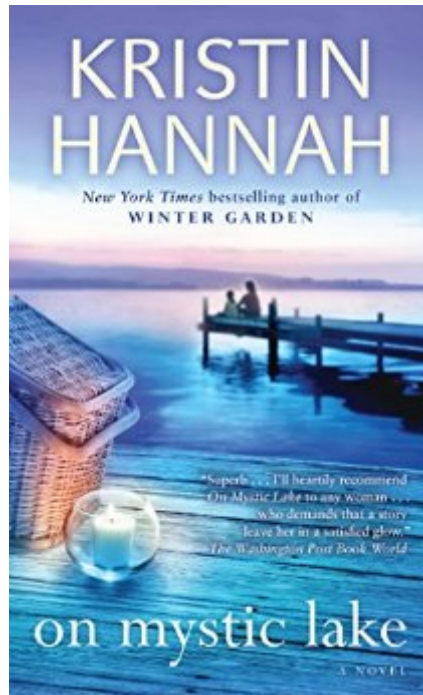


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On Mystic Lake (Ballantine Reader's Circle)



Synopsis

Kristin Hannah makes her hardcover debut with this poignant, tender, and true story of love, loss, passion, and the fragile threads that bind families together. Annie Colwater's only child has just left home for school abroad. On that same day, her husband of twenty years confesses that he's in love with a younger woman. Alone in the house that is no longer a home, Annie comes to the painful realization that for years she has been slowly disappearing. Lonely and afraid, she retreats to Mystic, the small Washington town where she grew up, hoping that there she can reclaim the woman she once was--the woman she is now desperate to become again. In Mystic, she is reunited with her first love, Nick Delacroix, a recent widower unable to cope with his grieving, too-silent six-year-old daughter, Izzie. Together, the three of them begin to heal, and, at last, Annie learns that she can love without losing herself. But just when she has found a second chance at happiness, her life is turned upside down again, and Annie must make a choice no woman should have to make. . . . On Mystic Lake is the story of one seemingly ordinary woman, but the novel speaks to all of us, to anyone who has ever had to choose between what is . . . and what could be. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

You don't know what you're missing if you've never read a book by Kristin Hannah, and *On Mystic Lake* is one of the absolute best books ever written. The characters come alive and endear themselves to your heart. Annie is down to earth and easy to read about. Izzie, the little girl who needs to find her way into the world again is precious and Nick is the type of character whom you wish you could jump into the book and give a hug to. *On Mystic Lake* is by no means "lite reading". The main character, Annie, is getting a divorce from her husband who claims to love another woman. Trying to come to grips with her failing marriage, Annie returns home to Mystic to spend some time with her father. There she meets up with her first love, Nick, who chose her best friend over her, breaking Annie's heart. It turns out that Nick's wife (Annie's old best friend) has died leaving Nick and his daughter Izzie devastated. When the three first get together, it's sort of like the blind leading the blind. They are all so hurt that it is hard to see who needs more help. But, Annie brings healing to Izzie's soul, the little girl mends Annie's heart, and a love rekindles between Nick and Annie. Still, things are not that easy, and a conflict makes the world harder in Mystic. Kristin Hannah is an amazingly gifted author and her talent shines in *On Mystic Lake*. Her descriptive writing will take you to another place- a little logging town in Washington where mist floats above the ground and life moves at a slower pace. This is a beautiful book about three healing souls who learn that bad things do happen but you can get around them. I'd recommend *On Mystic Lake* to anyone who enjoys putting down a book with a sense that the world is a wonderful place and they can do something to make it better.

Kristin Hannah has done it again. She is a master of taking the reader to beautiful places with interesting and often complex characters. Annie returns home to Mystic Lake after her husband of 20 years tells her that he wants a divorce because he's in love with another woman. Annie is a nurturer and is always there to take care of others, but in the meantime she has lost herself. During her stay in Mystic Lake she comes to know true love, finds out about herself, and helps a little girl who has lost her mommy understand that "it's going to be okay." The little girl, Izzy, will capture your heart and make you laugh and cry. Hannah keeps you waiting until the bitter end...the last few pages...to see how things tie up and if the ending will be happy. This book will not disappoint you.

This is the first book of Kristin Hannah's that I've read and it won't be the last. Her story of Annie Colwater is so realistic in this day and age of the modern woman. After the initial heartbreak, she tries to find who she truly is after so many years of acting the part she thought she was suppose to be for her husband. I'm glad the book doesn't go to the extreme of 'blaming' the husband for the

whole situation and instead has Annie discover for herself the direction she needs to take with her life. If you want an enjoyable reading with a little heartbreak, a few tears, and some strong emotions, you must read this book.

It is easy sometimes for readers to forget what a good book really is. It is easy sometimes for us to accept the complacency and mediocracy that pours from the publishing world in a torrent of so-called "bestsellers" and "best yet's" -- until a true voice with a marvelous story to tell sneaks in while nobody is looking. Kristin Hannah is just that voice; "On Mystic Lake" is just that story. It isn't an easy book to read. It deals with divorce, alcoholism, and suicide. The trials and travails of Annie, Nick, and Izzy-bear as they deal with these issues will have you crying and despairing as they muck their way through -- it will have you laughing and rejoicing when they triumph in the end. But this isn't a novel about issues and that's why it works. Their story captures your fancy on page one. It becomes a part of your heart by the end.

On 11/11, I endured the funeral of a very dear friend. As I approached the church, I noticed the sun breaking through the clouds, beaming down rays of light to shine down on the building where she lay inside, awaiting the eulogy to be given for her final goodbye. I thought my heart would break and I would never stop crying, even though I finally did. After the funeral, I stopped by my favorite bookstore and purchased four novels, two of which were written by Kristin Hannah. That evening, I made the mistake of starting to read ON MYSTIC LAKE. Because my eyelids were still swollen from the many tears I'd cried at the funeral and during the day, and my eyeballs felt like sandpaper was swiping over them every time I blinked, I thought it best to put the book down and finish reading it later. The next morning I found myself picking the novel up again. After I started to read. I couldn't stop until I'd read the rest of story, nor did I stop crying. I have to believe that Kristin Hannah has the finest talent to write the sweetest of love stories that I've ever had the pleasure to read in this novel. I have another one of her novels, but I don't dare start it right away. I need a break from the tears. KH had no trouble from the very beginning to capture of my attention. I felt every moment of Annie's heartache, as the description of the author's plot and characters was most excellent. If you want a genuine, heartfelt/heartbreaking/happy-ending love story, do this one. Just make sure you have a box of Kleen-x sitting close by. You'll need it.

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