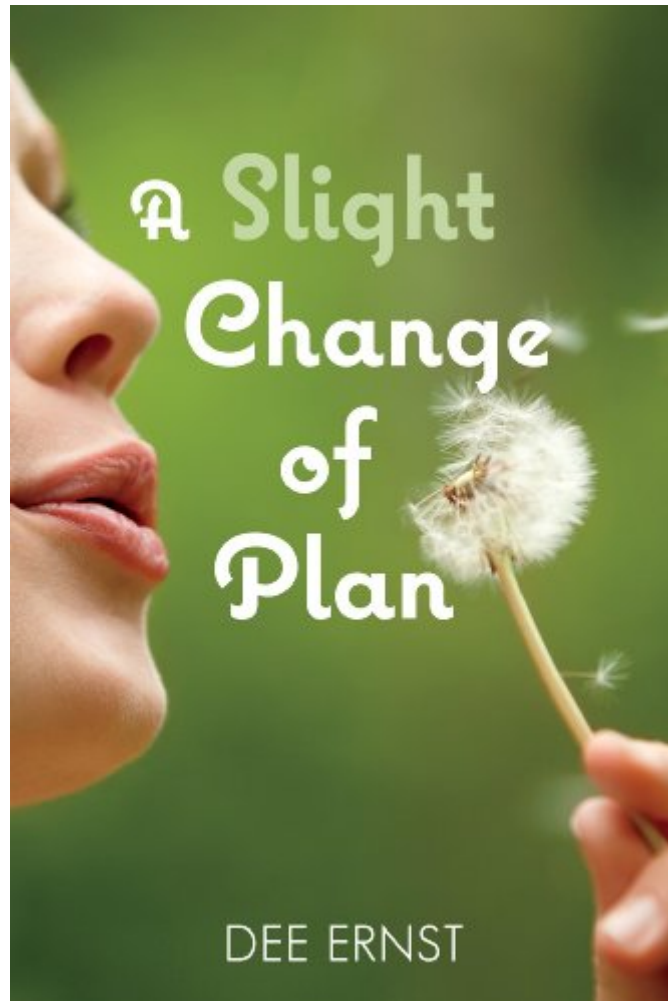




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A Slight Change Of Plan



Synopsis

Kate Everett is about to begin her second act. She's been a widow for eight years and thinks it might be time to start looking for someone to share her life with again. She quits her high-pressure job for something that will allow her more leisure time. She gets rid of the huge family home and moves into a fabulous condo that's smaller and easier to manage. She's pretty much got the rest of her life figured out. All she has to do is sit back, relax, and let the pieces fall into place. But her real life never gets the memo. First, her son moves back in with her along with his girlfriend. Her dream job falls through, leaving her unemployed. Her mother, whom she hadn't spoken to in years, can no longer live alone and has to move into her basement. And her only daughter is planning the smallest and simplest wedding in the history of all weddings, much to Kate's dismay. Kate thinks that she and Jake, her former college love who has reemerged on an online dating site, of all places, can build something real, and that maybe her happy ending is in front of her at last. But the arrival of Edward, her daughter's future father-in-law, presents Kate with an unexpected choice. It looks like real happiness may require a slight change of plan.

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Family Life

Customer Reviews

I received a complimentary copy provided by author/publisher for an honest review. No spoilers - just a general outline. Dee Ernst has done it again. After the first 100 pages, I actually got out a highlighter to mark favorite favorite lines and conversations. At one point I was laughing so hard I dropped the book and just couldn't stop. (Y'all will know where, when you read about Marco and Cheryl's date.) An honest, true-to-life book about a 55 year old widow, her slightly nutty family, her fabulous friends, and the re-emergence of the love of her life, who dumped her in college. I wish I was part of Kate's circle. I fell immediately in love with all the characters (well, maybe Tom not so much), and cannot wait for this to be released so my pre-ordered copy on Kindle arrives and I can re-read it, highlighting some of my favorite passages ("My Italian mother belonged to one of the more complicated religious affiliations - Lapsed Catholicism") for all to see. I pulled out her other two books to re-read and comment on, since I rated but didn't leave comments. She is definitely on my pre-order list, books sight unseen.

