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The Sweetness of Forgetting

By Kristin Harmel



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A baker in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, must travel to Paris to uncover a family secret for her dying grandmother—and what she learns may change everything. *The Sweetness of Forgetting* is the book that made Kristin Harmel an international bestseller.

At thirty-six, Hope McKenna-Smith is no stranger to bad news. She lost her mother to cancer, her husband left her for a twenty-two year old, and her bank account is nearly depleted. Her own dreams of becoming a lawyer long gone, she's running a failing family bakery on Cape Cod and raising a troubled preteen.

Now, Hope's beloved French-born grandmother Mamie, who wowed the Cape with her fabulous pastries for more than fifty years, is drifting away into a haze of Alzheimer's. But in a rare moment of clarity, Mamie realizes that unless she tells Hope about the past, the secrets she has held on to for so many years will soon be lost forever. Tantalizingly, she reveals mysterious snippets of a tragic history in Paris. And then, arming her with a scrawled list of names, she sends Hope to France to uncover a seventy-year-old mystery.

Hope's emotional journey takes her through the bakeries of Paris and three religious traditions, all guided by Mamie's fairy tales and the sweet tastes of home. As Hope pieces together her family's history, she finds horrific Holocaust stories mixed with powerful testimonies of her family's will to survive in a world gone mad. And to reunite two lovers torn apart by terror, all she'll need is a dash of courage, and the belief that God exists everywhere, even in cake...

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Editorial Review

Review

"Harmel manages to deliver an immersive and evocative tale of generations struggling to survive. Recipes sprinkled throughout the book allow readers to experience firsthand the sweetness of Hope's journey." *--Publishers Weekly*

"THE SWEETNESS OF FORGETTING is absolutely enthralling and full of twists and turns that add to the drama and keeps the tale moving along. Author Kristin Harmel does a magnificent job of telling this saga of one family's search for understanding. She also handles her approach to Alzheimer's disease with gentleness and understanding. Readers will remember THE SWEETNESS OF FORGETTING long after the final page is turned." (Fresh Fiction)

"Kristin Harmel's novels are written with a lot of heart and soul. She has a way of bringing the reader into her stories in such a powerful way that they can often forget they're reading at all. *The Sweetness of Forgetting* may just be Harmel's best book yet." (Lisa Steinke *SheKnows Book Lounge*)

"Kristin Harmel writes with such insight and heart that her characters will stay with you long after you've finished her books."

-New York Times bestselling author Emily Giffin

"Kristin Harmel...[is] one of my favorite authors!" –Melissa Senate, bestselling author of *The Love Goddess' Cooking School*

About the Author

Kristin Harmel is the international bestselling author of *The Sweetness of Forgetting* and *The Life Intended*, along with several other novels. Her work has been featured in *People*, *Woman's Day*, *Men's Health*, *Runner's World*, and *Ladies' Home Journal*, among many other media outlets. She lives in Orlando, Florida.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Earnestine Marcus:

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