

Books

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BITTERSWEET

by *Miranda Beverly-Whittemore* | ★★★★★

NOVEL

"Before she loathed me, before she loved me, Genevra Katherine Winslow didn't know that I existed," begins Mabel, the narrator of *Bittersweet*, Beverly-Whittemore's mesmerizing gothic thriller. A scholarship student, Mabel coexists in an uneasy truce with her roommate "Ev," the wild, willowy daughter of blue-blooded New Yorkers. But an unlikely friendship takes root when Ev suffers a family tragedy and invites Mabel to Winloch, the private lakeside camp where generations of Winslows have summured in Vermont. The girls settle in

at Bittersweet, the cottage that Ev has inherited, but there are hints of trouble surrounding the Winslows. Even as Mabel falls for camp life—the family dinners, swimming, fireworks and boating—she realizes things are not what they seem. Why does John, the handyman, install multiple dead bolts on the cottage doors? Why does Ev's aunt ask Mabel to sort through family papers to find evidence of "blood money?" And what does an old diary reveal of the family's past? Mabel's enchantment fades

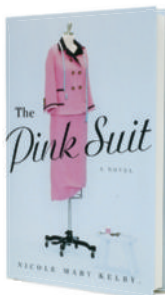
'There was something worse than the burden of servitude, and it was the sin of killing'

as she pieces together evidence of a family's malevolence and she wonders who can be trusted when someone is willing to murder to keep the family's secrets hidden. *Bittersweet* is worth savoring—it unfolds like a long summer day, leisurely revealing the dark.

—REVIEWED BY LISA KAY GREISSINGER

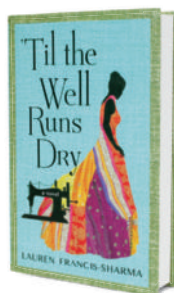


NEW IN FICTION



THE PINK SUIT
by **Nicole Mary Kelby**

Inspired by the true story behind Jackie Kennedy's iconic outfit, Kelby has stitched a compelling tale of politics, fashion and history.



'TIL THE WELL RUNS DRY
by **Lauren Francis-Sharma**

You'll hear the calypso music in this vivid debut about a spirited seamstress and devoted mother with a family secret.



ASTONISH ME
by **Maggie Shipstead**

A sweeping tale of passion, art and betrayal in which a dancer finds she can't escape the world of toe shoes and pliés.