

The background of the entire page is a gradient from dark purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. Overlaid on this is a complex network diagram consisting of numerous white circular nodes of varying sizes, connected by thin white lines. Some nodes are larger and more prominent, while others are smaller and less noticeable. The lines form a web-like structure that fills the page, with some areas being more densely connected than others. The overall aesthetic is modern and digital.

Ewie Drake Starts Over

Written by Linda Holmes

Published by sanmarco-sf

Table of Contents

Evvie Drake Starts Over	1
Evvie Drake Starts Over Review	2
Evvie Drake Starts Over A Novel	3
Evvie Drake Starts Over Book Tour	4
Evvie Drake Starts Over Goodreads	5
Evvie Drake Starts Over Audiobook	6
Evvie Drake Starts Over Vk	7

Evvie Drake Starts Over

By Linda Holmes

Evvie Drake Starts Over

In a small town in Maine, recently widowed Eveleth "Evvie" Drake rarely leaves her house. Everyone in town, including her best friend, Andy, thinks grief keeps her locked inside, and she doesn't correct them. In New York, Dean Tenney, former major-league pitcher and Andy's childhood friend, is struggling with a case of the "yips": he can't throw straight anymore, and he can't figure out why. An invitation from Andy to stay in Maine for a few months seems like the perfect chance to hit the reset button.

Evvie Drake Starts Over Review

When Dean moves into an apartment at the back of Evvie's house, the two make a deal: Dean won't ask about Evvie's late husband, and Evvie won't ask about Dean's baseball career. Rules, though, have a funny way of being broken--and what starts as an unexpected friendship soon turns into something more. But before they can find out what might lie ahead, they'll have to wrestle a few demons: the bonds they've broken, the plans they've changed, and the secrets they've kept. They'll need a lot of help, but in life, as in baseball, there's always a chance--right up until the last out.

3.5 stars rounded to 4 stars

This was a fun read. Just having read a heavy-duty literary fiction novel, I was ready for something like this. Evvie Drake is a young woman who decides to start her life over. Her best and platonic friend Andy knows Evvie needs the extra money and talks her into renting the apartment attached to the house to his childhood friend Dean. Dean is a former star pitcher with the New York Yankees who has recently lost his career thanks to a case of the "yips." These are our

3.5 stars rounded to 4 stars

This was a fun read. Just having read a heavy-duty literary fiction novel, I was ready for something like this. Evvie Drake is a young woman who decides to start her life over. Her best and platonic friend Andy knows Evvie needs the extra money and talks her into renting the apartment attached to the house to his childhood friend Dean. Dean is a former star pitcher with the New York Yankees who has recently lost his career thanks to a case of the "yips." These are our three main characters.

This is a book about many things, including honesty with both oneself and others, family relationships, mental health issues, forgiveness, romance, and new beginnings. Most of the characters are very likeable, and it was especially easy to cheer for Evvie. The Maine setting is different, and Ms. Holmes does a good job bringing the setting into the story. There is depth to the tale, but I was hoping for more--this might relate to the fact that I have been reading some meaty novels in recent months. Despite that, I really enjoyed the story, which drew me in right away and held my interest throughout.

I recommend *Evvie Drake Starts Over* to anyone looking for an interesting and fun feel-good read. I look forward to seeing what Ms. Holmes comes up with next.

Thanks to Net Galley, Random House Publishing - Ballantine Books, and Linda Holmes for an advanced review copy. Opinions are mine alone and are not biased in any way.

...more

Evvie Drake Starts Over A Novel

4.5 stars • I'm a longtime fan of Linda Holmes's writing and of her work on NPR's Pop Culture Happy Hour podcast, so I went into this book really wanting to love it and I was relieved to discover that it's even better than I was hoping it would be. This book is pretty much what I wish every contemporary romance novel was something with enough fantasy and dizziness to provide a sense of escape, but something that also doesn't sand down life's rough surfaces or trim away its ragged edges. This is a smart, grounded, and swoon-worthy read that is equal parts romance and the story two people learning how to change course and reshape the contours of their lives. A perfect cozy weekend read. ...more

4.5 stars

Evvie Drake's Starts Over is a highly entertaining, occasionally heartbreaking, and always engrossing tale that has stayed with me long after I finished it. The book is set in a small town in Maine and tells the story of Evvie Drake and Dean Tenney, two very different individuals who are hurting and need help recovering from their own personal traumas.

