



Mrs. Everything

Written by Jennifer Weiner

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Mrs. Everything

By Jennifer Weiner

Mrs. Everything A Novel

From Jennifer Weiner, the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Who Do You Love* and *In Her Shoes*, comes a smart, thoughtful, and timely exploration of two sisters' lives from the 1950s to the present as they struggle to find their places and be true to themselves in a rapidly evolving world. *Mrs. Everything* is an ambitious, richly textured journey through history and herstory as these two sisters navigate a changing America over the course of their lives.

“Maybe I am different. Being different isn't the worst thing.”

Mrs. Everything is just that—she's everything and every woman. She's the collective voice of you, me, our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, friends, neighbors and acquaintances. She's the gamut of emotions, triumphs, sacrifices, and heartbreak that feed into the way we view the world. She's a piece of fiction that hits home with the notion that self-discovery is a continuous journey for each one of us.

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In a story that spans generations, Jennifer Weiner taps into the heart of life. From the expectations we set for ourselves to the varying degrees of reality that often take shape instead.

On the longer side, this novel follows two sisters—Jo and Bethie—for the entirety of their existence. From childhood to the trying times of adolescence and the woes of adulthood, their dueling storylines bring forth topics likely to resonate with women from all backgrounds. The beauty of the extensive timeline is witnessing the influence of an ever-changing society on the hopes and dreams of the two sisters.

Jennifer Weiner is an author that hits the high notes when it comes to relatability. From the characters she presents on the page, to the topics that formulate, her words speak the language of everyday women. Chances are, we've all faced challenges similar to Jo and Bethie or know someone who has.

There are those times when we read to breathe in a different life than our own. And others when we

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seek out novels like Mrs. Everything, an experience that offers a sense of solidarity and sisterhood.

*A HUGE thanks to Atria for providing a copy in exchange for my honest thoughts. â™¥ ...more

Mrs. Everything Goodreads

“She wondered whether they would ever not try to have it all and do it all and do all of it flawlessly. Would the day ever come when simply doing your best would be enough?”

Wife, mother, daughter, sister, friend, aunt, caretaker, career women: Mrs. Everything attempts to cover it all. Spanning decades and told through the alternating narrative of two sisters, Jo and Bethie, who grew up in Detroit in the 1950s, Weiner explores the complex relationship between women, while at the same time, ex “She wondered whether they would ever not try to have it all and do it all and do all of it flawlessly. Would the day ever come when simply doing your best would be enough?”

Wife, mother, daughter, sister, friend, aunt, caretaker, career women: Mrs. Everything attempts to cover it all. Spanning decades and told through the alternating narrative of two sisters, Jo and Bethie, who grew up in Detroit in the 1950s, Weiner explores the complex relationship between women, while at the same time, examining and subverting gender norms.

Mrs. Everything tries to be everything: family saga, drama, women’s fiction, and a feminist manifesto. At times, Mrs. Everything struggles to find its place, but there is an ease about the narrative that draws the reader into Jo and Bethie’s lives. Both sisters’ stories are equally interesting. The lengthy timeline allows the reader to watch Jo and Bethie struggle with finding fulfillment. It’s a long journey towards self-acceptance.

Mrs. Everything serves as a tribute to the brave women who try to do it all and think that they have to do it all. In the end, it had me ugly crying as I reached the final pages and said goodbye to Jo and Bethie.

“I want to be brave like that.”

I received an ARC of this book from NetGalley and Atria Books in exchange for an honest review.
...more

"Please, God, or whoever's up there, please just give me enough time to make it right."

For me, this was a 3 star read with a 5 star message, so I went with a 4 star rating. It's the type of book that you want to say so much about and also nothing at all. You want to say so much, because it's a very timely message and is being published at the most opportune moment. In a world in the midst of the #metoo movement and feminism on the rise, it's the type of book that women can rally behind and promo "Please, God, or whoever's up there, please just give me enough time to make it right."

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timely message and is being published at the most opportune moment. In a world in the midst of the #metoo movement and feminism on the rise, it's the type of book that women can rally behind and promote with ease. It's also a book that I'm struggling to talk about, because it's an epic, sweeping saga of sisters, mothers, and daughters, and to divulge any details would be to take away from your own reading experience.

In the forward of my arc, Jennifer Weiner writes a preface that describes where the inspiration for this story came from. Her own mother was born in the 1940's, married a man and had children, divorced him and ended up falling in love with a woman. I think the vulnerability and raw appeal to this novel is the fact that it covers a lifetime, not just a year or two, and the choice to delve into something deeper and a little more serious was an excellent choice for the author. You'll laugh, you'll cry, but you won't forget Mrs. Everything after you finish it. Highly recommended for those looking for a relevant historical fiction that expresses the journey of what it means to be female, past and present.

