



Sisterland: A Novel

By Curtis Sittenfeld

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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

NAMED ONE OF THE BEST NOVELS OF THE YEAR BY

***Slate* • *Daily Candy* • *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* • *The Guardian* (U.K.)**

“Novelists get called master storytellers all the time, but Sittenfeld really is one. . . . What might be most strikingly excellent about *Sisterland* is the way Sittenfeld depicts domesticity and motherhood.”—Maggie Shipstead, *The Washington Post*

“Psychologically vivid . . . *Sisterland* is a testament to [Curtis Sittenfeld’s] growing depth and assurance as a writer.”—Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*

“[Sittenfeld’s] gifts are in full effect with this novel, and she uses them to create a genuinely engrossing sense of uncertainty and suspense.”—Sloane Crosley, NPR’s *All Things Considered*

Curtis Sittenfeld, author of *American Wife* and *Prep*, returns with a mesmerizing novel of family and identity, loyalty and deception, and the delicate line between truth and belief.

From an early age, Kate and her identical twin sister, Violet, knew that they were unlike everyone else. Kate and Vi were born with peculiar “senses”—innate psychic abilities concerning future events and other people’s secrets. Though Vi embraced her visions, Kate did her best to hide them.

Now, years later, their different paths have led them both back to their hometown of St. Louis. Vi has pursued an eccentric career as a psychic medium, while Kate, a devoted wife and mother, has settled down in the suburbs to raise her two young children. But when a minor earthquake hits in the middle of the night, the normal life Kate has always wished for begins to shift. After Vi goes on television to share a premonition that another, more devastating earthquake will soon hit the St. Louis area, Kate is mortified. Equally troubling, however, is her fear that Vi may be right. As the date of the predicted earthquake quickly approaches, Kate is forced to reconcile her fraught relationship with her sister

and to face truths about herself she's long tried to deny.

Funny, haunting, and thought-provoking, *Sisterland* is a beautifully written novel of the obligation we have toward others, and the responsibility we take for ourselves. With her deep empathy, keen wisdom, and unerring talent for finding the extraordinary moments in our everyday lives, Curtis Sittenfeld is one of the most exceptional voices in literary fiction today.

Praise for *Sisterland*

“What’s most **captivating** about *Sisterland* is the **intimate, intense** portrayal of identical twin sisters. . . . [The novel] unfolds like a good prophecy—inevitable and shocking.”—*San Francisco Chronicle*

“The accomplished Sittenfeld . . . is as skillful as ever at developing an intriguing premise and likable characters. . . . **Sittenfeld’s affectionate take on sibling rivalry is spot-on.**”—*People*

“The power of [Sittenfeld’s] writing and the force of her vision challenge the notion that great fiction must be hard to read. She is **a master of dramatic irony**, creating fully realized social worlds before laying waste to her heroines’ understanding of them. . . . **Her prose [is] a rich delight.**”—*The Boston Globe*

“**Wise and often wickedly entertaining** . . . Readers who have siblings—especially women with sisters—will likely come away feeling as if the author really is psychic.”—*USA Today*

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, July 2013: After tackling east coast prep school and the life of a first lady in previous works, writing about twin sisters with ESP might seem like a strange move for Curtis Sittenfeld. But *Sisterland* is not a book about what it means to live with psychic powers. Rather, it's a deeply emotional study of two closely-linked siblings who share many similarities but ultimately choose different paths in life. Having grown up with a mild form of ESP—what they call “senses”—the twins are confronted with how to deal with their powers. One chooses to “go straight” and become a suburban housewife and mother, while the other sister drops out of college to become a medium. The ESP part is not overplayed, and the story bears all the hallmarks of Sittenfeld's other novels: an exploration of adolescence and the choices that people make, expertly drawn inner monologues, an artist's complete grasp of the little moments in life. This is a unique—and at times pitch perfect—take on family, loyalty, and how people deal with the vapor trails left by childhood. -- *Chris Schluep*

From [Booklist](#)

