



The House on Primrose Pond

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A compelling novel about one woman's search for the truth from the author of *You Were Meant For Me*.

After suffering a sudden, traumatic loss, historical novelist Susannah Gilmore decides to uproot her life—and the lives of her two children—and leave their beloved Brooklyn for the little town of Eastwood, New Hampshire.

While the trio adjusts to their new surroundings, Susannah is captivated by an unexpected find in her late parents' home: an unsigned love note addressed to her mother, in handwriting that is most definitely not her father's.

Reeling from the thought that she never really knew her mother, Susannah finds mysteries everywhere she looks: in her daughter's friendship with an older neighbor, in a charismatic local man to whom she's powerfully drawn, and in an eighteenth century crime she's researching for her next book. Compelled to dig into her mother's past, Susannah discovers even more secrets, ones that surpass any fiction she could ever put to paper...

The House on Primrose Pond Details

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Author : Yona Zeldis McDonough

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From Reader Review The House on Primrose Pond for online ebook

Karen says

4.5 I really loved this book! The characters were believable and likeable. The plot had a few twists. I enjoyed how the author wove a story within a story. She also included interesting details about the writing process. This story touched on many themes- rebuilding a life after a devastating loss, jealousy, teenage angst and forgiveness. I highly recommend this book.

Marin Thomas says

The first Yona Zelda McDonough book I read was *You Were Meant For Me* and I loved her storytelling not to mention her real-as-life characters. Her next book, *The House On Primrose* didn't disappoint!

McDonough's writing is superb. In this story she weaves bits of the past with the present. She pulls the reader into the beautiful New England setting, which provides a rich backdrop for this tale of family drama. The characters were sympathetic, and so honest you couldn't help but cheer for them as they struggled to find their way after the unexpected death of their father/husband. I especially liked the mother-daughter relationship, which McDonough depicted so openly and honestly.

This story packs an emotional punch as it deals with the painful loss of a loved one and the heartache and guilt that follows such a tragedy. McDonough adds some mystery and several clever plot twists, which will keep you turning the pages. Would definitely recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a story brimming with emotional intensity.

Linda says

Note: I'd like to thank Berkley/New American Library and Goodreads Giveaways for an advanced reader's edition of this book.

I found the plot of the book and the book within a book an interesting concept, however, I could not relate in any way to the main character, Susannah. She appeared to be very self-absorbed and remained so until the end. I had hoped to see more growth in her through her experiences. Instead, I found myself being drawn more to the historical novel about Betsey that Susannah was writing than to the actual book in its entirety.

Lynn Demsky says

A triumphant story that encircles today and the past with a round of ever never ending love! A real winner of a book that was more than I ever expected to discover--- would be a GREAT study for a woman's reading group or gathering of associates.

Krystyna Goddu says

I did enjoy reading *The House on Primrose Pond*! McDonough is especially good here at depicting the emotional complexities of mother/daughter relationships. The interweaving of historical fiction with the very contemporary tale is also well-handled, with the theme of guilt laced throughout both. The surprise at the end is quite delicious.

Rosa Cline says

4 star

I received this book as a Good Reads First Read Book Giveaway; of which I'm very appreciative of receiving. I really enjoyed reading this book it was some what different from the typical romance, drama, etc book. It has a book within a book and the author made it easier for the reader when she puts the other book in italicized lettering, so the reader if half asleep or can't remember can be aware of which story they are reading.

Second chances and learning to move on with life after a death. Accepting the past for what it was and moving on. Teenager dealing with her own emotions and Mama trying to break through the wall. And helping what was perceived as wrong in the past finding the truth to help those that have gone on before to 'rest in peace'... This book has a little of it all

Maryann Macdonald says

The House on Primrose Pond has a lot of the elements I enjoy reading about: history, secrets and old houses. I curled up with the book on a cold night in front of the fire and just kept on reading until I got to the end...which held some surprises. Although the novel is a romance, it was the female relationships in the book that interested me. My favorite unexpected line was: "If you can't be a bitch with your mother, who can you be a bitch with?" An LOL moment.

Kay Dee says

I won this book in a giveaway! It took me along time to read it though because i didn't realize the author was the one who was giving the book away. i will not make that mistake again, too much pressure. she wrote me a note and everything!

So anyway this was a typical women's fiction type novel. i enjoyed it. I will read her other books sometime or another. they are on the list. :-)

I like the typical women's fic because they are all about relationships and the main character's personal growth. they have forgiveness, love, betrayal, trust, loss, romance, and other deep emo type stuff like a

Hallmark and Lifetime movie all rolled into one book.
and all of that is what i liked about this book.

sometimes the main characters did some things that really annoyed me or were mean or dumb but that is life.
people are not perfect. all in all i liked the characters and how their stories played out.