*Many thanks to the publisher for providing my review copy. ...more

Mrs. Everything Review

Josette (Jo) and Elisabeth (Bethie) Kaufman were sisters who came of age in 1950s Detroit. Jo is a tomboy, more comfortable in old clothes and running around playing sports, while young Bethie was content with being the pretty, talented one, the center of attention. Not much changed as the two approached their teenage years, much to their mother's chagrin. Jo became more outspoken in trying to understand civil rights and social justice, while Bethie starts understanding that her beauty gives her an interesting form of power.

But a family tragedy leads to a traumatic incident for one sister and self-discovery for the other, and both impact their lives and their relationships. As time moves on, Bethie becomes a free spirit, traveling the world, never putting roots down in one place, immersing herself in the counterculture and embracing the idea that women should have whatever they want. Jo, on the other hand, becomes a traditional housewife in Connecticut, raising two daughters and wondering how she wound up living the life she is. Both are content in their own ways but aren't truly happy, but at the same time, aren't sure they are willing to shake things up enough to make change happen.

Mrs. Everything follows Jo and Bethie to the present day, chronicling the journey of these two women as they struggle for happiness, love, and fulfillment, even when they believe they can't have all three simultaneously. They have triumphs and deal with tragedies, they turn toward each other and turn away, and try to be true to themselves and who they are. It's a novel that has an almost epic feel to it.

"'We lose ourselves,' she repeated, forming each word with care, 'but we find our way back.' Wasn't that the story of her life? Wasn't that the story of Bethie's? You make the wrong choices, you make mistakes, you disappear for a decade, you marry the wrong man. You get hurt. You lose sight of who you are, or of who you want to be, and then you remember, and if you're lucky you have sisters or friends who remind you when you forget your best intentions. You come back to yourself, again and again. You try, and fail, and try again, and fail again."

I've never read anything that Jennifer Weiner has written, so when I was offered the opportunity to read Mrs. Everything I jumped at it. Weiner says in a note that appears at the start of my advance copy that she was inspired by Michael Cunningham's *A Home at the End of the World* and Susan Isaacs' *Almost Paradise* (two books I loved) to write a book that followed its main characters all the way through their lives. She also said she wanted to write about a character like her mother, whose life moved in unexpected and unbelievable ways.

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The arcs that Weiner's characters' lives follow are very believable. These are women whose stories have been told so many times yet they need to be told many times more. This is a fascinating exploration of the roles women play within their families, within their marriages and relationships, and within society. There isn't necessarily anything surprising in this book but that doesn't matter; it's still a powerful book with strong messages.

I really enjoyed the way Weiner writes and felt completely immersed in the story. I felt like things dragged a bit at times, but real life isn't always exciting either. I do read a fair amount of so-called "women's fiction," but this is one book that I'd imagine will resonate more with women than it did with me, although I still felt moved by it.

NetGalley and Atria Books provided me an advance copy of this book in exchange for an unbiased review. Thanks for making it available!

This book will be published June 11, 2019.

See all of my reviews at itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com.

Check out my list of the best books I read in 2018 at <https://itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com/2019/01/the-best-books-i-read-in-2018.html>.

You can follow me on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/the.bookishworld.of.yrralh/>. ...more

The thought of this book gives me strength. Every day I get stronger. Every book I stumble upon that is about women and their relationships to each other empowers me. Every story ever written runs in my veins. I amass power until the day I physically read those books in which I become the ultimate life form.

What I mean is: I can't fucking wait to read this book!

Mrs. Everything Riverdale Rd

4.25 Stars

“Mrs. Everything” by Jennifer Weiner speaks to the masses. In this day and age, it is both timely and full of heart! It’s a story about connections. Women who are mothers, sisters, wives, lovers, friends, supporters, heroes and oh so much more.

Jo and Bethie are sisters and “Mrs. Everything” is their story. It takes place over the course of decades. There are trials and tribulations as each woman struggles and tries to be everything to everyone, including each other. As sisters, the re 4.25 Stars

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Jo and Bethie are sisters and “Mrs. Everything” is their story. It takes place over the course of decades. There are trials and tribulations as each woman struggles and tries to be everything to everyone, including each other. As sisters, the relationship between Jo and Bethie is real and true. When experiencing hardship, the pain Jo and Bethie feel is palpable, as is their joy. There were times when I raised my fist in a “eyes, you go girl” moment and times when my eyes were filling with tears and I just cried my little heart out.

