



Domestic Pleasures: A Novel

By Beth Gutcheon

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After her ex-husband dies in a plane crash, Martha Gaver is horrified to learn that the executor of Raymond's estate is Charlie, the conservative, insufferable lawyer who represented Raymond in their bitter divorce. Yet soon after they reenter each other's lives, Martha, Charlie, and their teenage children find they have more in common than they imagined as they struggle to rebuild their lives...and that opposites really do attract.

Engaging,, witty, and entertaining, *Domestic Pleasures* is a touching, piercing tale of love lost, found, and embraced once again.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

If Rosamunde Pilcher lived in 1980s Manhattan, she might come up with a romantic novel like this one. A large cast of characters is involved in various sorts of relationships; at the center are illustrator Martha Forbes and lawyer Charlie Leveque. Following the death of her ex-husband, Raymond, in a plane crash, Martha is dismayed to learn that Charlie, the lawyer who handled Raymond's hostile divorce proceedings, is now in charge of the estate. Although the two have little in common--except broken marriages and one teenager apiece--they're forced to work together. Gradually, the superficial barriers between them fall and they find themselves in love--and beset by other problems. Gutcheon's gift for witty dialogue and her canny observations propel the generously proportioned story. A particular strength is her sharp depiction of the teens and their relationship. Gutcheon (*Still Missing*) perfectly captures the milieu of upper-middle-class Manhattan, and the result is a vivid, entertaining novel. BOMC alternate; first serial to Ladies' Home Journal; movie rights to Pathe.

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From Library Journal

Domestic Pleasures is a tender, heartwarming story of love and life in the Nineties. When Martha Gaver's ex-husband is killed suddenly in a plane crash she is forced into contact with his divorce lawyer--now the executor of his estate. Both are single parents struggling to raise teenagers and manage a life after divorce. They discover in each other differences that bring insight to their own struggles. Gutcheon, author of *Still Missing* (LJ 6/ 15/81) and *The New Girls* (LJ 10/1/79), reaches inside her characters and brings them to life. She manages to put us in the hearts and minds of not just the adults but the teenagers as well. This is an intricate weaving of several stories with many characters, but Gutcheon makes us care about them all. A wonderful portrayal of marriage, divorce, and relationships, realistic yet optimistic and touching. This has been optioned for a film with Sally Field. Highly recommended. BOMC alternate.-- Kathy Ingels Helmond, Indiana Univ.

Purdue Univ. at Indianapolis Lib.

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About the Author

Beth Gutcheon is the critically acclaimed author of eight previous novels: *The New Girls*, *Still Missing*, *Domestic Pleasures*, *Saying Grace*, *Five Fortunes*, *More Than You Know*, *Leeway Cottage*, and *Good-bye and Amen*. She is the writer of several film scripts, including the Academy-Award nominee *The Children of Theatre Street*. She lives in New York City.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jack Lumpkin:

The knowledge that you get from *Domestic Pleasures: A Novel* is a more deep you digging the information that hide inside the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to know but *Domestic Pleasures: A Novel* giving you buzz feeling of reading. The copy writer conveys their point in particular way that can be understood through anyone who read that because the author of this

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