



Bittersweet: A Novel

By Miranda Beverly-Whittemore

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Suspenseful and cinematic, *Bittersweet* exposes the gothic underbelly of an idyllic world of privilege and an outsider's hunger to belong.

On scholarship at a prestigious East Coast college, ordinary Mabel Dagmar is surprised to befriend her roommate, the beautiful, wild, blue-blooded Genevra Winslow. Ev invites Mabel to spend the summer at Bittersweet, her cottage on the Vermont estate where her family has been holding court for more than a century. Mabel falls in love with midnight skinny-dipping, the wet dog smell that lingers near the yachts, and the moneyed laughter that carries across the still lake while fireworks burst overhead. Before she knows it, she has everything she's ever wanted: friendship, a boyfriend, access to wealth, and, most of all, for the first time in her life, the sense that she belongs.

But as Mabel becomes an insider, a terrible discovery leads to shocking violence and reveals what the Winslows may have done to keep their power intact--and what they might do to anyone who threatens them. Mabel must choose: either expose the ugliness surrounding her and face expulsion from paradise, or keep the family's dark secrets and make Ev's world her own.

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Bittersweet: A Novel By Miranda Beverly-Whittemore Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Out of place at her elite East Coast college, Mabel Dagmar falls into an unlikely friendship with her blue-blooded roommate, Genevra Ev Winslow, and is invited to spend the summer at Ev's family estate in Vermont. Jumping at the chance to escape her working-class family in Oregon, Mabel enters the world of madras shorts and cocktails on the veranda. The enchantment of a lakeside retreat, steeped in tradition, sweeps Mabel (who now goes by May) off her feet, as does Ev's older brother, Galway. But May has secrets, as do the Winslows, and as May unravels the family's litany of misdeeds, she puts herself in serious danger. Beverly-Whittemore's novel is suspenseful and intriguing, filled with characters who both fit the blue-blood mold and break the stereotypes we all associate with the upper class. Her short chapters, with their cliff-hanger endings, will keep readers turning pages late into the night. --Heather Paulson

Review

A New York Times Bestseller

"Beverly-Whittemore is at her best bringing Winloch vividly to life, evoking the look and feel of its cottages and dining hall, and its daily summer rhythms...A fairy tale aspect – of the Grimm, not the Disney variety – pervades the novel, which artfully builds an increasing sense of menace...Like a Downton-in-Vermont, *Bittersweet* takes swift, implausible plot turns, and its family secrets flow like a bottomless magnum of champagne, but Beverly-Whittemore succeeds in shining a light into the dark, brutal flaws of the human heart." —*New York Times Book Review*

"Mesmerizing gothic thriller...*Bittersweet* is worth savoring—it unfolds like a long summer day, leisurely revealing the dark." —*People*, Lisa Kay Greissinger

"What begins a little like Curtis Sittenfeld's *Prep* quickly warps into a sickly addictive thriller...think ABC's *Revenge* when it was good, only more scandalous...With books like *Bittersweet* to stuff in beach bags, it's beginning to feel a lot more like summer. A-" —*Entertainment Weekly*, Stephan Lee

"Beverly-Whittemore has crafted a page-turner riddled with stubborn clues, a twisty plot and beguiling characters." —*Kirkus*, starred review

"[An] intriguing outsider tale of the 1%." —*The New York Post*; Summer's Hottest Fiction pick

"For fans of Edward St. Aubyn... Miranda Beverly-Whittemore's *Bittersweet* spins a New England gothic filled with blonde bluebloods and heavily bolted doors." —*Vogue.com*

"Evokes *Gone Girl* with its exploration of dark secrets and edge-of-your-seat twists." —*Entertainment Weekly*, Lanford Beard

"Takes the reader inside the glamorous world of the super-wealthy, where everything is not as it seems, and dark, long-buried family secrets gradually make their way to the surface. ...its strength lies in its elements of mystery. The result is a page-turner that will keep readers guessing until the end." —*BookPage*