As someone whose only sibling is a sister, this story resonated with me. My sister and I are four years apart and are very different, thus we were treated very differently by our parents, just like Jo and Bethie. Though I am the younger sister, I resonated with certain parts of Jo, the tomboy, the girl who loves jeans and who is hard working, no nonsense and serious. I am equally sure that my sister would relate to Bethie, beautiful, popular and successful. I will be sure to send my sister a copy of this book upon its release to find out for sure!

That’s the thing: “Mrs. Everything” is relatable to everyone, especially here and now - with what is going on these days. This is a story that will make you feel intensely and is one that makes you think - about what others are going through and how you can help.

I very much enjoyed reading this novel as I loved the story of Jo and Bethie. “Mrs. Everything” is on the longer side and is therefore a slower read, thus it is one to be savored. This is now the third book that I’ve read by Jennifer Weiner and it is my favorite by far!

Thank you to Ariele Friedman at Atria Books for an arc of this novel in exchange for an honest review.

Published on NetGalley and Goodreads on 5.26.19.

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Will be published on Amazon and Twitter on 6.11.19 ...more

4.5 for bellbottoms and Beatles--but oh so much more!!

What a great surprise! I thought I was signing up for some nice-and-light chick lit, but oh, was I ever wrong! We follow two sisters, Jo and Bethie, from childhood to seniorhood. Their lives are anything but nice and light, and I got pulled in immediately. Thereâ€™s drama coming out their ears, yet itâ€™s not gratuitous, overdone, or unrealistic. Weiner, who Iâ€™ve always thought was a good writer but definitely on the light side, created a more s 4.5 for bellbottoms and Beatles--but oh so much more!!

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Women baby boomers, you MUST read this book! Down memory lane we go! And if you were in the counter-culture (especially if were wild and crazy), you will really get your mind blown. Weiner has the 1960s and 1970s down pat; I was transported! Remember putting your pajamas under the pillow when you made the bed? Remember the deep pink indentations that your garter do-hickies made on your thighs? Does Metrecal ring a bell? All these images (and hundreds more) from a long-ago past are apparently stored on the hard drive inside my skull, and it was a kick to make them dance. I had no idea they were still up there in the old nogginâ€™, just waiting to be reactivated!

And of course, the images stirred up memories and that was when Iâ€™d daydream for a bit, taking little side trips of my own. (Maybe some of our senior ADD happens because we get distracted by our memories?) Weiner really did her homework; sheâ€™s not a baby boomer herself. Youâ€™d think she was, based on how well she understands that time period. Iâ€™m betting her mom was the key source, as Weiner mentions her in the Intro and it seems that the story is loosely based on her life.

So yes, the descriptions are out of this world. I usually whine relentlessly about writersâ€™ detail-itis, but here, Iâ€™m not poo-pahing it one bit. I was glued to the page. I couldnâ€™t take my eyes off any of itâ€”the clothes, the rooms, the colors, all the spot-on pop-culture references. Weiner is one of those excellent writers who makes you feel like youâ€™re watching a movie. Usually, a writer talking about the color of bellbottoms would annoy the hell out of me. Here, I appreciated being able to see the movie in technicolor. (Iâ€™d love it if they took this story to the big screen. Theyâ€™ve made one of Weinerâ€™s

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books, *In Her Shoes*, into a blockbuster movie, so maybe it will happen again.)

So it was the first third of the book, where Jo and Bethie were kids and teens in the 60s and 70s, that made me crazy happy. I was hopping around on my pogo stick while wearing my bellbottoms and holding a transistor radio blasting the Beatles' "We All Live in a Yellow Submarine." (Pretty impressive that I can hold a radio while hopping on the pogo stick, huh?) I couldn't stop talking about the book; it was magical. I give that part of the book 10 stars, hands down.

Don't worry, I'm not saying that the rest of the book was bigtime inferior; it just wasn't as intense, and I didn't have the memory game going so much. I still loved it.

But there was one thing that kept me from giving the book 5 stars, and it's that the women's lib part was too pushy. I don't think the book needs an agenda. Sexual abuse was a topic, and Weiner handled those scenes expertly and they got my dander up like they were supposed to. But there was a consciousness-raising scene in the early part of the book that I found embarrassing way too cliched. I know Weiner was going for authentic, and authentic it was (women really did attend official consciousness-raising meetings). I just was bored and annoyed reading it. She could have left out the dialogue, which in its rhetoric seemed sophomoric. Later in the book, there's more sexual politics, and it felt a little male-bashy not terribly so, but I didn't like it.