This book told in great detail the life of a 55 year old mother who had her life planned one way, only to have everything fall apart after she sold her big house and moved into a condo. Her job was cancelled, and her son, his girlfriend, and her mother all moved in with her. Her problems were endless and the book gave a play-by-play detail of her life and her family interactions each day. The solution for all problems seemed to be drinking throughout the day and at all occasions- and smoking pot. I may be old-fashioned, but I do not enjoy reading books when these two habits are discussed in great detail, routinely practiced, and seem to be a reoccurring theme..I will not be reading any more of this author's books.

I've become a big fan of Dee Ernst's contemporary women's fiction (if this is the right way to describe it?). I enjoy and appreciate Dee's sense of humor that is prevalent in her books. In many ways, her books remind me of another favorite author, Susan Isaacs. *A Slight Change of Plan* was a fun read, light, good pace, never boring, satisfying ending. I read to be entertained. It is so difficult to find entertaining books that have a *real story* and not loaded with X-rated scenes. Target audience would probably be the over-forty crowd.

In the spirit of full disclosure, I received an ARC copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. Now let me tell you how and why I got it: I begged for it. I saw that the author had a few available up for review and I literally pleaded "Pick me, pick me" and much to my surprise Ms Ernst did!! I don't

need to give you a full synopsis of the story - you can read that above. What you need to know is that if you have a sense of humor and are breathing you will laugh out loud when you read this book. If you're of a certain age - I'd say around 35 and older, but I don't want to exclude anyone - you're going to identify with some one in this story. If you're from Jersey and you run into the City every once in a while, you'll really appreciate it - but that is certainly not a pre-requisite. That's because this story is written in the language you know, spoken by the by people that you grew up with, the ones you hang around with now, the ones you raised, are currently raising or by which you were raised. It makes you realize you're not alone with your rebounding kids, a sister that's also your best ally (Hi Cali!) your sometimes annoying mother (not mine!) and a goofy best friend that you can tell your secrets too (Hi Char!) especially when it involves the details of your college romance and the lingering questions from a hasty breakup (Hi, oops, almost had me!). This is a story that makes you say, 'Oh, other people do that too!' and 'When did she peek into my life?' and gives comfort in the realization that the best laid plans of mice and men often go astray but sooner or later it all makes a great story! One that gets even better when sprinkled liberally with some cold White Wine. At the risk of keeping you from reading this book for another minute, I'll tell you why I begged for a copy of this book: Earlier this summer I downloaded a copy of *Better Off Without Him* and was instantly smitten with Ms. Ernst's writing style. Next I devoured *A Different Kind of Forever*. The cast of characters in all of Ms Ernst books are so 'people you know' or 'people you wish you knew' and they instantly feel like friends and are really fun reads. Just like the reviewer above, all future books will go on pre-order status the way I did with this one even though I HAD A COPY and I am the queen of FREE Kindle Books! So curl up on the couch, take it to the beach (down the shore) or sneak a chapter or 4 in while you're waiting in the car at the next after-school practice and you'll have a good giggle - I guarantee it. Don't forget to like her facebook page and you may be the next in line for a sneak peek at what's coming next.

For those of us women of "a certain age," which is to say more than 40 but less than ancient, we've figured out for the most part what we want in life. If we're single, and the reason shouldn't matter, we have learned to think and act for ourselves. In "A Slight Change of Plan" Dee has brought together several problems that can plague our particular age group. We remember when we were young(er) and life was sweet and we were madly in love with the ONE. But for some reason or other that falls through and after soul-searching and self-blame we move on to plan B. Now in the middle of Plan B we are again single with most of our faculties open for business, but sadly the "whether" doesn't always cooperate. Kate is in just such a fix. Mr Right from her 20's, Jake, is back in her life through

a dating service. Along with Tom. Then she meets Edward, also single and soon to be Father-in-Law to her daughter, Regan. Mix in two sons with difficulties of their own, a sister who sometimes misses the mark on matters of the heart a mother that moves in with her and friends who will tell her to her head what she shouldn't be doing and you have a great read filled with joy, love and understanding for women like us. For anyone not familiar with Dee Ernst start with her first book "Better off Without him." She is a joy to read. Julieann

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