



Just Between Us

Cathy Kelly

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From international bestselling author Cathy Kelly, a heartwarming story of three sisters who are about to discover that -- even within a close-knit Irish family -- looks can be deceiving.

Look at them go!

In the Irish Country town of Kinvarra, the Miller girls are generally perceived to have it all. Single mother and brilliant attorney Stella looks like a Renaissance Madonna and is about to get a second chance at love. TV soap opera writer Tara has just married the love of her life -- the charming Finn -- after a whirlwind six-month romance. And shy, beautiful Holly is living an enviable bohemian life, with artistic friends and a beautiful apartment where her creative talents find an outlet. Have there ever lived three more fabulous sisters?

Now look more closely.

The Miller girls' mother, Rose -- calm, elegant, and unchanging -- is about to celebrate her fortieth wedding anniversary. But as plans for the party of the decade take shape, it's revealed that nothing in the lives of Rose and her daughters is as it seems. And as the secret heartaches the four women have kept hidden from each other begin to emerge, they're set to discover whether they're strong enough to handle the truth -- and whether greater happiness awaits them still.

Just Between Us Details

Date : Published January 3rd 2006 by Gallery Books (first published October 7th 2002)

ISBN : 9780743490269

Author : Cathy Kelly

Format : Paperback 544 pages

Genre : Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Romance, Fiction

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Dot says

I felt like I was reading the first draft of this book. It needed serious editing - there was way too much unnecessary detail (the book is over 500 pages) & so many spelling & grammar mistakes that at times made it very difficult to read. The characters didn't have enough dimensions & the story was very predictable. I would not recommend this book to a friend (unless I wanted to punish them)!

Tea Jovanovi? says

Keti je divna irska autorka koja se može smatrati naslednicom Mev Bin?i... Tople životne, ljubavne i porodi?ne pri?e... Ono što ja zovem A klasom komercijalne književnosti za žensku populaciju...

Margaret says

Irish author Cathy Kelly is my summer palate-cleanser this year, just the thing to clear your head after a dense or demanding read elsewhere. Her novels have something of the same comfortable, low-stress quality as Maeve Binchy and Rosamund Pilcher's, so they don't require a lot of effort in the reading, but her voice is hipper and funnier, and that contemporary energy keeps her stories from sinking into the treacle of sentimentality that can so easily plague this kind of essentially cozy "chick-lit" writing. Usually set in small, beautiful Irish towns where everyone knows everyone else, her books always focus on a group of three or four women, all grappling with the expected sorts of things: children, marriage, career, parents, and how to balance all those responsibilities with their sense of their own individuality. Her characters are endearing and likable, subject to the usual array of human flaws and failings, and though their journeys are sometimes challenging – and Kelly isn't afraid to introduce some pretty significant potholes – there's never any serious doubt that everything will end more or less happily for them. It's relaxing once in a while not to have to worry too much about how things are going to turn out! I have found that the later novels are stronger than the early ones, she's more confident of her plotting and structure and livelier and more relaxed with her dialogue. Escapist reading for sure, good for a hot day with a glass of lemonade and some biscuits at hand.

Jean Street says

The story itself was quite good but it went on too long and got a bit boring in places.

Butterfly2507 says

Ich mochte es von Anfang an nicht. Der Schreibstil ist nicht so meins, die Charaktere flach oder einfach nur

ekelhaft. Die Story ist auch ein bisschen ausgelutscht. Schade.

aaliyah Rafeeq says

Really good plot and many aspects i could really relate to but i found it dragged a little bit!!

Colleen says

Story of three adult sisters, and their mother, who appear at first to be leading perfect lives but ultimately confide their problems with one another. Anyone who likes Maeve Binchy would like this one. Not quite as good as her's, but certainly a pleasant enough read.

Laurel-Rain says

Cathy Kelly's "Just Between Us" is a richly textured tale of a "perfect" family that begins to slowly reveal itself as one with all the ordinary flaws and foibles that plague most people; it is this probing beneath the surface that yields a peek into the intriguing aspects of each of the primary characters.

As the story begins, Rose and Hugh Miller are approaching their fortieth anniversary, and as the celebratory moment nears, we learn more about the two of them; Rose uncovers a secret, and while she's planning the party, she is also considering how to deal with it.

Meanwhile, the three adult daughters are each struggling with their own issues. Stella, the eldest, has a successful career as an attorney, and as the single mother to Amelia, believes that her life is just the way it will stay. She expects no romance or any surprises at all.

Tara, the middle child, writes for a successful soap opera, and as a newly-wed with a dream husband, she believes that all is just the way it should be.

While Holly, the youngest, is plagued by insecurities and longs for a love that seems to never arrive, the other two begin to find that their lives are not what they thought they were.

This is the heart of the story, but what sets it apart are the rich details that give us more than a peek into their lives--we almost feel as if we are walking alongside them. As if they are our friends and neighbors, with their struggles part of us. We root for them, and sometimes want to yell at them for making foolish choices or mistakes.

A rather long book (530 pages), I kept reading, because I truly wanted to partake of every eventful moment in the lives of the characters.

Definitely five stars!

Leanne Hunt says

I kept thinking something was going to happen in this book, but after getting halfway through and still feeling as if there was no actual crisis or problem to solve, I gave up. Each of the four women in the story have challenges, it is true, but they are so gently dealt with and so padded up with mildly amusing though not captivating conversations that they scarcely seemed to count. For a novel to be gripping, there must be a constant threat of things falling apart. When the reader has to really strain to remember what the main issues are, it's time to put the book down and start something more entertaining!

