



Miss You Most of All

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Few things are as lasting as the bond between sisters. In her poignant debut, Elizabeth Bass explores the lengths one cobbled-together family will go to for each other, and the power of a connection that never fades. . .

Sassy Spinster Farm is a place to find solace. At least, that's what it's become since Rue Anderson and her sister Laura transformed their childhood Texas homestead into a successful tourist destination. It's where guests flock to get their hands dirty and taste food fresh from the garden. And it's where Rue is raising her pre-teen daughter on her own--while trying to keep her outspoken sister in check. It's not easy, but together, it seems there's nothing the two can't handle--until an unexpected, and not entirely welcome guest shows up in the middle of one warm summer night.

Heidi Bogue, onetime stepsister to Rue and Laura, is back, and she's hiding from something. Why else would she return to the place she was dragged to, kicking and screaming, as a teenager? A place she was thrilled to leave when, three years later, she and her mother bolted, leaving Rue and Laura's father heartbroken? But while Laura is irate, Rue won't turn Heidi away. Technically, they were once sisters, and to Rue, sisterhood is forever.

Soon, Sassy Spinster Farm is turned upside down by Heidi's complicated presence. Still, Rue is determined that Heidi, like all their guests, finds the farm a safe place to discover--or remember--what really matters. It's a revelation that will come sooner than any of them expected, when devastating news shakes the foundation of their tenuous sisterhood.

Moving and uplifting, here is a beautifully written novel about the bonds we are born into and those we create for ourselves--and of the strength that comes in loving without limits.

Miss You Most of All Details

Date : Published May 1st 2010 by Kensington (first published January 1st 2010)

ISBN : 9780758235107

Author : Elizabeth Bass

Format : Hardcover 432 pages

Genre : Fiction, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Contemporary

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Jodi says

To be honest, I would give this 4.5 stars. I loved the story line, even though it was heart wrenching at times. It was definitely worth reading.

Sam says

This was definitely a right book, right time scenario. A contemporary fiction that follows a family who run a farm in Texas was light, fun, and unexpectedly emotional. The dialogue and characters weren't great but if you enjoy contemporary fiction that focus on a group of women, I'd say give it a try. It's not the best book in the whole world but it was definitely a nice, light read.

Nancy says

I had 10 minutes to spare before my train left to pick out a book at the library. I wanted to see if there was a Linda Barnes book I hadn't read. There wasn't. But this book was on a nearby shelf and the title caught my eye. The dust jacket blurb sounded interesting so I took it out. So glad to log on to Goodreads and see all the positive reviews!

Loved this. Will it stand the test of time? Maybe. Was it delightfully entertaining? Most definitely. Wonderful slice of life with some interesting characters. Laughed and cried over this one.

Laura Jean says

I don't deny that this is a good book. It's well-written and a very powerfully emotional story about family, particularly sisters. Sadly, I spent 3/4 of the book VIOLENTLY hating several characters. So I didn't find it as enjoyable as I might have. Even so, I still spent the last 10th of the book sobbing. I did enjoy the classic film references.

Jana says

This was another reader's choice at the library. It was a sweet story, but very predictable. The minute you found out one of the characters was in remission from cancer you knew she was going to die. The other sister was so nasty I didn't really care that she was going to be heartbroken when her sister died. And I felt bad for the poor shmuck who ended up with her.

Ivy Lake says

So sad!

Jodi says

Sassy Spinster Farm is a bit of a misnomer. Rue was married, just to the wrong guy, but she has a super 11 year old daughter to show for it. Her younger sister Laura is anything but sassy though she's definitely a spinster. The two run a farm that ekes out a living by taking in agritourists. Laura hates every second of it. It gets worse when their former step-sister, Heidi, arrives in desperate straits. As kids they were not friends. Laura and Heidi were actively enemies. Rue, on the other hand, knows that Heidi can't be blamed for what was largely not her fault. They were all teenagers. Heidi is running from people who may want her killed. She was sort of involved with a guy at the bank who may have been embezzling. But on the farm, a place she actively despised, she finds what she had long been looking for, purpose. Heidi changes the dynamic at the farm just in time to prepare them for the future. For fans of Sherryl Woods and Deborah Smith.