It was so exciting to take this long journey with the two sisters and to watch their internal turmoil. I liked how realistic the book was, and I enjoyed their complex and intense relationship. Some of their choices made me cringe, others made me sad "oh please don't do THAT! Do you really think that's a good idea? Don't you see you're messing up?! Only a great writer can make me get so wound up about characters in a book! They're not real people, Debbie, take it easy! She also made me shut my mouth and not rail against angst-y teens. You won't hear a peep from me this time, even though there was ample angst. Maybe it's because she made Jo and Bethie so likeable. And their angst seemed so real and justified and understandable.

There's probably something in the book that every female can relate to "I found several things, including living with a hyper-critical mom. And of course, I identified with some of the unsavory choices made during the hippie days. And the kind of bizarro scenes that you're thrown into, and which catch you off guard and leave you speechless and sometimes traumatized. There was at least one harrowing scene that had me by the throat and will stay with me a long time. It reminded me of the trouble you can get in when you make bad decisions in your early 20s (before your prefrontal cortex is fully developed).

There were a couple of super minor things that should have been resolved and a couple things that didn't ring true. (For example, a character paid their bills when they went bankrupt, even though bankruptcy means you don't have to pay your bills.) Oh, and I ran across a joke that I recently heard Jay Leno make! The writer should have referenced it as a public joke; instead, I felt Weiner was trying to pass it off as an original funny. But we're talking picky picky here. This was one satisfying read.

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Iâ€™m surprised that this book isnâ€™t touted as an LGBT book, as Jo is gay. The beginning of the book chronicles her trying to come to terms with her budding sexuality; it was so well done and very intense. I really got a feel for how insanely difficult being a lesbian in the 60s and 70s would have been.

Also depicted: life in a Jewish family, sexual abuse (and its aftermath), weight issues, drugs, the good and bad of the free-love days. It made me think about the death of dreams, what people want versus what they settle for, the wandering lost souls of the young, the price of bad decisions, the loss of innocence, longing, discontent, internal conflicts.

What a book! Iâ€™m still reeling and it has been a while since I finished it. Definitely a favorite book of 2019! Grab it when it is published in June.

Thanks to NetGalley for the advanced copy. ...more

Mrs. Everything Lyrics

Women had made progress â€” Jo only had to look as far as the television set to see it â€” but she wondered whether they would ever not try to have it all and do it all and do it all flawlessly. Would the day ever come when simply doing your best would be enough?

I'm sure the quote above will be used in many other reviews, but I felt like it summarized the underlying theme the best. As the title (and above quote) suggests, this is a story of two sisters, Joe and Bethie, who are battling the ever cha Women had made progress â€” Jo only had to look as far as the television set to see it â€” but she wondered whether they would ever not try to have it all and do it all and do it all flawlessly. Would the day ever come when simply doing your best would be enough?

I'm sure the quote above will be used in many other reviews, but I felt like it summarized the underlying theme the best. As the title (and above quote) suggests, this is a story of two sisters, Joe and Bethie, who are battling the ever changing landscape of what it means to be a woman. Told over the span of 70+ years, the girls go through the Eisenhower era, the Civil Rights movement, free love and expression of the 60s, (which could be three separate books in itself), through various women's rights movements all the way up to the 2016 election.

While this book does seem a little long at times, taking a look back at the scope of everything these characters went through, Jennifer Weiner masterfully brings it all together and I do not think it could have been done better. To me, this is *the* book on how complicated and wonderful it is to be a woman and should be required reading for us all. Every emotion possible is experienced, while learning something about yourself too. I think Ms. Weiner set the tone of the book up perfectly with her author's note. She mentions she always wanted to write a sweeping saga of a lifetime and she absolutely accomplished that here.

One common theme I've seen among reviews is how relatable this book is. You might not connect with one particular plot point or attribute of a certain character - but give it time and you'll find something. I think if anything, the message that spoke the most to me is how ridiculously tough we all are on ourselves and to each other. I think we all need to cut ourselves some much deserved slack and reach out and support others if we see someone struggling. At some point, we all have and will. Ultimately, reading is an escape from our daily lives, and if we are lucky, we come away with the experience of walking in someone else's shoes. I know I'm a better person for reading this book and I will try in future situations to look past my emotions and work to resolve conflicts with other women with patience, understanding and compassion. Isn't that what we all deserve?

Thank you to Ariele Fredman at Atria Books, Netgalley and Jennifer Weiner for the opportunity to read and provide an honest review of this book.

