f-bombs increased as the story moved forward. By the last few chapters I was tired of it and wondered why this gifted author couldn't be more imaginative with their speech. That's really my only complaint, and anyone sensitive about this issue may wish to know before reading.

This review is written by Bob Boze on behalf of Truth About Books! I'm always pleased to give a good review: Especially when it comes on the heels of two, not so good, reviews. In this case, my review rating is not good; it's absolutely outstanding. If I could, I'd give Everything We Keep a 7 out of 5 rating. 5 for being very good, 6 for outstanding writing and, 7 because it's the authors first book. Yes, not only am I in love with this book, I've added it to my top three books list. Aimee Tierney is madly in love with her childhood sweetheart, James. They grew up together, he protected her at every turn and they became engaged. Just before the wedding, James must go on a business trip to Mexico. A trip that only his body returns from. So, instead of saying their vows, Aimee ends up burying James on their planned wedding day. Devastated, Aimee spends over a year refusing to accept James death and move on with her life. Adding to this are the strange messages from a psychic telling her that James is not dead. Pushed by her friends to at least start working on a life without James, she opens a specialty cafe. They also drag her kicking and screaming back into life beyond her home and the cafe. Here, she meets Ian, a photographer that she immediately develops

feelings for. Feelings that are certainly mirrored by Ian. But the feelings and messages that James is not dead, persist. Feelings and verification of his death that she must resolve if she is ever to move on. So, two years after his purported death, Ian joins her, as she travels to Mexico to find her fiancé, who she is now certain is not dead. As she and Ian search for James, and the truth; secrets from their past and James's family surface, along with her feelings for Ian and realization of what her life with James was really like. Everything We Keep not only has a unique plot, it is full of twists and turns that will keep you guessing, especially toward the end as she and Ian seek the truth in Mexico. It is also exceptionally well written with little to no errors (I think I found one), wonderful character development and an author who has mastered show, don't tell. An excellent novel that kept me up until 2:30 AM to find out how it ends. By the way, several people with bad reviews due to a lot of errors, poor editing and a love story with no mystery, must have read a different book than I did.

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