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Heartbreak and hilarity come together in this story of a far-flung family reunited for one weekend by their father's death, by the author of the highly acclaimed *The Fates Will Find Their Way*.

Five minutes before her flight is set to take off, Kate Pulaski, failed screenwriter and newly-failed wife, learns that her estranged father killed himself. More shocked than saddened by the news, she reluctantly gives in to her older siblings' request that she join them--and her many half-siblings, and most of her father's *five* former wives--in Atlanta, their birthplace, for a final farewell.

Written with huge heart and bracing wit, REUNION takes place over the following four days, as family secrets are revealed, personal deceits are uncovered, and Kate--an inveterate liar looking for a way to come clean--slowly begins to acknowledge the overwhelming similarities between herself and the man she never thought she'd claim as an influence, much less a father. Hannah Pittard's "engaging and vigorous"* prose masterfully illuminates the problems that can divide modern families--and the ties that prove impossible to break. (**Chicago Tribune*)

Reunion Details

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Author : Hannah Pittard

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From Reader Review Reunion for online ebook

Elyse Walters says

How funny.. I know I read this book - I still own the hardcopy.

I can barely remember it..so I don't know what to rate it. Probably around 4 stars knowing me— right? Haha Has this happened to anyone else?

I just bought another book though by this same author for \$1.99 kindle special that Larry gave 5 stars. It's called "The Fates Will Find Their Way".

Shelley says

It's no secret that I'm a fangirl when it comes to Hannah Pittard books. She is perfection and writes books that read like dreamy artsy fartsy indie movies. There are paragraphs that take your breath away and leave you in a puddle of tears. The main character is so deeply flawed and unlikable, but you keep rooting for her to get her shit together. Hannah Pittard gets people like no other author I've read and reading Reunion is like taking a voyeuristic trip to Atlanta with a dysfunctional family for a funeral. It's dark as one would expect from a story centered around a funeral, and the journey is so satisfying even if the end doesn't give concrete details about what happens to all the characters. No epilogue needed to explain where the characters end up in a year or two. That's left up to us readers, some might hate when authors do this, but in the hands of Hannah Pittard, this works perfectly.

Carol says

I stayed up until three in the morning finishing Reunion by Hannah Pittard. I could not stop reading it. Kate Pulaski is a screenwriter who is washed up and has just made a mess of her marriage. When I started this book, I was amazed at how much I didn't like the main character. She is a perpetual liar, she spends money without the thought of tomorrow, she is very manipulative and critical of others, and she hates her dad. So, why didn't I want to stop reading? The author is amazing, she hooked me without my knowing it and I think that she could do this to any reader.

At the beginning of the story, Kate was ready on a plane already that had been delayed and she gets a phone call telling her that her dad had died, that he had shot himself. Her brother and sister want her to come to her dad's house, she doesn't even want to do that. But she does end up on a plane to Atlanta, her hometown. Over four days, her secrets and her brother and sister's emerge, she learns that she is similar the man she hated, her father. The four days are filled with emotional turmoil and painful lessons, and discovery and when all this is revealed, I began to understand her, why she acted the way she did and how she stopped hiding from herself. The more that she stopped deceiving herself and started to challenge others, the more I liked her.

This book is an emotional journey that I was reluctant to take because of what I knew of Kate at the

beginning but I found myself so wrapped up in her self-exploration and courage to face the truth that I could not lay the book down, I had to know what was going to become of Kate. Now I want to read more of Hannah Pittard's books.

I received this Advance Reading Copy as a win from FirstReads but that in no way influenced my thoughts or feelings in this review.

Susan says

REUNION is an emotional journey that I was at first, hesitant to take because of what I knew of Kate at the beginning but I found myself so wrapped up in her self-exploration and courage to face the truth that I could not put REUNION down, I had to know what was going to become of Kate. Now I want to read more of Hannah Pittard. Be prepared not to do anything else once you start reading REUNION. Hannah Pittard is going to pull you right in and never let you go. Your time reading is going to fly by and you become emotionally invested in all of these characters.

Note: I received this book free from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Hannah • So Obsessed With says

In many ways, Reunion explores the secrets we keep from ourselves and from the people who think they know us best. Kate, Elliot and Nell are close, but there are still cracks in the foundation of their relationships with one another. I thought Reunion did a great job at exploring how complicated family can be - how you can love and hate someone at the same time and the tangled mess of growing up, getting older and drifting apart.

