



House of Daughters

Sarah-Kate Lynch

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Lonely Clementine is the rightful heir to the House of Peine, the vineyard that has been in the family for generations. She has spent her whole life caring for the vines, not to mention her sour brute of a father. But now the Peine patriarch is dead, and to Clementine's distress his will stipulates that she must share the vineyard with a half-sister she hasn't seen in twenty years and another she didn't even know existed. Secrets tumble out as the three sisters struggle to rescue the family heritage while overcoming their own differences. As a precious blend of grapes, tears and triumph brings these estranged siblings together, readers will savor this heartfelt toast to sisterhood and inspired celebration of champagne.

House of Daughters Details

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Author : Sarah-Kate Lynch

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From Reader Review House of Daughters for online ebook

Erin says

Predictable and forgettable. I didn't really like any of the main characters and wished that I hadn't wasted the time finishing the book.

Georgia says

This is a book about sisters, family, love, friendship, acceptance, and most importantly Champagne - *Bubbly, rich, delicate, and delightful*

Following the death of Olivier Piene, Clementine eventually has the previous House of Peine to herself, but does she?

First her sister Mathilde arrives and then Sophie; a sister neither of them knew about. They must come together if they want to make the House of Peine the House of Joy

When I first started this book I found Clementine quite cold and aggressive but throughout the book you can see why she acts like this but her true nature isn't like this at all. Mathilde, although an adult, has the attitude of 17 year old girl who thinks she can get whatever / whoever she wants and does not think of others. Sophie, the youngest, has never known true family and has lots of expectations when she firsts arrives at the house. She's more like Clementine than first expected and Mathilde does not like this. There wasn't a character I didn't like, they all have their flaws and that's what makes them them.

I was worried when I first started this book it was going to be full of drama and *cat-fighting* but it wasn't. The book is set of a year or so and gradually shows the sisters becoming family with the help of La Petite. The story felt natural and not at all rushed showing how relationships need time to grow, and in some cases heal.

Sarah-Kate Lynch is a fantastic author and you can see all the research she has put in to write this book. I almost felt I was learning about the wine and champagne making but everything is kept relevant to the main story.

If you want a summer read about love, friendship, and of course Champagne then give this a read.

P.S. I would love my own Cochon; he sounds amazingly cute!

Angela Heisey says

Loved this book! A powerful message of how love can transform people.

Josefa Wann says

I have read most of the books by this author and enjoyed them all. Each book is about a different good subject...cheese, honey, sweets..etc. This one is about champagne. It was interesting although one would be hard to find any 3 sisters more different and needing, with so many problems.

Phyllis says

This book makes me want to live in a vineyard and make wine. The story of three accidental sisters from the House of Peine is an achingly sweet story about the power of a parent's presence (or in this case, absence) in a woman's life. It will break your heart, make you so mad you could spit and cry tears of laughter and joy. At the end you'll want to go to your local wine store for a case of their best champagne, wishing that you, too would discover that you are a sister in the House of Peine.

I love Sarah-Kate Lynch's books. If you like this one, read Blessed Are the Cheesemakers and By Bread Alone.

Ami G says

I've enjoyed this book and how well it was written. The storyline moved along and did not drag. I was happy with the ending and it will be a book I will always remember.

The main vigneron of a champagne vineyard passes and in his will brings together his three daughters. They overcome some struggles and are able to care for one another in the end. As a wine enthusiast, I found this book full of fun facts and learned about the champagne business.

5/5 for enjoyment, easy storyline, and for it being rememberable

Pam says

Good story with a touch of humor and a happy ending. Great beach reading!

Jedimelinda says

Set among the grape growing vineyards of France, the three sisters in this well-researched novel by Sarah-Kate Lynch clearly have issues. Quite frankly, sometimes their issues with each other can be hard to take -- but it's well worth it to get to the last page. Just as you would like to savor every drop of your favorite glass of champagne [since this tale revolves around champagne crafters, that is the beverage of choice here ;-] , you will savor every word on every page. Lynch's tale is craftily spun, and it's clear she has a deep affection for sisters Clementine, Mathilde and Sophie, and daughter/niece Edie.

Happy Reading! :-)

Jamie says

For what it is, this book was pretty good. I enjoyed the characters and the setting, and learned a bit about making champagne. Sure, it's a light read. Good beach book, not something that makes me go "wow." But it was enjoyable, and avoided becoming stupid as so many of these books tend to do.

Suanne Laqueur says

LOVED IT

Sarah-Kate Lynch has written many beautiful novels that center around not so much food, but a particular artisan and regional craft: *By Bread Alone* is about the sourdough breadmaking of France. *Blessed Are the Cheesemakers* tells the story of two old Irish cheesemakers in need of an heir for their business. And *House of Daughters* is about the champagne industry.