"Suspenseful and intriguing, filled with characters who both fit the blue-blood mold and break the stereotypes we all associate with the upper class. Her short chapters, with their cliff-hanger endings, will

keep readers turning pages late into the night.” —**Booklist**

“Beverly-Whittemore captures both the idyllic beauty of a Vermont summer and its dark shadows ...gothic tangles wind the plot more and more tightly. ...A suspenseful tale of corruption and bad behavior among wealthy New Englanders. Readers who enjoy coming-of-age stories featuring dark secrets that affect generations will find much that appeals here.” —**Library Journal**

“In the tradition of *The Great Gatsby*, Miranda Beverly-Whittemore's heroine is an outsider invited into the secret, labyrinthine world of the super-rich--but the twist is, you never met such debauched people as the Winslows. *Bittersweet* is a satisfyingly dramatic, super-juicy read.” —**Jenna Blum, New York Times and internationally bestselling author of *Those Who Save Us* and *The Stormchasers***

“*Bittersweet* is the kind of book you hope to stumble across on a rainy vacation weekend: a wild New England gothic full of family secrets, mysteriously locked doors, sailboats, suntans, forbidden lust, and a few priceless works of art. An engrossing summer blast.” —**Maggie Shipstead, national bestselling author of *Seating Arrangements* and *Astonish Me***

“In *Bittersweet*, Miranda Beverly-Whittemore prizes up the veneer of an old, privileged American family to discover depths of intrigue, power, and menace beneath. In its guise as a coming-of-age mystery, the book is both swift and arresting; that the novel also doubles as an insightful meditation on class, aspiration, and longing makes the book reverberate in the reader long past its final line.” —**Lauren Groff, New York Times bestselling author of *The Monsters of Templeton* and *Arcadia***

“Gripping, beguiling and beautifully written, *Bittersweet* is a page turner that chills as it intoxicates. Miranda Beverly-Whittemore has created a family so dangerously enthralling that the more we learn of their greed and bloodlust, the more we aspire to belong.” —**Kate Christensen, PEN/Faulkner award-winning author of *The Great Man* and *Blue Plate Special***

“Part coming-of-age story, part riveting mystery, *Bittersweet* is a tantalizing tale of an outsider thrust into a glittering world of immense privilege and suspect morals. With a narrator torn between uncovering one family's dark secrets and protecting her own, *Bittersweet* brilliantly explores the complicated question of what price any of us would pay to seize the life of our dreams.” —**Kimberly McCreight, New York Times bestselling author of *Reconstructing Amelia***

“The theme of paradise lost courses through this coming-of-age tale tinged with mystery...For all their lean, blonde beauty and their designer names, the Winslows—including Birch and Tilde, Ev's parents; and Ev's brother Galway, whose attentions encourage Mabel to fantasize about becoming part of the blue-blooded tribe—have more squalid secrets than her own...” —**Publishers Weekly**

“A lot of summer books are breezy beach reads, but Miranda Beverly-Whittemore's *Bittersweet* ups the ante. Her story of an outsider driven by a dangerous desire to fit into a world of privilege (think *Gatsby*) has all the sex and secrets typical of summer books. But *Bittersweet* packs a bigger punch... A New England summer of first love, friendships, fireworks, midnight skinny dipping, tragedy and digging up family dirt ensues.” —**The Herald News**

About the Author

MIRANDA BEVERLY-WHITTEMORE is the author of three other novels: *June*; *Set Me Free*, which won the Janet Heidinger Kafka Prize, given annually for the best book of fiction by an American woman; and *The Effects of Light*. A recipient of the *Crazyhorse Prize* in Fiction, she lives and writes in Brooklyn.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lourdes Williams:

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make these people survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice by simply surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated that for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a book your ability to survive raise then having chance to stand up than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you this kind of Bittersweet: A Novel book as starter and daily reading book. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Linda Hupp:

As people who live in the modest era should be up-date about what going on or data even knowledge to make all of them keep up with the era that is always change and progress. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what type you should start with. This Bittersweet: A Novel is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Valerie Gray:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of information. Even you love Bittersweet: A Novel, you could enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout people. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its named reading friends.

James Fulk:

Are you kind of busy person, only have 10 or maybe 15 minute in your morning to upgrading your mind ability or thinking skill perhaps analytical thinking? Then you have problem with the book compared to can satisfy your small amount of time to read it because pretty much everything time you only find guide that need more time to be learn. Bittersweet: A Novel can be your answer since it can be read by you actually who have those short time problems.

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