



## About Anna...

*Sophia Michelle Delanner*

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### **About Anna...** Sophia Michelle Delanner

Anna, who has always lived under the microscopic judgment of her narcissistic mother, is a Russian immigrant on the verge of turning forty and a single mother of a headstrong teenage daughter. After a life-long succession of regrettable choices and a slew of bad relationships, Anna gives up hope of finding her better half—until she meets David. Their all-consuming love seems timeless and everlasting, but both of their pasts just might destroy their future.

A moving tale of three generations of Russian women living in New York City, of fate and love, of bonds that shape and shadow our lives. Crossing generations and continents, Sophia's narrative details, with uncompromising candor, the joys and hardships of an immigrant renting an apartment in a shabby-chic neighborhood, where the long-buried tensions that fester among families begin to surface in unexpected ways and change the family forever.

Engrossing, unpredictable, and moving, the novel will make you laugh out loud one moment and swallow back tears the next. In the vein of Vladimir Nabokov, Mikhail Bulgakov, and Leo Tolstoy, About Anna... presents a rich narrative about a life in which the road to forgiveness is hard—and the path to self-acceptance is even harder. Delanner's complex characters will resonate with you long after the final page is turned.

### **About Anna... Details**

Date : Published January 27th 2015 by Infinity House (first published January 21st 2015)

ISBN : 9780990928102

Author : Sophia Michelle Delanner

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## From Reader Review About Anna... for online ebook

### **DNJ says**

#### Family Dynamics

Heart wrenching and intense, but at the same time poetic and hilarious. Excellent, well written with a surprising ending. The plot takes the reader through the family dynamics. The novel made me question the way I was brought up and gave me an insight into my own family situation. It was interesting to see how another family navigated its way through. I was engrossed from the very beginning, the characters and the story drew me in, and I laughed and cried a lot. I will be following this writer.

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### **Charlie Kent says**

I really enjoyed reading “About Anna...”—the smartly written debut novel by Sophia Delanner. Right away, I was drawn to and identified with the main character, Anna, and her witty and perceptive observations about life on this planet and the people with whom we share it with.

I thought some of the characters were particularly unique and colorful, and the situations they found themselves in were always captured vividly and cinematically. Delanner’s attention to detail is what really stands out here. The writing is rich with it.

The novel reveals serious moments too as we move through Anna’s journey. As with most of our lives, we sometimes suffer disappointing situations (and people) that cause us to stop and evaluate who we were and where we’re going. I found this to be a theme in “About Anna...” However, the author depicts people with a certain empathy and humor that allows us to relate to them even under the most heartbreaking circumstances. Anna is often wracked with self-doubt and insecurities herself, brought on by some of the more intense relationships in her life, but she continues to move forward trying to find a better life for herself and her daughter. Her perseverance is inspiring.

I highly recommend this provocative, moving, and beautifully written book to anyone in search of themselves and to those who have been lucky or unlucky in family, life or love. Well done.

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### **Literature Lover says**

A terrific book!

This novel spoke to me on a profound level. I found the characters and the plot very compelling. This richly-woven story transcends generations and geography and goes beyond the cultural displacement and economic adjustments that so many immigrants are forced to face.

The descriptions are so vivid that I felt I was there in the story. The characters are well-developed, the dialog is flowing.

The author attempted to go beyond the claustrophobic nature of a dysfunctional family, into the poignant and

painful emotional experience. She succeeded with wild humor and tenderness. The prose is a pleasure to read. I do recommend this novel.

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### **Jason Roth says**

I thoroughly enjoyed this observant and telling tale of a Russian immigrant family who fled the Soviet Union to find happiness in America. This isn't the typical immigration saga. The author depicts the most complicated family relationship—a mother-daughter connection—with brilliant wit, dry humor, and a big heart.

In this particular case, mother is a narcissistic individual who demands total control over her daughter, at the same time lacking any kind of empathy for Anna. She pushes Anna to the limits of her endurance. By revealing the emotional scars of the child who has no options but to live through these sad family dynamics the author shows why it could so easily turn into a domestic violence, and what a vicious cycle it is.

The characters are uniquely drawn and brought vividly to life, and the narrative is smart and poetic and hilarious. The prose is sophisticated with fresh descriptions and metaphors. I recommend it to all readers.

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### **Darcie Rowan says**

Fantastic debut novel! Author Sophia Delanner has a beautiful, poetic way of writing about a serious subject matter like dysfunctional family life amongst 3 generations of women. Her content reminds me of Anna Quindlen, but with very descriptive prose. I loved the character development and the flow of the storyline, which was something I felt most people could relate. I recommend this to anyone who likes dynamic fiction. I hope she writes another book. I'm hooked.

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### **Hayley Shaver says**

I got this from goodreads first-reads for free. This as a good, solid book. It could have been put together better. At one time, it segued into a story Anna was writing without warning. It confused me a little. Little things like that made a great book into a good book. This book is about a single mother named Anna who immigrated from Russia years ago. She has a teen daughter. She has many man problems, some of them very serious. She has an awful mother and aunt, and a uncle. She has issues about them and the men in her life. Will she deal with the issues and problems in her life with satisfying results, or will she be forever in their painful grips?