S L McDonald says

There are so many things not to like about this book, that if I hadn't been reading it for book group I would have given up after only a few chapters.

It's overly long, with an abundance of useless, inconsequential detail.

All of the daughters are thoroughly unlikeable, especially Stella, who is a spoiled, immature excuse for a woman, and for a professional female seems to be seriously lacking in the intelligence department.

There are multiple typos, and continuity errors.

The only character I slightly warmed to was Rose, and even then, she disappointed by going back to her husband in the end.

One to avoid, in my opinion.

Amanda says

Why I decided to read this book: I decided to read this book because just recently I had for the first time experienced the wonders of Cathy Kelly in the form of her book, Best of friends, and was eager to discover if her other books were as good as her first. I was not disappointed.

The categories this book fills are 'a book with a female main character' and "Diaries".

Everyone is jealous of the Miller girls, successful lawyer and single mom, Stella, witty TV writer, Tara, dreamy artistic Holly and their calm, elegant mother, Rose. But they aren't really perfect they each hold pain and secrets in their hearts that they have never shared with anyone.

My favourite character would definitely have to be Holly, the youngest of the Miller girls. She has no amount of self confidence and is painfully shy and increasingly awkward at times. Despite all this she is sweet and kind and so selfless that the reader desperately finds herself (or himself) hoping and pleading that she will find her happy ending. When Holly was born her mother had prenatal depression or something and this had a huge, dramatic impact on Holly's personality and esteem. She grew up blaming herself for her mothers unhappiness, thus drowning herself in comfort food to help herself recover. All through her highschool years, she is bullied over her weight and becomes more and more shut in. Now as an adult we discover, not from Holly but through other points of view that in actuality, Holly is beautiful and not at all on the larger side as she still believes herself to be. I really admire what a lovely person Holly grows up to be, despite the constant neglect and bullying she faced and love how she never blames her mother for neglecting and abusing her like she did. She is ever willing to forget and forgive.

My favourite quote is "She might be stick thin and gorgeous, she might be a damn supermodel, but she will never have what you have, Holly Miller. Her heart is just as thin as she is and she will never give or receive what you can. True Love." Okay, you can call me a cheese but I'm a sucker for this quote! Towards the end of the book, Holly meets her future soulmate in Tom Harris, a famous musician whom she believes she is not worthy enough for. I just found this quote so poignant and touching and enough of the big words- CA-UUUUUTTTTTEEEE!!!!It also made me extremely happy that Holly finally found the happiness and affection she deserved.

Something I learnt from this book was that you mustn't be a grudge holder like I am. It is a waste of time to hate people when you could be using it to love. Despite what Holly told me, I seriously doubt I am gonna change my grudging ways (Yes, pigeon who pooped on me two years ago! THIS MEANS YOU!!!!) but everytime I reread this book I hope it will remind me to work at this negative quality of mine and that one day, I too can be as selfless and caring a person as Holly Miller.

Kristy Trauzzi says

I have no idea what it is about this book. I just simply love it. I feel the emotions that the girls are going through. I felt for them at certain times. I am fairly certain I have read this book before but rereading it was such a great thing I am glad I did it.

The alcoholic husband was just something I couldn't imagine. It's so hard to believe that you wouldn't notice your significant other drinking in excess like that. But, it happens!! So many convenient excuses. I'm sure it's like that with any sort of addiction. I am quite lucky I don't have to worry about that problem.

I was so happy that Holly finally got with Tom. Swoon :D Even though you could sooo predict that was going to happen - when it finally did - EEEEEK! I swooned! I liked the fact that she finally gained some self confidence. It's such a hard thing to get when you have lost it. I really loved watching her character come out and her awesomeness start to shine through! Although, for one novel, I would love for an ugly person to love themselves, not everyone else thinks she is a knock-out but she hates herself. I mean, really!? Lots of pretty women have low self esteem -but it's the less desirable ones who actually have any reason to be concerned. Just saying . . .

The mom and the other daughter were a bit - whiny. Woe is me -- the pain I bring myself and then SHOCKING! the pain comes! While the road you choose might not be the correct path, you can't spend the rest of your life regretting that bad choice or the choice of others. That guarantees that you will take the next wrong path instead of choosing wisely at the next crossroads.

So would love to reread this yet again once I get caught up on my other books.

Colleen Honey says

I enjoyed the stories of the three sisters. I was very disappointed that Rose went back to her husband though. After numerous affairs...it just doesn't set a good example for her daughters or her granddaughter.

Kim says

I really hope this shelf stays small because I try very hard to finish every book I start.

I just could not finish *Just Between Us*. It was very poorly written, childish almost. It tried very hard to be descriptive but the amount of detail was so overwhelming it would make me feel dizzy at times. It would have been fine with so much less detail. Every character was introduced in one big run on paragraph rather than Kelly slowly introducing them throughout the book. There was so much time spent describing each and every character, I felt like I got their whole life story and that includes most of the very minor characters. The book tried to be witty and funny but it fell flat. When a character would respond sarcastically (and it was obvious) Kelly would write "she said sarcastically". It was just painful to read and I felt like there were so many better books out there so I just put this one down.

Elizabeth says

I am a little torn about how I feel about this book. I was very drawn into each character's story, but at the same time, some of the emotions and dilemmas did not seem like they had enough support--others seemed to be left hanging. One of the the major conflicts for a character did not even seem to be nearly as big of a deal as some of the others, which bothered me, and there was a backstory that seemed to come and go as needed. Again, I really did enjoy this book, and had difficulty putting it down, but I am torn.
