

The Year that Everything Changed

Georgia Bockoven

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“Bockoven is magic.”

—Catherine Coulter

Four sisters who never knew their father—or each other—come together around his deathbed and learn what it means to be a family in *The Year Everything Changed*, a magnificent novel brimming with heart and feeling from author Georgia Bockoven. The bestselling, award-winning writer who enthralled readers with *The Beach House* and *Another Summer* returns with a masterful work of contemporary women’s fiction that fans of Jodi Picoult and Marian Keyes will read, share, and remember for years to come.

The Year that Everything Changed Details

Date : Published (first published August 23rd 2011)


ISBN :

Author : Georgia Bockoven

Format : Kindle Edition 435 pages

Genre : Fiction, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Contemporary

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From Reader Review The Year that Everything Changed for online ebook

Michelle says

The Year Everything Changed is an immensely readable, albeit predictable, story about family and love. Four women are thrown together at the behest of their biological father. Two never knew him; two were seemingly abandoned by him at young ages. All must adjust their expectations and opinions of him in order to seek closure, if closure is what they seek. No matter what their relationship to their biological father, all must adjust to the fact that they each have three "new" sisters.

There is not much that is a surprise in Georgia Bockoven's latest novel. The reader can predict every plot twist and turn in the novel several pages, if not chapters, in advance. The characters are one-dimensional with little to no character development. The novel itself is too short to adequately build any empathy with any of the characters or to learn more about them at a level deeper than the superficial. It is a testament to Ms. Bockoven's writing that in spite of all this, a reader will find it difficult to stop reading. In fact, I would say that I kept reading The Year Everything Changed because of these normally negative elements.

The Year Everything Changed makes no demands on the reader. One only has to suspend a modicum of disbelief at some of the occurrences. The story is prettily written, glossing over some of the more dubious situations with lighthearted grace. It requires no deep philosophical studies but rather shows the ebbs and flows of love - parent, spouse, child - over generations and how one's perceptions can so easily be skewed by others. It is a simple reminder that one very rarely knows the entire story of someone else's actions.

The Year Everything Changed fits in to the ubiquitous genre of "chick lit". I think a more fitting term would be to describe it as "relationship lit" since the novel is more about the relationships between parent and child than about women in general. As expected, there are no earth-shattering revelations. Instead, it is a charming story about love that is ridiculously difficult to put down and that leaves a reader with the all-important "warm fuzzies". Everyone deserves/ needs a book like this periodically.

Acknowledgements: Thank you to Megan Traynor from William Morrow for my review copy!

Sharon says

A good book to read while relaxing on the deck on a beautiful day - rather predictable, but an easy, decent read.

Renee Farmer says

I really enjoyed this book. Look forward to reading more books from her.

Babs says

Leider überzeugt dieser Roman erst im letzten Drittel. Zuvor ist sind die Figuren meiner Ansicht nach zu selbstverliebt, um bei Lesern als interessant und liebenswert rüberzukommen. Echt Schade!

Gaby says

I very much enjoyed *The Year Everything Changed*. It's a story about sisters who didn't know their father or that they even had sisters. The four sisters have very little in common. Their mothers, upbringing, and opportunities were vastly different. Each is sympathetic in their own way. Although I was particularly fond of Ginger - the beautiful girl who didn't know that she'd been adopted. The anger, resentment, hopefulness and friendship that develops among the sisters makes the story an absorbing and heartwarming read.

It would have been easy to make the story predictable or overly sweet but Georgia Bockoven bypasses all of these pitfalls and delivers a book to savor and to share.

ISBN-10: 0062069322 - Paperback \$14.99

Publisher: William Morrow Paperbacks; Original edition (August 23, 2011), 432 pages.

Review copy courtesy of the publisher.

momruncraft says

A story of four women, four complete strangers, and the link that ties them all together: an estranged father. A father, in some cases, that wasn't known to exist until the presence of a mysterious letter sent by an attorney in Sacramento. The letter claimed the man to be their father, claimed he wanted to see them before he passed, claimed he was dying.

