



The September Letters

Maeve Binchy

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The September Letters Details

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From Reader Review The September Letters for online ebook

Lynn says

A wonderful book of Binchy's short stories. Sure to delight.

I read this EARC courtesy of Edelweiss and the publisher.

Kelly says

Thanks to the publisher and Edelweiss I was able to read this ebook short story by an author one can always count on to tell an engaging story, be it long or short. I thought I had this one all figured out but the ending surprised me. I would definitely have liked to spend more time with these characters!

Natalie says

Short. Sweet. Makes me wish I had this kind of exchange with people

Becky says

Short story but well written by one of my favorite authors. I sadly miss her but she lives on in her writing.

Deborah Gaspar says

True life

This author writes such interesting stories about life. This one tells a lot through letters over ten years of several people's lives. Well done.

Liz McComas says

My mother always said to "sleep on it" whenever I had a decision to make or a course of action to choose. When I actually followed her advice, nine times out of ten my decision/action ended up being completely different from what it would have been the day before. That's pretty huge for only one day. "The September Letters" shares the very dramatic changes that occur in the characters' lives year by year. If situations you're in can change so drastically in only a 24-hour period, you can imagine how drastically they can and do change within a year.

Yes, "The September Letters" is a (very) short story, but in no way does it lack Maeve Binchy's trademark writing style (and what a twist at the ending!!) Even in a story that's about the size of a chapter in one of her novels she completely brings the characters to life. She uses description and emotion to make her characters a part of you and you a part of them. You see "real life" within them - not fantasy. You see bits and pieces of people you know or know of...or perhaps even of yourself. She doesn't just transport you into a story where you're outside looking in -- she transports you into her stories so that you are a part of the story. You're invested. You care. These are "your people". Every single Maeve Binchy novel has been that way and this short story proves no different. And, to me, when an author can somewhat invest your emotions in a SHORT STORY, that is INCREDIBLE talent.

"The September Letters" only serves to further validate my mother's advice. (Yes, Mom. I'm admitting you're right - be sure and mark it on your "Year to Remember" calendar!!) Time doesn't just heal, as the old saying goes. Time causes change, redirection, new decisions and, eventually, the obscure to come into the light. Sure, time is relative, but, when it comes down to it, time is what matters.

My only complaint about "The September Letters" is that it ended.

Obsidian says

Please note that I gave this short story 3.5 stars, but rounded it up to 4 on Goodreads.

So this was a really quick read, I was done in about 20 minutes with it. Since it was only \$.99 I have to say that I got a great deal. This was definitely not my favorite of Maeve Binchy's short stories though. For me, it had more to deal with the final reveal and also how I got really tired of one of the characters in this story.

A chance encounter in a airport bar leads four people to stay in touch through the years by writing to each other every September.

We have James, a man in his 40s who is a bartender at the airport bar. An American couple named Maurice and Jean who are in their late 50s. And last, Katy, a young woman in her 20s who has an epic breakup with a man she's been seeing. After witnessing the fight between Katy and her boyfriend Colin, Maurice tells Katy to please write to them next year so they know how she is getting on because everyone is concerned with how she is going to be doing without Colin in her life.

Usually Maeve Binchy can breathe such life into her characters. This time, I wasn't feeling James or Katy in this story. We don't get a chance to really know Maurice and Jean because they just write letters back to Katy and they felt apart from the story. And honestly I couldn't stand Katy for most of this story. She had her head in the sand the whole time and seemed to sit around going woe is me.

The flow jerks around a lot since we are also following James and he and his wife's apparent lack of enthusiasm for each other. Then you have Katy and her messed up relationship with Colin to read.

I was pretty happy to get to the end. The reveal didn't do a thing for me at all, and honestly didn't make a lot of sense. I would have to believe that something about Katy touched anyone and made them want to keep in touch with her. Based on a few of the letters I would have been done with her long ago.

Hannie says

Een kort verhaal van Maeve Binchy. Interessant, met aan het eind een onverwachte wending. Het had nog iets langer mogen zijn, maar dat heb ik wel vaker met korte verhalen.

Megalion says

I dearly miss Maeve Binchy. She had such a talent for writing books that made you really recognize and appreciate how being part of a community can be precious.

This short is no different. It centers around chance encounter, or rather a volatile scene, at an airport bar. Then follows the people involved in it.

It's a quick and still satisfying read. Shame there'll never be another full length novel by Maeve but at least we still have these.

Thank you to the publisher for providing a free copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.