Three daughters inherit their father's business although it is the eldest, Clementine, who has been running the vineyard and truly knows the most about growing, harvesting and bottling grapes for premier champagne. Where her bravado deserts her is in the blending—she lacks an inherent sense of taste and smell to determine which vintages to put together. However, her young niece has the gift. And there is this wonderful, magical scene where Clementine sits down with her niece, with samples of that year's harvest in paper cups, and this young girl, this misfit creature who has always felt in the way and never good enough, she begins to smell, taste, differentiate, then work to find the words to communicate the sensations to her aunt, to group vintages together, to blend them. Little by little her confidence grows, she realizes she has a gift, she has a palate, she has a purpose...and she blooms like a grapevine.

Jennifer says

Way too boring...Read about 100 pages and was just too slow so I gave up. Dialog was poor and didn't care for characters or the story.

Karen says

I'm so glad I stuck with this one because I ended up liking it a whole lot more than my initial impression of it. It is the story of a winery in the Champagne region of France. The old, crotchety owner dies and leaves it to his three daughters--two of whom didn't even know about the existence of the third. The sisters don't get along, they're all damaged in different ways, but they are forced to learn to work together. The story is funny and warm and has a great message. I'm very glad I read it. *Blessed Are the Cheesemakers* by Lynch is one of my favorites, and this was right up there.

Gillian says

I am really impressed with the extensive research that Sarah-Kate undertook in order to write this novel. I expect she thoroughly enjoyed that experience. I loved little Cochon.

Coming from Dunedin Aotearoa/New Zealand I also appreciated the title.

Sherese says

Ridiculous..I don't know a single woman as emotional as these three characters/sisters. It was like they were suffering from homornal imbalances. All the outbursts, crying and carrying on was too much. The most level headed person is the 10 year old, that's sad.

Mindy Conde says

In all honesty, I enjoyed this book more than I expected to. It had been sitting at the bottom of my stack of library books for awhile – it just wasn't really jumping out at me – but I'm glad I gave it a chance. Be warned though, after reading this book (and, lets face it, throughout reading it) you will have a serious craving for good champagne and pastries. And because whenever I think of good wine, sparkling or otherwise, I also want good cheese, I ended up craving that too.

In any case, this was a really fun read that tells the story of three sisters: Clementine, the eldest, loves everything about the family vineyard, House of Peine, and has run it for years with her aging, alcoholic father; Mathilde, the middle sister, grew up in America with her troubled mother but now leads a privileged life which she has trouble appreciating; and finally the youngest, and perhaps the most level-headed emotionally speaking, Sophie, who lived on the streets until she showed up at the House of Peine looking for a home, family, and stability. The death of their father brings them all together when the crotchety old man leaves them equal shares in the family home and vineyard – a sought-after parcel of land in the Champagne region of France that, while boasting a grand reputation and history, is a bit worse for the wear currently due to his continued drinking and self-destructive spiral.

The news that Clementine must share her inheritance not only with the half-sister that she has held a nearly twenty year grudge against, but also with yet another half-sister she didn't even know existed, leaves her reeling. Her surly manner and anger at her father, not only for running the House of Peine nearly into the ground, but then leaving it to her sisters as well as to her, don't make for the most ideal reunion when Mathilde and Sophie show up on the doorstep. What ensues is a lot of emotional outbursts and some serious pigheadedness. As some of the other reviewers have mentioned, yes, they do act a bit immature, but I didn't really have a problem with it. I think that there's some truth in their situation – siblings at the best of times, have tendencies to revert back to their bickering days so I didn't find it too outlandish that these sisters should do the same. At some points, they did take things a bit far, but anyone who has siblings know that they are sometimes the most tricky of relationships. No one else remembers your past screw-ups better than the person who grew up alongside you. Sometimes those old grudges are the most difficult to let go of. So were they dramatic and sometimes overly emotional? Yes. Was it understandable though? Yes, I think so. I think that it makes them more realistic characters for it. They aren't always going to be nice and entertaining. Sometimes they will be annoying and try your patience. Just like real people; gee, go figure.

As expected there are some serious growing pains between these three very different women, and the journey to becoming a family is a long one; but, in the end things weave together nicely and aren't the overly sappy type of resolutions that normally make me roll my eyes (minus one moment at the end that was kind of pushing it – the coincidence was a bit too huge and far-fetched – but besides that, we're ok).

Overall I really enjoyed this book and was fully absorbed throughout. I like the characters and their interactions. I like the zany gypsies that come into the plot (a little magical realism and whimsy was a fun addition). And, mostly, I like the journeys that the characters take and their evolutions. It was a fun read that could have been trite and silly, but actually wasn't. It was interesting, well-timed, and happily broke free of the one-dimensional chick-lit mold that so many of those stories succumb to. I would definitely recommend this one. Only problem is that now I seriously want to go to France.