Evvie's husband, a prominent doctor in their small town, died the year before on the day Evvie was planning to leave him. Intensely private

Evvie Drake's Starts Over is a highly entertaining, occasionally heartbreaking, and always engrossing tale that has stayed with me long after I finished it. The book is set in a small town in Maine and tells the story of Evvie Drake and Dean Tenney, two very different individuals who are hurting and need help recovering from their own personal traumas.

Evvie's husband, a prominent doctor in their small town, died the year before on the day Evvie was planning to leave him. Intensely private, Evvie had told no one, not even her father or best friend, that she planned to leave her husband for reasons that slowly unfold as the book progresses. She struggles to move on because she is paralyzed with guilt and shame. Dean Tenney is a famous Yankees baseball player whose ability to pitch has suddenly failed him causing a spectacular career meltdown. Needing to get away and out of the spotlight, Dean rents the garage apartment attached to Evvie's house, and the two slowly begin to share their stories with each other.

The strength and importance of human connection and relationships is at the core of Evvie Drake Starts Over together with a fun romantic element and the impact of time on friendships. In the vein of A Man

Evie Drake Starts Over

Called Ove and Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine, this book will simultaneously tug at readers' heartstrings, cause a lot of laughter, and result in cheers with the highly satisfying and realistic ending.

I highly recommend Evie Drake Starts Over and am amazed it is a debut. I look forward to Linda Holmes' future books and plan to recommend this to everyone I know.

...more

Evvie Drake Starts Over Book Tour

Wow, I devoured this book. I started during work (don't judge) and rushed home to finish it in evening. There was something about it that just resonated with me.

Evvie's finally leaving a loveless marriage when the unthinkable happens and her husband dies. Now she has to act like the grieving widow while secretly feeling like a monster and shamed inside.

Dean's career as a pitcher comes to an end when he gets the "yips" and is unable to throw accurately anymore. He moves to small town Maine and rents a studio from Evvie who he finds through their mutual friend, Andy. Together and separately they navigate coming to terms with the unexpected and starting their lives over.

Evvie's finally leaving a loveless marriage when the unthinkable happens and her husband dies. Now she has to act like the grieving widow while secretly feeling like a monster and shamed inside.

Dean's career as a pitcher comes to an end when he gets the "yips" and is unable to throw accurately anymore. He moves to small town Maine and rents a studio from Evvie who he finds through their mutual friend, Andy. Together and separately they navigate coming to terms with the unexpected and starting their lives over.

I loved every one of these characters. They were complex and broken and so so real. They dealt with the hand life gave them the same as so many of us would do: bravely one day, in denial the next, taking two steps forward and one step back.

It's a more quiet novel, very character-centric, and that's what makes it so good. There's no unnecessary drama to spice it up or action sequence to build suspense. It's a novel about life, about acceptance and closure, and about the relationships we have with the ones we love.

I received an advanced copy through Netgalley in return for an honest review. ...more

A romance about adults acting like adults! They have actual conversations! They fall in love because they REALLY LIKE EACH OTHER! They make mistakes and then apologize! They have nuanced friendships with people of the opposite sex! They help each other, and sometimes it goes wrong! They have complicated relationships with their careers and parents! There is also kissing!

Evvie Drake Starts Over Goodreads

I loved this book and could not stop reading it. I received an ARC of this book from publisher a few months back and then I started seeing in on lots of the "summer reading Lists" and knew I had to go ahead and read it And I'm glad I did. A very simple and sweet story of Evvie who tries so hard to start over her life and what happens along the way. Love her and the other main characters.

It's hard to find good chick-lit that's not too racy and not too stupid. This one was just about perfect. And the dialogue was so sharp - I underlined so many funny lines.

