



En syster i mitt hus

Linda Olsson

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From Reader Review En syster i mitt hus for online ebook

Ulla says

I don't know what happens but when I start reading a Linda Olsson novel, I become completely fascinated. She writes beautifully, whether I read the book in English or Swedish. She writes about quite ordinary people, and whatever happens, happens inside the characters' minds and hearts, and between them. In "The Blackbird Sings at Dusk" there are only three main characters, in "Astrid and Veronica" only two. In "En systers i mitt hus" it's mostly just the two sisters. And somehow that's quite enough! The intensity of the feelings and memories makes these book almost thrillers!! Maybe it's an age question!?

Cathrine says

Now this was a disturbing mirror to look into.

I'm a faithful bibliophile. If I fall in love with a novel a writer will have to really ... a writer will rarely live up to that experience again or rather have me relive that experience again.

For example I met Ali Smith through 'Hotel World' (HW). I adore everything she has written since but nothing 'as much' as HW. Saramago introduced himself to me through 'Blindness' and though I enjoyed his other works I loved nothing as blindly as my first Saramago. I could list many other first loves. I won't as you get my point, but one other such love at first read encounter was Linda Olsson's 'Astrid and Veronica' (AV).

AV touched the very core of me. The scene where pancakes are made is one of THE most moving scenes in literature for me. It beats any moment in Romeo and Juliet or Jane Eyre.

I have enjoyed all the following of LO's books. I was never surprised that though I liked them all very much none of the beat AV. I wasn't surprised because that is about me. My perspective through which I read. It is about how my heart ticks when a new to me author really moves it. The thrill of new love.

So when 'A Sister in my House' (soon to be published in English by Randomhouse Penguin USA) arrived at my house I was expecting to love it but not AS much as AV.

Yet ...

But ...

Ah damn, now I have to rewrite my whole theory.

My theory of self ...

My theory of first book love ...

This book beats AV!

Did I just say that?

It holds within its covers so much layered truth. Truth about families. Parents and children. Siblings. The way we act, react, remember, rewrite and protect ourselves. Family, love, lack of love, identity and protection.

Mainly ... protection.

The letting go of it too.

It was an utterly painful, distressing and personal experience. Every page was a mirror. We do not wear make up when we read

A Sister in my House by Linda Olsson.
5/5 !!!

Julie says

devoured this in one afternoon. A quiet story of two sisters who have had little to no relationship. They discover, upon spending a week together, that miscommunication and misunderstanding have plagued them both.

Anne Paulson says

Oooo I loved this book! Vivid, emotional, full of hope. Warmth. Grateful for the arc from the indie bookstore where I am employed.

Helena says

Olen lukenut kaikki Olssonin suomennetut kirjat ja ne ovat jostain syystä olleet minulle vuoroin ihania elämyksiä, vuoroin ärsytystä herättäviä lukukokemuksia. Onkohan oikeastaan ollut kyse siitä, millaisessa fiiliksessä olen kullakin kerralla Olssonin teksteihin tarttunut?

Tällä kertaa Olssonin rauhallinen ja kiireetön kerronta oli nautinnollista luettavaa. Sisarusten suhteen kuvaaminen eteni hienosyisesti ja viipyillen, ja espanjalainen rannikkokylä maalautui silmiäni eteen niin vahvasti, että melkein tunsin olevani siellä itsekkin. Kirja oli rauhoittava lukukokemus, hyvää stressinpoistolukemista kerrassaan.

Amanda says

An interesting read that I don't think I would have picked up on my own. I'm going to get my pet peeve about this one out of the way immediately and I shall not dwell on it anymore: no contractions. When I see entire soliloquies without contractions, my brain dies a little. It feels entirely too formal. Of course there were some, but the monologues were overwhelmingly formal. Also, "Good morning, how did you sleep?" is not a question that invites monologues, but in this book, that's what you get.

Away from the peeves!

Emma and Maria are two sisters who have lost contact with each other. Maria lives outside Barcelona and,

on impulse even she can't understand, invites Emma to stay with her for a visit while they are cleaning up at their mother's funeral. Emma seemingly ignores the request until two years later when she emails Maria that she is coming for that visit. Maria is instantly upset and angry at Emma (and, rightfully, at herself) but prepares for the visit anyways. Clearly, these two sisters have, not just issues, but subscriptions worth of problems.

The book unfolds with many monologues and pouring forth of sisterly tears as they finally, actually, talk to one another. We have one sister, Emma, who stayed near home and became the caregiver to a Mother that the other sister could not stand. Maria, after the death of her twin Amanda, went off and never came back. Neither of those situations are ideal and they naturally created a rift between the two. The rift started when Emma was born and "invaded" the twins space and just grew larger and larger.

Ignoring my peeves, the way this story unfolded was interesting. Little bits and bops of things kept popping up and disappearing and made me (the reader) anxious. "We need to talk about Amanda" was said enough times that I yelled at the book "TALK ABOUT AMANDA". The book ignored me and continued on until it was damn well ready to talk about Amanda. And what a talk it was.

Interesting little book. Definitely worth a read. I'm sure I'm a rare reader when it comes to the contractions and formal language deal, so I'm sure you will do just fine.