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### **S.L. Hoyte says**

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Infinity House (2015)

ISBN 9780990928102

Reviewed by Sheri Hoyte for Reader Views (02/16)

“About Anna...” by Sophia Michelle Delanner is the delightful story of Anna, and her search for the meaning of life and happiness, set in contemporary New York City. Anna is an almost 40 year-old Russian immigrant, who moved to New York City with her entire dysfunctional family. She struggles to escape the grip of her controlling mother while maintaining peace in the family and raising a daughter of her own. Anna has been in more bad relationships than she cares to admit, and has just about given up on true love, when she meets David. Together they enjoy a whirlwind romance, but their respective paths could cause trouble down the road. Anna’s celebrates many joys and suffers many pains; along the way old family issues begin to surface that completely change her family forever. Anna finds her journey to forgiveness to be tough; but her search for herself and self-acceptance prove to be the most challenging hurdle of all.

This has to be the most fun I have had relating to a story in some time. The writing is so charismatic, full of wit and dry humor. I laughed out loud many times throughout the book, at the cleverness and direct sarcasm applied to each encounter Anna has, with her family, prospective romantic partners, and old friends. Her family members belong to the Naysayers, Inc., with her mother being the CEO. Speaking of which, the dysfunctional relationship Anna has with her mother will drive readers crazy, many will be able to relate, if not directly, than through their own personal experiences. Readers will experience more than fun and humor though; I found myself quite the emotional basket case at times. Anna’s character could be representative of any woman, riddled with self-doubt and insecurities developed from growing up in the midst of dysfunction, and the depth of her character is what intrigues me the most. In fact, all of the characters are given life in such a way that will draw you inside their heads, whether you like them or not.

I highly recommend “About Anna...” by Sophia Michelle Delanner for a remarkably clever read. This beautifully written debut novel has me eagerly waiting to see what’s next from the refreshing talent of Ms. Delanner.

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### **Trang Tran (Bookidote) says**

This is an amazing, witty. smart and powerful novel. It depicts the life of Anna, a Soviet immigrant who comes to America to seek a better life. We follow her journey inside out : relationships and family are in the heart of the story. I fell in love with the originality of the characters. Every single one of them is so unique, special and colorful. The writing is marvelous ! I was impressed by the first sentences already. What I find fascinating is the relationship with Anna and her mother, it's so psychologically demanding and exhausting. Parents and children are one of the dynamics that always interest me. Some dialogues within them were really relatable and I think anyone can relate to it as a mother or as a daughter. Everything is so compelling. A must read !

Thank you to the author for giving me a free copy of this book.

P.S : Full review on my blog here :<https://bookidote.wordpress.com/2015/...>

Trang - Book Blogger

<http://bookidote.wordpress.com>

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## **Elena says**

Enjoyed it tremendously!..

“About Anna” contains all of the reasons why it is such a satisfying read. Eternal conflicts of generations, vulnerability and strength of a child, choices that we make and the price we pay for them, the courage to live and follow your heart regardless of the circumstances – definitely something to think about, learning from other people’s experiences, as we all know but rarely do. Powerful and riveting, “About Anna” will have you on the edge of your seat as you follow Anna on her harrowing journey to rock bottom and back. Nothing felt rushed, the story unveils deliciously. With that said, definitely recommend this book!

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## **Dianne Harry says**

A dazzling debut novel about a Russian immigrant family living in New York. Crisp and witty writing. The author captured the intricacies of family life with uncompromising candor. The story hit very close to my heart as it showed another life that I'm grateful to learn about, but not to live. Some situations are haunting to read. In child abuse that could later turn into domestic violence there are no winners, only losers. And although the issues raised are too painful and sad, the novel is also mercilessly funny as it is heartbreaking. Loved it from beginning to end.

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## **Reader Views says**

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any woman, riddled with self-doubt and insecurities developed from growing up in the midst of dysfunction, and the depth of her character is what intrigues me the most. In fact, all of the characters are given life in such a way that will draw you inside their heads, whether you like them or not.

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### **Kaite says**

I won a free copy from the Goodreads First Reads Giveaway Program and think that it interesting. I would recommend it to everyone.

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### **Cassandra. says**

I have been attempting to read this book for over a month. I have to keep putting it down, & have read two other books. I am on page 71. I like a quote from TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD, "Atticus told me to delete the adjectives & I'd have the facts." My comment at this point in this novel is delete some of the adjectives & adverbs & then there would be an interesting story. So far it has been tedious with hints of an interesting story.

Today is June 8. I am putting this First Reads Givaway aside for the time being

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### **Shana Nichols says**

Received as a Goodreads Giveaway. I was excited to read this book, and I believe that a compelling story is buried in its pages. However I like my prose with a lot less complexity, fewer adverbs and adjectives, and minus entire pages describing eating ice cream. I'm a little like Hemingway in this respect. When one sentence has so many clauses that it is seven lines long, I lose interest.

Seventy-five pages was the most I could read before having to quit. And I don't quit easily.

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### **David says**

A great read!

Could not put it down. Beautiful engaging prose, multifaceted characters. The author stayed true to life with all its messiness and magic.

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