Laurie says

****#1 RECOMMENDED READ**** Compelling. Intriguing. Evocative. Enthralling. Captivating. These are the words that come to mind to describe my feelings about *The House on Primrose Pond*. Seriously, I never wanted to put the book down. It was so well constructed and comprised of so many riveting elements that I found myself glued to the pages, anxiously awaiting the next development. I was fully invested in the story, which actually consisted of two stories in one since the protagonist was a novelist who was writing a book. I loved how the author incorporated a secondary story into the main one, giving you two tantalizing stories in one fascinating book. And now, a little about the book.....

Susannah Gilmore experiences a tragedy in her life, upending it and taking her from her home in Brooklyn, New York to the small town of Eastwood, New Hampshire. This is a prudent move given the circumstances, but one that her teenage daughter, Calista, struggles to embrace. The home that Susannah and her two children settle into in N.H. belonged to her now deceased parents, although technically they hardly ever lived there, having moved from the house before Susannah was born. Her only memorable recollection of time spent there was one summer when she was about 17. She recalls that her mother didn't seem happy that summer. That memory resurfaces when while moving in she finds what appears to be a love note to her mother that was not from her father. Why was some other man giving her mother notes and writing her poems? As Susannah uncovers more pieces to the puzzle her mother left behind, will she be able to accept the consequences that might result from her quest to find the truth.

Every once in a while a book comes along that seems especially written for you. It just speaks to your soul in a way that you understand. It astounds you and you can't stop thinking or talking about it. That was my experience with *The House on Primrose Pond*. I just loved so many things about it - the tragic events, an old summer crush, a mystery poet, grief, human imperfection, a little romance, widowhood, presumed infidelity, a pristine setting, lovable animals and fascinating wildlife. It was a gem with so many brilliant facets that kept me longing for the next revelation.

Yona Zeldis McDonough is a phenomenal storyteller and I am so glad I discovered her as an author along with her book, *The House on Primrose Pond*. I enjoyed this book immensely, and can't recommend it highly enough. It was an extraordinary read that easily ranks among one of my all-time favorites. Now I'm off to investigate what else she's written.....

Thank you so much to Penguin Random House and Yona Zeldis McDonough for an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review which I have given.

Susan Walker says

Enjoyable romance that also has some mystery and family secrets. The story kept me anxious to see what happened on the next page. I also happened to love the setting of the story.

Mary says

Susannah and her two children move to New Hampshire from Brooklyn a year after the death of her husband. They move into her family cottage on Primrose Pond and start a new chapter in their lives. While adjusting to her new circumstances Susannah makes a few discoveries that make her question all she knew to be true. There are issues of guilt and anger concerning her husband's death and the fallout experienced by Susannah's daughter and son. Family dynamics are certainly at the forefront in this novel.

Susannah, a historical fiction author, starts to work on a new book. It's different from anything she's written before. The research takes her on a journey that will, in some minor ways, affect how she looks at events in her life and bring her to a place of acceptance and, quite possibly, forgiveness. I'm a fan of historical fiction so I enjoyed the passages of the book Susannah was writing.

All in all, the novel held my interest. I liked most of the characters and wasn't ready to let them go as I turned the last page. Included at the end are a conversation with the author and discussion questions. *I received a review copy in exchange for my honest opinion.

Jessica says

I had won a copy of this book on GoodReads, and I wanted to like it more than I did. While the beginning of the novel gripped me, I became lost few chapters in and experienced a disconnect with the characters. I basically wanted to feel more for them than I did. While I also like the idea of having bits of Susannah's novel interwoven throughout the text, I wasn't blown away by it. I liked the concept but I wanted more in the way it was carried out.

Caroline Angell says

The author has woven a compelling tale that combines a piece of forgotten history with an honest look at how one family makes their way through the upheaval of a tragedy. The New England setting was completely immersive. This was a page-turner with a satisfying ending!

Diane says

I loved this book! The parallel between the main story and the story within the main story made the book even that much more enjoyable. I have read all of Yona's books and this is by far my favorite . The characters were very real and like able . I would definitely recommend this book!

Rosa Cline says

I received this book as a Good Reads First Read Book Giveaway; of which I'm very appreciative of receiving. I really enjoyed reading this book it was some what different from the typical romance, drama, etc book. It has a book within a book and the author made it easier for the reader when she puts the other book in italicized lettering, so the reader if half asleep or can't remember can be aware of which story they are reading.

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Very nicely done.
