



Between Friends

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A provocative new novel about birth, death, and the stuff in between, from the award-winning author of *Catching Genius*.

Thanks to modern reproductive technology-and the gift of her friend Cora's eggs-Ali Gutierrez is the mother of a fourteen-year-old daughter. Now, yearning for a second child, Ali asks Cora's permission to use another of the frozen embryos that have been stored away in anticipation of this decision. But Cora has a secret that could not only change Ali's plans for the future, but tear apart her life right now.

Between Friends Details

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Author : Kristy Kiernan

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From Reader Review Between Friends for online ebook

Gina Beirne says

Not my review, but an interesting blog post from the author re: character development

<http://www.devourerofbooks.com/2010/0...>

Mardee says

When I finished this book, the first thing I did was look up others by Kristy Kiernan. What a masterfully told story, punctuated by emotion in all the right places. The characters in this book were all very relatable, and I felt completely drawn into their collective story. A poignant tale of love, friendship, parenthood and balance.

Trichelle De La Cueva says

4.5 stars

My first by this author and I very much enjoyed it. Wasn't over saturated with excessive back story, even though there was an extensive history between the characters. There were enough details and explanation to understand the past without entire chapters dedicated to it.

There was a twist I wasn't expecting and overall it really kept me interested.

Amy says

This is the first time I have read this author. The book was fantastic. I really thought I could predict where this entire book was going and the author really surprised me with every single character! Excellent and surprising.

Myah says

I found this book lying in the basement untouched. I found a strong interest by just reading the back cover. It shows how strong a relationship is between two people who have been friends since they were little. I liked how the plot went with Cora having kidney disease and Ali wanting to have another baby. That was the main focus of the story but when Benny got shot toward the end of the book I was skeptical about how it was going to end. I seriously thought Letty was going to have a kid. I really liked how the story was kind of predictable for me, but turned out totally different.

Arlene says

An easy read that takes several subjects(IVF, Hereditary diseases, teen age rebellion) and deals with it in a thoughtful and interesting manner. I will read more books by this author.

Randy says

Between Friends demonstrates that which is rarely captured: the friendship ties that bind women. Kiernan deals beautifully with the challenge of portraying the drama of in-vitro fertilization, frozen embryos, and egg donation. She captures the both the wonder and terror of motherhood--and the rift it sometimes causes in a marriage. Most of all, she gave this reader a story that made me have to know what would happen!

Jim Thomsen says

I loved this book, as much if not more than I loved the author's previous work, "Matters Of Faith."

Kristy Kiernan's gift is this: She takes the best elements of literary fiction and marries them to the taut, lean pacing of genre potboilers. "Between Friends" is a story that's story first, that whisks the reader along on a breathless ride and develops its characters and settings with spare but sharp insights along the way.

"Between Friends" juggles a disparate cast, social and medical issues, multiple points of view and dozens of dramatic incidents that build up and weave into one another, and she does so without missing a beat. Many bigger names in "women's fiction" (yeah, I hate that term too, but it fits, and there's not much point fighting it) can't resist the misguided impulse to put the action on pause while letting characters bleed for pages with blathery, often unnecessary backstory in blatantly show-offy fashion. Kiernan is the rare writer who steps nimbly around such swamps and keeps her eyes on bigger and better payoffs — all of which are fully and fairly realized at the story's end.

Along the way, I came to know (and occasionally be frustrated) by wife and mother Ali Gutierrez, her headstrong teen daughter Letty, cop husband Benny, best friend Cora and several others ... and ultimately, I came to love them in spite of the fact that each of them irritate me so much. They became family to me. Not many authors — including those who deal in more "serious" and "important" milieus, and those who write with more delicate poetry — have been able to make me feel that. I'll take family over fanciness any day.

Kristy Kiernan should be one of the biggest literary stars on the planet. Why she isn't should be the topic of an upcoming "Oprah" program.

Cyndy says

Read too much like a Lifetime movie. Two friends who grew up together. One can't have kids, the other doesn't want them. She donates eggs to friend and husband. Fourteen years later, donater has kidney disease.

Donatee immediately steps forward to give one of hers. Husband not too keen. Mix in daughter (age 14) dating an older boy, has sex for the first time with boy who sells pot (just to put gas in his car--so that's all right!?!?) and husband conveniently dying in the line of duty. The reminiscing between the two women about their first sexual experiences (both 15) minimizes the fact that the kid is having sex now too. Oh well! Regrettable but hey didn't we too. No mention of this having maybe been a mistake on their part that they wouldn't like to see the girl repeat?!?! Hmm. Add some preaching about wind turbines (certainly the down side of them was not mentioned--the noise, the illnesses resulting from having them near human beings and animals, the birds destroyed every day--yeah that wasn't mentioned). But as in all Lifetime movies--everyone LIVES happily ever after. Ooops, except poor Benny--the husband.