Special shout out to my friend Susanne for doing exactly what this book preaches - Being kind. She went

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out of her way to help me when she didn't have to.

Review Date: 6/6/19

Publication Date: 6/11/19 ...more

A high 4 stars!

Wow! I really didn't expect to like Mrs. Everything as much as I did. I've read some of Jennifer Weiner's novels in the past, and I think of them as entertaining but generally quite light. This felt different. The story spanned four generations, covering what felt like complex situations while delivering real emotions. I found myself fully engaged and was oh so grateful to have a leisurely Saturday to plough through most of the book and grateful for a few tissues too. The story A high 4 stars!

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Mr. Everything Menu

I enjoyed this book, which focused on two sisters. Jo, the older sister who's great at sports and hates dresses, and Bethie, who is constantly dieting so she can be the lead in school musicals. From the fifties through the sixties up until modern times, their lives don't go in the way you might have predicted when you first met them as kids.

Some of this was hard to read. There is sexual abuse that isn't described explicitly (at least not the rape), but how it impacts the character and the other I enjoyed this book, which focused on two sisters. Jo, the older sister who's great at sports and hates dresses, and Bethie, who is constantly dieting so she can be the lead in school musicals. From the fifties through the sixties up until modern times, their lives don't go in the way you might have predicted when you first met them as kids.

Some of this was hard to read. There is sexual abuse that isn't described explicitly (at least not the rape), but how it impacts the character and the other characters is not easy reading. Weiner never goes for the easy happy ending, but pointing out that religion, gender, sexual orientation, and race ensure that there is no such thing as an easy life with easy choices.

So why I can't say this is a super fun summer read, it is a good one that will keep you turning pages to find out what happens. Recommend.

Thanks to NetGalley for the opportunity to read this novel, which RELEASES JUNE 11, 2019.

For more reviews please visit <http://www.theresaaalan.net/blog> ...more

I started reading Mrs. Everything on 5/30/2019 and finished it on 6/3/2019. This book is an excellent read! A wholesome story from childhood to adult life, growing up and having children to finally having grandchildren; multi-generational. Bethie's middle and high school seems so bright with her success in acting and singing, I just couldn't believe the choices she made starting first year in college. Jo's high school and college seems tough being different but I'm also really surprised how she I started reading Mrs. Everything on 5/30/2019 and finished it on 6/3/2019. This book is an excellent read! A wholesome story from childhood to adult life, growing up and having children to finally having grandchildren; multi-generational. Bethie's middle and high school seems so bright with her success in acting and singing, I just couldn't believe the choices she made starting first year in college. Jo's high school and college seems tough being different but I'm also really surprised how she ended up being a housewife with children. I do like the unexpected twists and turns of events for Bethie and Jo throughout their life because I couldn't have guessed it. I like that Bethie reunite with her high school fellow actor later and the unforeseen success that came to her in later years.

This book is told in the third person point of view following Josette (Jo). Jo has a wife and 3 daughters. Jo has been cancer-free for 5 years, but now she's receiving a call from her doctor about a lump on her

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other breast. She wants time to fix everything and worry that this cancer thing will prevent her from doing them. This book started out in year 2015 and then divided into different parts starting with part 1 in year 1951, part 2 in year 1962, part 3 in year 1974, part 4 in 1987, part 5 in 1993, part 6 in 2006, and part 7 in 2016. The second view is Elizabeth (Bethie), Jo's younger sister. Each chapter Jo and Bethie, both are Jews, grow older and experience anything life throw their way: inequalities, biracial marriage, unexpected external forces, unplanned personal decisions, etc. Jo and Bethie were forced to grow up quicker when an unexpected event takes place.

Mrs. Everything is well written and very detailed. At times I find myself getting tired of reading about Jo and Bethie's lives because of how in-depth it was. Each area of their lives are well carved out and same goes with their kids. In general, that should make this book a good read but I feel it just drags on. Besides that, I love seeing how one decision affects another and how a future could be lost based on an impulse decision. I love that Jo has a family of her own but I also wanted her to have that life that she planned for in college. I like learning where Jo went wrong with her youngest. It's interesting how Bethie drift around for a decade and still her life doesn't turn out too bad, though there are sacrifices. This book on family should be read at least once and I highly recommend everyone to read it.

Pro: multi-generational family, growing up, timeline starting 1951, perspectives from a Jewish family

Con: detailed therefore the length of this novel

I rate it 4.5 stars!

***Disclaimer: Many thanks to Atria Books for the opportunity to read and review. Please be assured that my opinions are honest.

xoxo,

Jasmine at www.howusefulitis.wordpress.com for more details ...more