Twin sisters Kate Tucker and Violet Schramm are at the heart of Sittenfeld's (*American Wife*, 2008) latest novel, which opens with a modest earthquake striking St. Louis. In the aftermath, Violet goes on television predicting that a much larger quake will hit the area, much to her sister's horror. Kate has spent her life trying to shove aside the psychic abilities she and her sister share, choosing the safe confines of marriage and motherhood over nurturing her gifts the way Violet has. Violet's prediction becomes national news, thrusting her into the spotlight and causing a mild panic in St. Louis. Kate finds herself under intense scrutiny as well, from acquaintances and even friends, including her husband's colleague Courtney, a scientist who finds Violet's prediction absurd. Sittenfeld alternates between the present and the past, revealing the Schramm sisters' fraught childhood and complex relationship. A late-in-the-game twist makes the final pages fly, but the real strength of this moving story is Sittenfeld's nuanced examination of the strength of familial bonds, whether they are between sisters or spouses. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** A concerted promotional campaign will support the newest daring novel by best-selling Sittenfeld, while the film version of her big hit, *American Wife*, is in development. --Kristine Huntley

Review

“Psychologically vivid . . . Sittenfeld's gifts for portraying the inner lives of her heroines [bring *Sisterland*] closer, in terms of emotional chiaroscuro, to two classics about pairs of sisters, *The Old Wives' Tale* by Arnold Bennett and *The Easter Parade* by Richard Yates . . . ***Sisterland* is a testament to the author's growing depth and assurance as a writer.**”—**Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times***

“**Novelists get called master storytellers all the time, but Sittenfeld really is one**, a kind of no-nonsense, BabyBjörn-wearing Scheherazade. . . . What might be most strikingly excellent about *Sisterland* is the way Sittenfeld depicts domesticity and motherhood.”—**Maggie Shipstead, *The Washington Post***

“[Sittenfeld's] gifts are in full effect with this novel, and she uses them to create a **genuinely engrossing** sense of uncertainty and suspense.”—**Sloane Crosley, NPR's *All Things Considered***

“In [*Sisterland*], the accomplished Sittenfeld . . . is as skillful as ever at developing **an intriguing premise and likable characters**. . . . Sittenfeld's affectionate take on sibling rivalry is spot-on.”—***People***

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"Wise and often wickedly entertaining . . . Readers who have siblings—especially women with sisters—will likely come away feeling as if the author really is psychic, able to learn the truth of their own dark secrets, and forgive them."—*USA Today*

"Full of quiet, surprisingly relatable moments, [*Sisterland* is] **a thoughtful look at the near-supernatural closeness between sisters**. . . . As she did so well in her first novel, *Prep*, Sittenfeld richly evokes the daily lives of young women who are trying to figure themselves out. . . . *Sisterland* is a compelling portrait of what it's like to grow up alongside your best—and worst—self."—*Entertainment Weekly*

"Arresting . . . Captivating . . . *Sisterland* is a long story of shake-ups: eerie precognitions, seismic shifts, lapses in fidelity. Like life itself, it graphs both the agonizing longueurs of domestic life and the horrific thrill of sudden disasters. . . . Character is [Sittenfeld's] great strength, and the moral complexity of ordinary life her main subject. . . . *Sisterland* unfolds like a good prophecy—**inevitable and shocking**."—*San Francisco Chronicle*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

David Chambers:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive currently, people have to do something to make all of them survive, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that at times many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a book your ability to survive improves then having chance to stand up than other is high. For you who want to start reading any book, we give you this kind of *Sisterland: A Novel* book as beginner and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

Dick McAlister:

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information presently can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be an expertise or any news even a huge concern. What people must be consider whenever those information which is from the former life are challenging be find than now is taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you receive the unstable resource then you buy it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen throughout you if you take *Sisterland: A Novel* as your daily resource information.

Curtis Monahan:

Does one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt if you find yourself in the book store? Aim to pick one book that you just don't know the inside because don't judge book by its cover may doesn't work is difficult job because you are scared that the inside maybe not since fantastic as in the outside appear likes. Maybe your answer can be *Sisterland: A Novel* why because the fantastic cover that make you consider

with regards to the content will not disappoint anyone. The inside or content is definitely fantastic as the outside as well as cover. Your reading sixth sense will directly assist you to pick up this book.

Karen Nash:

What is your hobby? Have you heard this question when you got scholars? We believe that that concern was given by teacher to the students. Many kinds of hobby, All people has different hobby. And also you know that little person such as reading or as studying become their hobby. You need to understand that reading is very important along with book as to be the point. Book is important thing to provide you knowledge, except your current teacher or lecturer. You see good news or update about something by book. Different categories of books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them is this Sisterland: A Novel.

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