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The Dress Shop Of Dreams: A Novel



Synopsis

For fans of Alice Hoffman, Sarah Addison Allen, and Adriana Trigiani, *The Dress Shop of Dreams* is a captivating novel of enduring hopes, second chances, and the life-changing magic of true love. Since her parents' mysterious deaths many years ago, scientist Cora Sparks has spent her days in the safety of her university lab or at her grandmother Etta's dress shop. Tucked away on a winding Cambridge street, Etta's charming tiny store appears quite ordinary to passersby, but the colorfully vibrant racks of beaded silks, delicate laces, and jewel-toned velvets hold bewitching secrets: With just a few stitches from Etta's needle, these gorgeous gowns have the power to free a woman's deepest desires. Etta's dearest wish is to work her magic on her granddaughter. Cora's studious, unromantic eye has overlooked Walt, the shy bookseller who has been in love with her forever. Determined not to allow Cora to miss her chance at happiness, Etta sews a tiny stitch into Walt's collar, hoping to give him the courage to confess his feelings to Cora. But magic spells "like true love" can go awry. After Walt is spurred into action, Etta realizes she's set in motion a series of astonishing events that will transform Cora's life in extraordinary and unexpected ways.

Praise for *The Dress Shop of Dreams*

• Reminiscent of *Love Actually* and *P.S. I Love You*, this cute little book is recommended to readers who want to be charmed by the possibilities of love. —LibraryReads (Top Ten Pick)

• [Menna] van Praag has a deliciously innate capability to weave the totality of characters of *The Dress Shop of Dreams* into a compelling tale. Each character, from Cambridge to Oxford, augments and refines these dynamics. Ultimately, van Praag cracks the code that deciphers magical fate when it comes to couture and the complexities of love. —New York Journal of Books

• [A] brightly colored fabulist confection . . . sure to delight those looking for a little fairy dust in their romance. —Kirkus Reviews

• *The Dress Shop of Dreams* is a delightful blending of many love stories plus a tale of murder and suspense. Van Praag has a knack for balancing a large cast of engaging characters, and her references to beloved authors and historic scientists are enjoyable touchstones between doses of mystery and magic. —Booklist

• *The Dress Shop of Dreams* is a light, sweet and shimmering confection, well worth a read. —BookLoons

• Bighearted, beautiful, and brushed with magic, this novel celebrates life's moments of joy, possibility, and transformation. Menna van Praag's writing is bright with sparkles and lovely grace notes. —Susan Wiggs, bestselling author of *The Beekeeper's Ball*

• *The Dress Shop of Dreams* is a dream come true for lovers of romantic tales with a twist of fantasy. Utterly enchanting! Menna van Praag's imaginative, endearing characters will stay with you long after you close the book. —Mary Alice Monroe, New York Times bestselling author of *The Summer Wind*

• Dresses, dreams, magic, and mystery

swirl in this enchanting novel. The Dress Shop of Dreams is the book to read before turning off your bedside light. • Nancy Thayer, New York Times bestselling author of Nantucket Sisters Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Readerâ€™s Circle for author chats and more. From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Magical Realism, not a genre I am familiar with or one that I intentionally went looking for, but that is what I found from the first page of this book. I found myself sinking into the lives of Cora and all those that entered the little dress shop, a place of wonder that just seemed to know the right music to play when a person walked through the door. At first, I was not too sure how everyone fit together, but as the story went along, I realized that I was reading a braid. I know that sound funny, but all the couples, or the people that should have been couples were interwoven in the most curious of ways. Cora Carraway â€” Orphaned as a young girl and was raised by her grandmother in the dress shop. She has grown into a brilliant scientist who is now questioning the death of her parents. She spends her days lost in her own world where the only constant is numbers. Ella Sparks â€” Coraâ€™s grandmother. The owner of the dress shop, on All Saintsâ€™ Passage, who spends her days sewing beautiful dresses that make the ownerâ€™s realize their true potential (wear this dress and

youâ€™ll find what your missing: confidence, courage, power, love, beauty, magnificenceâ€¦) by sewing a special little star into the seams of the dresses with her needle and red thread weaving possibility into their dreams. Walt â€œ Since he was four years old, Walt has been in love with Cora but she has never taken notice of him. He spends his days working in the bookshop that he has dreamed of his whole life and recently has taken a second job as the Night Reader on the local radio station narrating books that appeal to his female listeners, but embarrasses him. Father Sebastian â€œ Spends his days listening to the confessions of others but is hiding his own secret.

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