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# The One That Got Away: A Novel



## Synopsis

Perfect for fans of Emily Giffin and Jennifer Weiner, this bright, funny debut from a fresh voice in fiction offers a delicious take on love, family, and what it means to build a home of one's own. Sarina Mahler thinks she has her life all nailed down: a growing architecture practice in Austin, Texas, and an any-day-now proposal from her loving boyfriend, Noah. She's well on her way to having the family she's hoped for since her mother's death ten years ago. But with Noah on a temporary assignment abroad and retired Olympic swimmer—and former flame—Eamon Roy back in town asking her to renovate his new fixer-upper, Sarina's life takes an unexpected turn. Eamon proves to be Sarina's dream client, someone who instinctively trusts every one of her choices—and Sarina is reminded of all the reasons she was first drawn to him back in the day. Suddenly her carefully planned future with Noah seems a little less than perfect. And when tragedy strikes, Sarina is left reeling. With her world completely upended, she is forced to question what she truly wants in life—and in love. Full of both humor and heartbreak, *The One That Got Away* is the story of one woman's discovery that, sometimes, life is what happens when you leave the blueprints behind.

Advance praise for *The One That Got Away* — "A warm, witty, and wise novel, *The One That Got Away* announces the arrival of a great new voice in fiction." —Emily Giffin, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The One and Only* — "Love can be complicated, and in *The One That Got Away*, Bethany Chase captures every nuanced beat of a conflicted heart. An authentic and warm voice infuses this story of humor, heartbreak, and home. While Sarina finds her way, we as readers might also find a way back to our own unique lives." —Patti Callahan Henry, New York Times bestselling author of *And Then I Found You* — "This perfectly paced story is full of fresh, engaging characters, but Chase's greatest accomplishment is Sarina Mahler. Sarina is so human, her inner world such a compelling mix of guarded and open-hearted, confident and faltering, that—through every loss, every funny moment, every blazing triumph—I felt completely with her and grateful to be there." —Marisa de los Santos, New York Times bestselling author of *Falling Together* — "[A] sparkling debut [that] packs serious emotional punches . . . This utterly enjoyable romance will have readers swooning, sobbing, and eagerly anticipating Chase's next book." —Kirkus Reviews — "Bethany Chase is utterly charming and writes about loss with wisdom and heart." —Allie Larkin, author of *Why Can't I Be You* — "Don't let this one get away: Chase's debut is fun, romantic, steamy, and populated with heartfelt characters—'not-to-miss delicious escapism!" —L. Alison Heller, author of *The Never Never Sisters* — "We fell in love with *The One That Got Away* from the very first page. In her charming debut novel, Bethany Chase reminds us about the one that got away, and makes us wonder what would have happened if he

hadnâ™t.â•â”Liz Fenton and Lisa Steinke, co-authors of Your Perfect Life Â âœThe One That Got Away is juicy, steamy, witty, and real.â•â”Taylor Jenkins Reid, author of After I Do Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Readerâ™s Circle for author chats and more.From the Trade Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The One That Got Away" is an excellent debut novel by Bethany Chase. I was extremely surprised to find that the author did not have an existing back list of books as the plot, characters, and the dialog of the book were so smooth and well polished that I expected it was from long experience. As that is not the case, I was blown away by the skills shown by this new author. The book is set in Austin, TX and as someone who lived in Austin for many years, the story sucked me right in and put me in places that I knew very well. Another expectation? I felt sure that Ms. Chase was from Austin but apparently, she actually does excellent research and has a great hand at putting the right references in the right places to make the book feel like home to me. The story is about Sarina Mahler. Sarina is an up-and-coming architect who has been in a relationship for the last four years. She has always pined a little for the "one that got away", Eamon Roy (a now retired Olympic gold

medalist) that she had met years ago and fell for and found that she was only a one-night stand for Eamon. Sarina is roommates with Eamon's best friend and has been avoiding him (and apparently he has been avoiding her) for the ensuing eight years. Eamon has returned to make Austin his home and wants Sarina to do the architecture work on his fixer upper. Sarina's boyfriend, Noah, has taken a work assignment which means a year apart for the couple - she in Austin and he in Argentina. The story has to do with looking for what is important in life, seizing opportunities, learning to value oneself, and dealing with almost unbearable grief. The last was the most surprising part of the book for me and also one of the ones that rang incredibly true.

I received this novel from Net Galley in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own. "The One That Got Away" by Bethany Chase starts out with a bang, grabbing hold of the reader. I was immediately hooked on the novel about Sarina Mahler, a 31-year-old architect who has started her own design business. She is in a loving four-year relationship with Noah, who is currently on business in Argentina for an extended stay, while Sarina is at home in Austin, TX. She anticipates a proposal of marriage in the near future, but in the back of her mind, always around the edges, is "the one that got away" eight years previously -- Eamon Roy, a world class Olympic swimmer with whom she had a quickie one night stand. In that brief experience, Sarina fell hard for the athlete, and spent the next several days, months and years, Googling him, following his exploits in the pool, reading about a near career-ending accident, and trying to figure out how the chemistry they had that one night did not result in a relationship. Now, Sarina is her own woman, living with her gay friend Danny, happy in her career and love life; valued by friends and her step-family, having lost her mother to cancer as a youth. She has never recovered from the loss of her mother, and rarely returns to her home in Virginia, although her sorta-stepdad comes to visit her in Texas when he can. In fact, it is her stepfather John who ignited her interest in buildings and design, and encouraged her to study architecture. He proudly follows her accomplishments, and shares his love of building design and construction with her. Neither John nor Sarina have ever let go of her mother Leigh, and it weighs heavily on both of them.

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