It all felt a bit flat to me, and I wanted there to be more! I had no emotional reaction to what I was reading, and I wasn't invested in anything that was happening. The chapter titles also summarize exactly what's about to happen in the chapter, and I found it really odd. I mean, why would I read the chapter if you've basically just told me what happens in it? For example, "Peter comes to the airport," "Sasha comes to fetch us," "cooking dinner, getting drunk," etc. I really didn't like being told what was about to happen.

Unfortunately, I wasn't connected to the characters at all. I wanted to tell Kate to grow up - she was annoying me so much, and I didn't feel any sympathy for her. And I felt like everyone else was a bit two-dimensional. They were present, but I couldn't tell you much about them.

It was a very quick read, but I couldn't help wondering if I would have liked it better if there was just a bit "more" to it. I loved Pittard's writing style, but the premise and plot felt very predictable. In a way, it read more like literary fiction to me - it explored the ties that bind and the tensions that break, but I didn't feel like I really understood the purpose of what I was reading. For a short book, it feels like the story meanders around and has no point to it. Sadly, it was ultimately a forgettable read for me.

See my full review on *So Obsessed With*!

Brian says

This short little gem of a novel took me part of a night and some an afternoon to finish. The main character's father has just passed away (by suicide) and she and her two siblings are going to meet to settle things. Their father is a rather unlikable man with a parade of ex wives and a history of infidelity. Our main character and her two siblings take a firm belief against any sort of infidelity in their lives. But each of these siblings is harboring some sort of secret, and by the end of the weekend, all will be sorted out. This story did a wonderful job of moving along while keeping my interest, and developed the characters enough to have me care about them. Even the side characters, such as Joyce, were colorful and fun to read about. This was definitely one of the better books I have read this year!

Larry H says

Full disclosure: I received an advance copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an unbiased review.

The literary canon is full of novels about family dysfunction, with more than a few books focusing on the challenges which ensue when family members come together to mourn the death of one of their own. Sometimes hijinks ensue (such as in Jonathan Tropper's superlative *This is Where I Leave You*), and other times, things turn out infinitely more maudlin.

Hannah Pittard's new novel, *Reunion*, falls somewhere squarely between the two. Kate Pulaski is a screenwriter struggling both professionally and personally. Her marriage is dissolving (and she's not sure just how upset she is about that) and she is trying to dig herself out of a great deal of debt. Just before her flight home to Chicago is about to take off, she learns that her estranged and oft-married father has committed suicide.

While this is shocking, she is even more surprised to learn that Elliot and Nell, her older brother and sister, are heading to Atlanta, where they all grew up, to go to the funeral and try to figure out what caused their father to kill himself, despite the fact that none of them had seen him for several years. And worse than that, they expect Kate to join them.

"I have a quick, searing feeling that the entire weekend is going to be a series of still lifes starring me and my siblings standing awkwardly three abreast, each of us waiting for one of the others to make the first move."

The siblings reunite and get together with Sasha, their father's fifth wife (who happens to be around the same age as them) and the daughter of their six-year-old half-sister. Of course, their father's suicide isn't the only thing weighing them down emotionally. Elliot has fears that his own marriage might be falling apart, Nell is unhappy with her own life, and Kate has a number of issues—not the least of which are her drinking problem, her inability to tell the truth, and her tendency to say whatever she wants, no matter who it might hurt.

As Kate, Elliot, and Nell deal with their own problems, and their unresolved feelings about their father, they also must navigate the presence of Sasha and Mindy, as well as the envy, jealousy, and childhood rivalries

that once again rear their ugly heads. And how they deal with these issues may have a profound effect on their lives and their relationships with each other.

Much as in Pittard's first novel, the fantastic *The Fates Will Find Their Way*, her beautiful prose and storytelling talent are on full display in *Reunion*. While there certainly are emotionally charged scenes in the book, it's not particularly depressing, and in fact, Pittard shows glimpses of a dark humor from time to time. Kate is quite an unsympathetic character (although it's easy to understand why), but her behavior is a bit like watching a car wreck—it's upsetting but you can't seem to look away. It takes a talented writer to sustain your interest in, and your enjoyment of, characters who aren't particularly likeable, ones you'd like to shake a time or two.