Barb says

This was a strong 2.5 stars for me. Sort of lost interest towards the end and spent the last few chapters skimming to finish. Never really connected with the characters so this was just an ok read for me.

Kira FlowerChild says

If you've seen even a couple of Lifetime movies, you can pretty much write this book yourself from the blurb on the back. It's enjoyable enough, if you want something to read that you can skim through and not get too involved. I'm not even sure why I chose this book to read. I think I saw it at the library and thought it looked interesting. I thought it would be nice to read about a real friendship. It would have been, if the author had delved more deeply into the characters' psyches. I should have checked the back. Any book that has "discussion questions" at the back is a waste of time. Just a tip from me to you.

Michelle says

I find the way Kristy Kiernan conveys relationships (between sisters, best friends, mother and daughter) to be incredibly rich and real. Her stories are always complex and I often admire how brave she is for going certain places in her fiction I never could. This book touched on many topics: motherhood, friendship, illness, and medical ethics. All done in a compelling manner. Also, I have to say I totally thought the book was going in a certain direction at the end and was thinking, ack! No! Don't go there! But she veered down another path altogether and I ultimately loved the turn it took. In the world of women's fiction, this author is clearly at the top.

Barbara says

After plodding through half of the book, I skimmed to finish the rest. Very much a Lifetime movie plot. Not knocking it, this kind of book appeals to a lot of readers. I just couldn't invest in any of the main characters.

Cassie says

I think a few months ago, I would have given this book 4 stars. I liked the story, it was easy to read, it was quick, a book about friendship and family. Just the kind of book I like to read. However, since I have started reading reviews of books more often than I used to, I have become more critical of them I think. Reading what others say about books makes me think of things that I otherwise would not have. And I think this book is the first example for me that I felt I could be more critical than just "I liked it, the characters were good" or "I didn't like it, the story was dumb." Or whatever. I feel like I'm able to back up my opinions.

So, like I said, easy to read, decent story, quick, happy, sad, all the components of a good story. However, pretty much everything about this book seemed a little too convenient for me. Infertile woman wants a baby. Her best friend doesn't. Miracle of miracles, they are a blood match and best friend can be an egg donor. Best friend has a job that keeps her away from "her" daughter. Teenage daughter has troubled boyfriend that gets her into trouble. Dad goes ballistic. Best friend has genetic disease and needs a transplant. Cop dad gets shot by troubled boyfriend's dad, dies, is an organ donor. Friend rejects organ. Daughter doesn't have genetic disorder, gives "mom" her kidney. Troubled boyfriend is adopted by sick friend. Mom uses stored embryos to have another 'miracle' baby after dad is dead. And they all live happily ever after. Lovely.

It just seemed so far fetched to me. But I suppose that's why it's called fiction.

Colleen Turner says

Ali and Cora are not typical friends: they are best friends to the upteenth power. Ali and her childhood love and husband Benny wanted a baby even though Ali's eggs were not viable. So, in steps Cora to give Ali what she needs most to fulfill her mommy dreams. Along comes Letty, who, when the novel opens, is fourteen years old and ready to begin her life as a young woman. She fights the system (the system being her mom and dad) and acts out in order to establish who she believes she is (which doesn't always involve being the miracle baby her parents and Cora see her as). At the start of the novel we also have Ali wanting to have another baby using the extra embryos harvested when they tried to have Letty, Benny struggling with his inner demons that he, not being at the right place at the right time, was not able to be the perfect cop and save a young man's life, and Cora having a terrible secret to share with everyone, one that might just ruin everyone's happiness. You see, Cora has PKD kidney disease, a disease that has no cure and which might have been passed on to Letty through Cora's donated egg. Through this novel they all struggle with their feelings and choices, with some finding resolution and some meeting with devastating outcomes. Through it all we have the bond of Ali and Cora, a bond that cannot be broken no matter how hard life and circumstances try to break it.

When I finished this novel I just thought..wow! In no way was this a happy, easy read. I found myself actually having to put the book aside a few times because it was just too painful to read. What this book is is real. It is real emotion, real decisions and real outcomes to the decisions we make. You can relate to what these characters are feeling and doing, even if you don't want to admit it to anyone else. It shows how there is light even in the darkest days and that you can get through anything as long as you have friends and family who love you. I will definitely pick up this author's other books after reading this one. Highly recommend!