Hannan Kirjokansi says

Ihan kelpo kirja, kiinnostavia teemoja, mutta mielestäni Olsson vähän toistaa itseään.

Sophia Melin says

A great read, as always with this author.
Beautifully written, bittersweet story surrounded by a magic Spanish landscape...

Almira says

For a "short" (207 pages) book, this book packed a powerful message of love and redemption.

Half sisters, Emma and Maria, have been "re-united" two years after the funeral of their mother. Both sisters have such different perspectives of how their mother loved the other, and what occurred to Maria's twin, Amanda.

Descriptions of the area, brought back memories of living on the Mediterranean Sea, and the aromas of the various foods described.

Writing was excellent.

Tammy says

This is a deceptively quiet book. Not much happens in terms of action. One sister stays with the other sister at her rented home in Spain. They walk and tentatively begin to talk. These sisters are not close nor have they ever been but their shared childhood is something worth talking about however reluctant they might be. I couldn't stop thinking about Virginia Woolf although there isn't anything obviously Woolf-like about this book. There is a lot to consider in this short novel and I find myself ruminating about the heady concepts of love, forgiveness, and how we perceive vs. how others perceive the same events. This is a thoughtful book and a much appreciated palate cleanser from some of the psychological thrillers that I've been reading.

Arja-täti says

Aivan ihastuttava kirja. Nyt tekisi mieli lukea Olssonit uudelleen kaikki. Mutta maltan mieleni. Näitä ei kuulu lukea peräkkäin ja ahmien vaan nauttien.

Anna Björklund says

Emma besöker sin syster Maria som bott i Katalonien i många år. Hon fick en inbjudan av sin syster två år tidigare, när deras mamma dog. Mycket har förblivit osagt och de har inte hållit kontakten. Det är ett spännande läge genom hela boken, ända till slutet. Det är mycket funderingar och man ställs inför "what if", hur saker och ting hade kunnat bli.. men kanske hade de ändå inte blivit så mycket annorlunda ändå.. men man kan bara spekulera, aldrig veta. Det fanns en tredje syster och äntligen talar de ut. De gräver runt bland sorg, kärlek och hat, men till slut talar de ändå ut med varandra, ärligt.

På sätt och vis är det en stark bok, men den är ändå blek, ända fram till crescendo då de äntligen talar öppet och ärligt med varandra. Den dröjer sig inte kvar, den har ingen lång eftersmak och jag tror inte att jag kommer kasta mig över någon annan bok av Olsson.

Sheryl says

My feeling about this book are ambivalent at best. It's a relatively short book, so that made it a DNF, I kept thinking once I got into the story I would like it, but we didn't seem to mesh.

It's about two half-sisters who share a somewhat distance mother. The older sister, Maria who lives in a coastal town in Spain; extends an invitation to her youngest sister, Emma to come visit her. Maria is leaving to head back home after the funeral of their mother never expecting Emma to take her up on it.

It's rife with family drama, from the past as they are growing up to the present time. Each sister is battling their own demons and it's hard to figure Maria out ultimately as a person. Emma, was a little more transparent.

I loved the setting, it made me long to travel to that beautiful town. The characters were for the most part very pleasant. I had a problem with Maria, for some reason I just can't explain it. It's well written, it just wasn't for me. I could probably re-read it next year and love it who knows?

I would like to think First-To-Read for providing me with a copy of this galley in exchange for my honest opinion.

Pallavi Sharma says

****3.5****

Maria and Emma who have never been close even though they are half sisters and lived several years of their childhood together in a same house. When Maria, on a whim, invites Emma to her home in Spain, at their mother's funeral, little did she know how this invitation will bring a huge change in both their lives later.

Emma, after two years gets in contact with Maria and decides to visit. Maria is dreading her sister's visit as she was never close to Emma and does know almost nothing about her life. Emma stays for six days and the reader gets to know about the life of these sisters where there is a negligent mother, abusive stepfather, sibling ego's and wobbly relationships.

A very short and intense novel. I loved the narration and it's plain plot where nothing much eventful happened but only revelation of past happens. Very well written and quiet.

ARC from First To Read in exchange for an unbiased review. Thanks for making this available!

Happy Reading!!!

Kat Pegfred says

Overall, I did not like this book.

I like the theme of opening up, saying things that need to be said, clearing the air, and healing. However, the theme was a bit overkilled in this particular story.

I despised the two main characters - Maria seemed rather lacking in empathy for others and Emma was a whiny "victim." I tried, but couldn't get past my feelings of dislike for the characters. Perhaps this is a compliment to Ms. Olsson - that she created two incredibly realistic characters (there are many people in this world who are uncaring and whiny).

The theme that bothered me the most, though, was the relentless assault on the mother's character while almost completely neglecting to assault the characters of the father characters. Sure, a selfish mother can do emotional damage to her children, but I would think that abandonment by one father and regular molestation by a stepfather would be more damaging to a child's psychology and memory. Yet, the author seems to let the father characters off the hook, while constantly berating the mother character. I have seen this theme in other authors' writings (Jennie Shortridge comes to mind) and it bothers me that we're so hard on mothers but let fathers off the hook.