Evvie Drake Starts Over Audiobook

I'm not ashamed to admit that I actually clapped my hands with glee when I got approved for this one on Netgalley. I have been such a fan of Linda Holmes' work for about 20 years now, since her days of recapping tv shows on the internet and my days of secretly reading said recaps while being paid to do something else. Unfortunately, my devotion to Linda is perhaps matched only by my apathy for baseball. BUT. I loved this book so much, and it wasn't even *in spite of* the baseball. Like, even the parts involving Baseball Words made me happy. This is a smart lady romance novel, with so many wonderful turns of phrase. I know I'm not supposed to say too much or quote things until the book is actually out, but can I at least tell you about the part where she compares a hair removal routine to building a ship in a bottle? Or the part where she points out why crying in the shower is "the super spy's cry"?

This book is so great, people.

Fangirl out. ...more

This Book: I am about a woman leaving a terrible marriage who puts up walls to protect herself that end up hurting the people she loves.

Me: You are a delightful, cheery ball of fluff and I adore it.

Just to be clear, I do not really read happy books. When people ask me for something light and fluffy I respond with _(ãf,,)_. I like dark, serious, complex sh*t. But every now and then I will find a book that I find to be just a sunny, lovely, sweet bite of candy. To other people it may look like a ni This Book: I am about a woman leaving a terrible marriage who puts up walls to protect herself that end up hurting the people she loves.

Me: You are a delightful, cheery ball of fluff and I adore it.

Just to be clear, I do not really read happy books. When people ask me for something light and fluffy I respond with Â^_(ãf,,)_/Â^-. I like dark, serious, complex sh*t. But every now and then I will find a book that I find to be just a sunny, lovely, sweet bite of candy. To other people it may look like a nice but slightly heavy read, but to me it is all sunshine and rainbows because my perspective is oh so slightly skewed.

I would put EVVIE DRAKE right next to J. Ryan Stradal (just swap out the midwest for Maine). They both write these surprisingly complex characters that you get to know really deeply. And while there is

Evvie Drake Starts Over

something just so good and pure about them, they are not actually afraid of darkness and hard times and how people get through them. They are ultimately really uplifting and affirming even though there are a lot of rough steps along the way.

Evvie has spent most of her life in a bad marriage. It's taken a toll on her self-esteem and the way she presents herself to the world. When she finally gets the strength to leave, her husband dies suddenly and sends her into a tailspin. Enter Dean, the former professional pitcher who's left in disgrace with a case of "the yips." These two broken people will, of course, learn how to love each other and themselves. That is no surprise, and the book is thrilled to give you a real damn romance. It also lets you spend some real time with these characters, to let them grow, to listen to their banter, to hope and swoon and smile.

I really related to Evvie, the way she lost herself, the way she keeps things inside to protect herself and the way she slowly opens up. I loved her wit and the way she cared for the people in her life. It was nice to spend time with her, and it was even nicer to spend time with her and the perfect, hunky Dean. I'm delighted Linda Holmes has written a novel. It's a straight up commercial read, but it's got such heart and wit, I want to read five more.

I listened to the audiobook of this and liked it in that format a lot. At first I thought the narrator wasn't my first choice, I wanted someone with a little more bounce in their voice. But she more than made up for it with her truly excellent New England accents, so I wholly endorse her. (FYI the author is listed as a reader, she reads only the dedication and the acknowledgments.) ...more

Evvie Drake Starts Over Vk

This is such a lovely story. I'm sad it's over. I couldn't get enough of Evvie and Dean. They are two perfectly imperfect people. Women who have been in unhappy marriages will relate to Evvie. She's the kind of woman you feel you could be friends with. Her romance with Dean felt genuine and real. Both of their insecurities were valid and relatable. I think you'll want to add this to your TBR for June. I received this ARC from Netgalley.

This is the rarest of birds--a love story for adults. Not just a love story between two people, but a story about the love between friends, the love of family, and the love that you find for yourself by going through the hard stuff of living. It is warm and funny and real and smart in all the best ways. Treat yourself to this book--it's a marvelous reminder of some of the best things about being alive. And it takes place in coastal Maine, and has dogs and baseball, so, you know, it's perfect.