My father died unexpectedly in May, and while that incident caused tremendous upheaval in my life and those of my mother and siblings, reading *Reunion* I felt that no matter what challenges we dealt with, we clearly weren't in bad shape compared to the Pulaski family. This is a complex book, but an enjoyable and emotionally complex one. Definitely makes you think how you'd handle the same situations.

Mary says

I'm completely in awe of Hannah Pittard, a writer I've been following for years. This book is so honest and beautiful.

Melissa Rochelle says

Sometimes in your reading life you just need first person narration. I needed all of Kate's "I's". Sometimes you also need a dysfunctional family...this book delivered that, too. And Pittard did a great job of pulling you in with the opening line:

"On June 16, at roughly eight thirty in the morning, I get the phone call that my father is dead."

Well, you have to keep reading after that, at least I did.

Kate's life is pretty well in shambles before she finds out about her father's suicide and before her siblings tell her she has to travel to Atlanta for the funeral -- which will also involve coming face-to-face with her four stepmothers and many half-siblings. As Kate haphazardly deals with her disastrous life, she also comes to terms with her relationship with her father.

This is a quick read and a good one for discussion. There's sibling relationships, adultery, childhood issues, and so much more. It's kind of the less-funny, more serious version of *This is Where I Leave You*.

Chris Blocker says

What is it that makes a reader love the writing of a particular author? I've never given it much thought. Obviously there's something about the story or the characters that simply entertains the reader. Upon reading Hannah Pittard's newest novel, I can't help but wonder if it's sometimes more than that. Is there something in

a novel akin to melody that attracts the reader the same way music attracts the listener? Sure there are those authors whose stories I enjoy because of their clever plots or well-developed characters, but there are also authors whose words envelop me in this sense of calm and wonder. Bernard Malamud is one such author. Hannah Pittard is another.

Pittard's debut, *The Fates Will Find Their Way* was beautiful. I loved being wrapped up in that book. Yet, the story wasn't there. To this day I can tell you some of the scenes and lines that captured me, but I can't really tell you what happened in the story. Feeling unsatisfied, I ached to read more of her work.

Reunion sacrifices some of the beauty in exchange for more plot. It's a good trade. The wonderfully drawn images are still sprinkled throughout, but this time there's a memorable story serving as the backbone of the novel. Kate Pulaski* is a 30-something-year-old woman who, in the three days this novel takes place, discovers herself. It's your basic coming-of-age story except it's so much more real and the cast of characters are so quirky and wonderful. Maybe it's only more real to me because I'm more of a Pulaski; maybe one day soon, I'll realize who I am and who I want to be. Maybe that explains why I was so emotionally wrapped up in the story. Or perhaps that should be chalked up to the author's talents at weaving a wonderful tale.

I don't know how else to say it but that I hang on the words of Hannah Pittard. I'm not sure how others read her work, if they get the same feeling or not. Maybe if they hear the same beat and melody that I do, they'll understand what it is I love about the writing. It's all aesthetics, I guess. I eagerly await to hear more. Play on, Hannah.

*The name was a hang up at first. Kate Pulaski? As in Dr. Katherine Pulaski of the starship Enterprise-D who heinously took our beloved Dr. Crusher away for one season? In the whole of the Trek universe, she was a relatively minor character, but she was significant enough that her face comes immediately to mind upon hearing her name. I'm not sure it was the best choice for a name; fortunately, Pittard's Pulaski bore so little similarity to Picard's Pilaski that I was largely able to disassociate the two. And I certainly liked this Kate Pulaski much better.

Jessica Sullivan says

Dysfunctional family stories are nothing new, so for one to stand out, it has to be pretty damn good. Not surprisingly, Hannah Pittard was up to the task.

I read this after reading and loving *Listen to Me*, and I'm struck by how different it is — it's funnier, it's lighter, the plot is more conventional — and yet it still feels very Hannah Pittard. Which is to say, her insights and emotional honesty resonated with me.

Kate Pulaski, the flawed first-person narrator of *Reunion*, is perhaps one of my favorite protagonists in recent memory. She's a pathological liar. A cheater. She's emotionally stunted. She's financially irresponsible. She even just wet the bed at the age of 34. And yet, she's so witty and self-aware and brutally candid that I couldn't help but love her — and it's not always easy to make a flawed character likable.