Megan says

Couldn't get into

Gina says

A cute family related chick lit novel that moved a little slowly at times. I loved the relationship that grew between Rue and Heidi but the way Laura acted got boring and silly. She was a grown woman who had all these stupid resentments about people in general especially her ex- stepsister, Heidi, who returned to Sassy Spinster Farm to flee from some mobster type ex-boyfriend. Laura was extremely rude and mean to her throughout the book and it got old very quick. The backstory of Heidi was also confusing and strange. It felt like the author needed a reason for Heidi to come back to the farm and just wrote the first thing that came to mind and didn't put much thought into it. I did like the movie nights they had because during those times the characters were drawn out better.

The book has romance, hijinks, family, and deep down, a whole lotta love. I will probably take a look at her other books to see what they have to offer. 3 stars.

Erica says

Ok, this stupid book made me cry. It's a sweet story about two sisters running a farm in Texas, dealing with love, commitment issues, an old accident, confusing adult relationships, a tween daughter, cancer, a step-sister in trouble, etc. It wasn't a fast page turner, but I had to finish it all the same. I wish things had ended a little differently, but I'm a sap like that. -e

Big take-away: Don't be a bitch.

Kathleen says

An author new to me, Bass has written a novel in which its themes engaged me more than some of the characters: “agritourism,” working farms that host paying guests to learn more about farming to keep certain finance disaster from their gates...the dynamic between sisters and the changes that follow when a much despised step sister surfaces after many years...past and impending loss (emotional and physical) and the healing that can occur...the role old movies play in the farm’s life as well as the sisters’ interior lives. The farm requires determination and sheer grit to stay afloat as does the sisters who face a terminal illness that shakes their existence. While some of the narration and story line seemed tedious and perhaps clichéd, the accounting of the sister’s illness was beautifully written, believable and touching...and of course, “miss you most of all” comes straight from Dorothy’s mouth at the end of *The Wizard of Oz*, which had me sobbing for all my seeming detachment from the novel.

Valerie says

Good story—moved very quickly. Made me cry. Loved that it was set in East Texas!

Valerie says

Laura, Rue, and Heidi - two sisters and one ex-step sister, all on a farm/bed and breakfast type place - the Sassy Spinsters Farm in Texas - what a ride! Heidi's on the run from a small-time mobster; Laura's on the run from love as well as herself; and Rue's on the run from the big C - cancer. As these ladies learn to reconnect with one another and deal with small-town life, reality rears its' ugly head in the form of illness and they must all put aside old wounds to deal with an uncertain future. A novel of finding yourself when you least expect it, of acknowledging the unseen ties of family, of recognizing the courage to love, and of having the strength to face loss and truly grieve - at times hilarious, at times heart-wrenching - as much as I really liked this one, it was bittersweet for me.

Liz Fichera says

MISS YOU MOST OF ALL follows the sometimes simple and sometimes complicated lives of the sisters who run the Sassy Spinster Farm in Sweetgum, Texas. I love stories about sisters and settings in the American West so this book interested me from the get-go. The writing is beautiful, the characters were authentic, and the dialogue tugged at my heartstrings while at other times made me laugh out-loud. This book had me from "Ricky Ricardo's in the freezer." I loved the story from start to finish.

Marianne Stehr says

When I got about 100 pages into this story I felt as if I had figured everything out that was going to happen and truly I did for the most part, however the shocking thing here is that I stayed with this book, read the whole thing even sure I knew what was going to happen. Equally shocking is that I highly recommend this book despite the predictability I felt it had. The characters are so well developed and the setting is calm, the story just pulls you in. You get so involved with the characters that you cannot help but start reading quicker and quicker. I was sad to see the book end! It reminded me a great deal of the Friday Night Knitting Club (minus the knitting!) which I loved. If you are interested in getting involved with a fictional family, feeling their sorrows and joys, then read this one, it will stay with you for quite a while.
