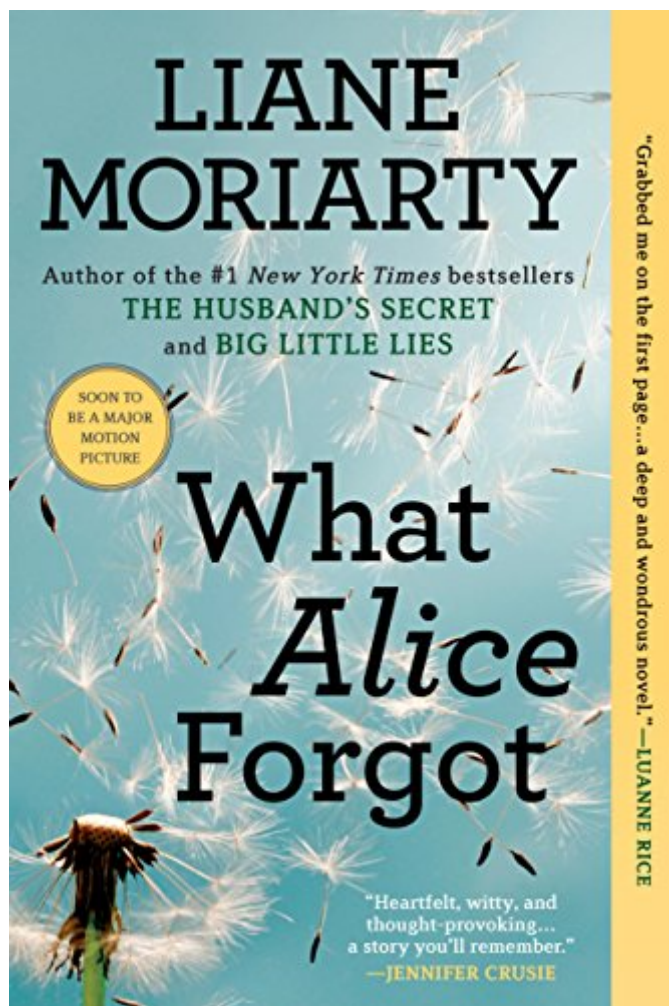


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What Alice Forgot



Synopsis

FROM THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES [®] BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE HUSBAND'S SECRET AND [®] A BIG LITTLE LIES. A [®] “cheerfully engaging” (Kirkus Reviews) [®] novel for anyone who’s ever asked herself, “How did I get here?” Alice Love is twenty-nine, crazy about her husband, and pregnant with her first child. So imagine Alice’s surprise when she comes to on the floor of a gym (a gym! She HATES the gym) and is whisked off to the hospital where she discovers the honeymoon is truly over • she’s getting divorced, she has three kids, and she’s actually 39 years old. Alice must reconstruct the events of a lost decade, and find out whether it’s possible to reconstruct her life at the same time. She has to figure out why her sister hardly talks to her, and how is it that she’s become one of those super skinny moms with really expensive clothes. Ultimately, Alice must discover whether forgetting is a blessing or a curse, and whether it’s possible to start over...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Which should probably tell you something. My neighbor recommended this one and I was a little hesitant at first because I normally read fantasy and sci-fi. I was immediately "sucked in" and couldn't walk away for the first eight chapters. I had to force myself to be responsible and productive... which didn't last long. It took me less than 24 hours to devour the entire thing. Alice, Elisabeth, and Frannie are so rich and complex they practically jump off the pages and join you in your living room. Between journal entries, letters, and memory flashbacks, these women become people you could see yourself meeting for coffee. I can't say I laughed, but I definitely sniffled with my eyes watering more than once. Happy sniffles, sad sniffles, "oh my dosh" sniffles... this book has them all. I hate reviews that contain spoilers, but if anyone actually reads mine I feel obligated to say this: If you are a woman that has struggled with getting pregnant, staying pregnant, or realizing you'll never have the chance to try... this is an incredibly emotional read. I suggest a large box of tissues and your favorite comfort food or drink close at hand. It was well worth it. This book has left me a little sadder, a little wiser, a little more grateful, and a lot more appreciative of the blessings that I have rather than concentrating on the ones that I don't. Read it. You won't be disappointed.

Move over, Sophie Kinsella -- Liane Moriarty is my new favorite author. The search engine recommended this book to me in comparison to my book, *Gridley Girls*, so I ordered it. Thank you, , for bringing Liane Moriarty into my life! While I am wondering what rock I've been under (well, the rock of trying to launch my first book while recovering from Chronic Lyme Disease -- that rock!) to not have discovered Ms. Moriarty sooner, I am thrilled to have her books in my life now. *What Alice Forgot* is funny, tender and engaging. While I have no idea if the amnesia storyline is true to life, the rest of the family and friendship drama certainly is. To me, this story is similar to a time-travel fantasy and a Christmas Carol type of story where the protagonist gets a do-over and the ability to examine her life half-way through. The pacing kept me thinking about the book when I couldn't read and forced me to read it in two days. That is no small feat in my life. To steal a quote from Alice, "Busy, busy, busy". In my never to be humble opinion, you may disregard any of the negative reviews and snatch this book up immediately. Even though, as my cheapskate sister says, "It's more than \$2.99". Liane Moriarty successfully captures the lives of suburban women with children that apparently crosses cultural lines since this book is set in Sydney, Australia, but might as well be Sacramento or Minneapolis. For that reason alone, I was surprised that it was compared to *Gridley Girls* but once I read it, I not only understood the comparison, but was hugely flattered. When I grow up, I want to be Liane Moriarty. Ms. Moriarty, thank you for *What Alice Forgot*. I can't wait to read the rest of your books. ~ ~ *Gridley Girls: A Novel*

Very entertaining book. What a clever plot -10 years missing out of your life. Continually made me think what I would miss. Which decade would be the toughest to loose? Really enjoyed the characters and loved the happy ending.

Sometimes a writer can use multiple narratives and they work beautifully because all the characters are compelling and they are an integral part of the plot. I'm thinking here of "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr. Then there is "What Alice Forgot." True, a chick-lit book serves a purpose -- it is usually a pretty mindless read, good for the beach, and we are not expecting Pulitzer-Prize winning writing. As far as compulsive reading goes, "What Alice Forgot" is like movie popcorn; you just cannot stop gobbling the whole thing up. But ultimately, I felt unfulfilled. The main character, Alice Love, suffers memory loss after falling off her bike during a spinning class. Most of the book chronicles her memories of her life as a young bride and mother. She apparently had an intense friendship with a woman in her neighborhood --- was there a closeted attraction here? We are teased with a hint of this, but it is never followed through -- and it destroyed her blissfully happy marriage. Alices' memories are interspersed with journal entries from her sister about her problems conceiving a child, and letters by an elderly woman who was like a grandmother to both girls. These plot devices added nothing to the book and they really just irritated me. By the end of the book, I was waiting for the amnesia experience to make Alice realize how brittle and dislikable she had become in the ten years, have a catharsis, and go back to being the happy, loving person she had been. And that is exactly what happens. There's a little twist that threw me off, but all was well by the end. Predictable...but I guess you wouldn't want it any other way.

In true Moriarty fashion, she sucked me in. Great character development and I loved the storyline, and it left me wondering if this could really happen to a post head injury patient. A great read.

Very enjoyable read! Not only is it a book that once you start, you don't want to put down, but is also thought provoking. An engaging story with realistic characters, and one that makes you think about who you are, who you were and who you might become. Now I want to order her other books in hopes they will be just as engaging!

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