Kate's on the brink of breaking up with her husband when her estranged father commits suicide and she reluctantly flies home to Atlanta for his funeral. The bulk of the novel is Kate dealing with her initial grief

alongside her two beloved siblings and her four (yes four) former stepmothers — one of whom is her age.

But *Reunion* is never exhausting or maudlin in spite of its sad premise. It's relentlessly funny and amusing, much like a Jonathan Tropper novel or even *Garden State* minus the mawkishness and the manic pixie dream girl. The feeling that the plot has already been done before is the only thing that knocks this down half a star for me, however the characters are still distinct.

Hannah Pittard is one of those writers who just works for me. When you find one like that, it's a real treat. I can't wait to read more of her books.

Holly Robinson says

There is no good way to pigeonhole this book, or even to describe it, except to say that the narrator's voice is one of the most unique I've stumbled on in fiction--funny and sassy, yet vulnerable, unreliable yet engaging. This is a woman who has made perhaps every mistake in the book, and yet you'll find yourself rooting for her as she joins her family to bury their father, who had multiple families. Amazingly, despite the dark comedy, this book also moved me to tears, because there are some deep emotions on the page here and some wise philosophy about what it means to love and cherish your family. Brilliant.

Chris Dietzel says

I was nervous to read this, only because Pittard's debut, *The Fates Will Find Their Way*, was by far my favorite book of 2011. All too often you read something amazing by an author and then are let down by their other books (e.g., anything by George Orwell other than '*Animal Farm*' and '*1984*'). But '*Reunion*', while completely different than Pittard's debut, is also excellent. Where '*The Fates Will Find Their Way*' succeeded because of how incredibly haunting it was, this book is excellent because of how brutally honest it feels.

Noriko says

I picked up this book because of the cover, thinking this is a heartwarming, beautiful story where estranged family members get together for a "reunion" and dove right into the book without knowing anything about the plot. I love good family dramas so I had high hopes for this book.

I did find the premise quite promising; an unexpected "reunion" brought by an expected death of a father sounds so intriguing, and I was immediately reeled in the story.

However, this book overall fell flat for me and I didn't get invested as much as I thought.

I attribute my disappointment with this book to my lack of empathy toward Kate, the protagonist and the narrator of the book. I don't mind books with flawed protagonists, if anything, I tend to like a book a lot better if the protagonist's life is fraught with problems, I see drama and growth in the process and that's one of the things that I like the most.

Nonetheless, Kate's narration especially her rambling monologues and thoughts didn't generate much emotion out of me. It's not because she's committed an adultery and displays no remorse about it, in addition

to the fact I'm against it as well, but I think that was her character where she tends to simply run away from things that go wrong rather than head them face-on. I just couldn't relate to that tendency of hers and found myself feeling a bit detached both from Kate and the story.

The secondary characters and side plots involving her siblings and her half-siblings are all well-crafted, it was interesting to find the two elder siblings are polar opposites to Kate. There are some stories and scenes that drew me in and regained my interest, yet overall, it didn't suffice to leave much of an impact on me. Long story short, I had nothing but a vague idea whether I liked this book or not.

I wouldn't say I didn't like this book, it is certainly a well-written book. Emotional (to some, but not to me) and the writing is solid and strong. The main plot on reconciliation from the past and starting over was woven with a tactful hand. I think this book works for readers who are into books featuring dysfunctional families, but sadly, it didn't go over very well with me and I think I'll settle for 3 stars.

Diane S ? says

3.5 Pittard brings the reader inside of a family reuniting after their Father's suicide. A rather familiar plot but it is the well drawn characters that drew me into this story. That father , a many times married man has left numerous ex-wives and various children who feel about him many different things.

This is mainly the story of Kate, who with Elliot and Nell are the original children whose mother died when Kate was young. These older children have many different issues in their private lives that spill over into this reunion . The author does a wonderful job of conveying the complicated matters that make up a family, the chaotic relationships that can evolve between siblings. Although Kate in her thirties it was interesting watching her change from a self involved individual to a more caring and honest person.

Tis is a real and honest story of grief, of self-realization and of the many things from the past that can form a person's character.

Getting over it, acquiring understanding and growing as a person in spite of the many difficult moments that makes up a life made this book a very interesting and entertaining read.

ARC from librarything and publisher.