Jessie Reed admitted he made mistakes and wanted to do all he could to correct them before it was too late.

Elizabeth, Ginger, Rachel and Christine embark on a journey that changes all their lives. Each one carrying baggage and scars from the man who claims to be their father. Each one struggling with their current relationship as a result.

While many would be quick to write off a man who seemingly abandons his wife and child, this book explores the reasons and story behind the man. Why he left? Why his leaving is not always as black and white as it may appear. How ones history, man or woman, shapes who they are, the paths they take, and the decisions they make.

Slow in parts, predictable at times, an overall good read. A lot of food for thought.

Kathy Gilliland says

Book has very easy to read. Really got invested in each sister's story.

Carolyn says

I really enjoyed this tale of 4 sisters finding each other and bonding once they found out they were, in fact sisters.

(Lonestarlibrarian) Keddy Ann Outlaw says

I've read so many of these books where sisters bond after a parent's death that perhaps I've grown a little jaded. In this case, the four sisters only learned each other existed shortly before their millionaire father, Jesse, dies. Most of them felt abandoned by their father and have hostile mindsets towards both him and their new half-sisters. Lucy, Jesse's lawyer, has always felt an unrequited love for the man. And so she makes a deal with him to record the story of his life to share with his daughters right before he dies of cancer. Then Lucy manipulates the will to require the sisters to listen to the recordings together in a group for six months before inheriting ten million dollars each. Readers get good coverage of all the sister's domestic and work lives, and as to be expected in this somewhat paint-by-numbers novel, the sisters eventually bond. No surprises here, just a few crises and the inevitable all-is-well resolution. Yet who am I to complain? This was entertaining fare and I read (just about) every word.

Alline says

I'm still kicking myself for wasting my time and finishing this book. However, I wanted to know if the ending was just as trite and predictable and STUPID as the rest of the book. The answer: yes. Very "romance"-y, with an incredibly unrealistic, fairy tale ending. Not recommended unless there are no other books available for you to read and you are very, very desperate.

Shaheena says

I read this entire book last night. Something about it made me keep reading and although I agree some of it was predictable, it was written in a way that I just could not put it down and had some true surprises in it.

It seems every book I read lately is written in the manner of a prologue, epilogue and chapters from different people. This usually annoys me but something about the author's writing kept me very engaged. This must be a current trend in novels and although it has it's benefits, I'd like it to stop.

Ami says

Ridiculously cliché and trite, this book had my teeth on edge for half of the novel. The second half of the novel I spent recovering from whiplash as the author put us (and her characters) through a frantic and hurried pace. And yet, I felt compelled to finish the story, to know for sure how it would all end. (As if there were any doubts.)

I realize that the author's intent was to have a character that the audience believed to be beyond redemption and yet somehow redeem the fellow. However, in doing so three characters had rather crappy childhoods, one mother morphed into a vindictive and cruel person, another mother became a schizophrenic, and another mother was a callous and cold individual. All to make one man look better. So all in all, I would call it a failed experiment.

I doubt I will be searching for any more books from this author. The writing just wasn't there.

JT says

I can't write a great enough review about this novel! The characters are gripping and ones not soon forgotten after reading the last page! I'd love to have a sequel to see how they all are getting on now! A definite must read for lovers of family drama and tragedy.

Tammy says

I wasn't sure what to think about this book when I first saw the synopsis. On BN there weren't that many reviews. Since it was a bookclub pick and the club has never steered me wrong I decided to go ahead and start it. Boy was I pleasantly surprised. The book was much more than I expected.

Basically four women are thrown together by their absent father when he becomes ill. Each has her own reasons for why they hate him and have to come to terms with those issues. They also have to learn to deal with the other women that have just been dropped in their lap.

Each woman has a history that has been jaded either by their own doing, their mother or just events. When they come together and begin listening to the tapes that Jessie has left they realize that their anger towards him was unfounded. They also learn to become a family.... something none of them expected.

I enjoyed reading this book. There were moments when I laughed thinking this is something me and my sister would do and also moments when I cried for the lives that they each missed out on. An excellent read.

Jennifer says

Meh.
