



The Girls from Corona del Mar (Vintage Contemporaries)

By Ruffi Thorpe



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Best friends Mia and Lorrie Ann couldn't be more different; where Mia is reckless and proudly hard-hearted, Lorrie Ann is kind, serenely beautiful, and seemingly immune to the kind of teenage mistakes that Mia can't help but make.

But within a few years, fortunes change. Suddenly, Mia is free to grow up and adventure, falling in and out of love while Lorrie Ann is weighed down by responsibilities at home. And when good, nice, brave Lorrie Ann stops being so good, Mia must question how well she ever really knew her best friend in the first place.

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The Girls from Corona del Mar (Vintage Contemporaries) By Ruff Thorpe Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, July 2014: While much of pop culture might have you believe otherwise, the most important relationship a young woman has is not always with her first love, or even, say, with her father. It is with her best friend, the one to whom she tells everything about her sexual encounters, the one who accompanies her to medical procedures, the one who sometimes forgives but never forgets. As Rufi Thorpe demonstrates so vividly in her debut *The Girls from Corona del Mar*, the one we grow up with is the one we love forever—even well after we’ve grown apart. Lorrie Ann seems perfect: gorgeous, smart, and charming, while her best friend Mia, while brainy and attractive, has a more deliberative personality, and an alcoholic parent, to boot. If biology were destiny, it would be Lorrie Ann who succeeded most in life—except that bad choices and bad breaks intervened. Over nearly two decades, we watch Mia try to come to terms with her friend’s struggles and to understand why things didn’t go as planned. Occasionally, graduate-student Mia feels pretentious—her obsession with her PhD project, ancient Babylonian myth, is grating—and the way Lorrie Ann’s life unfolds can be contrived. But because of Thorpe’s raw and intelligent voice, this book stays with you. Mia calls her time in school “those seven strenuous years of tugging myself slowly toward excellence,” and explains Lorrie Ann’s attraction to an inappropriate mate this way: “She wanted to pick him up and shake him up and down until all the amazing things inside of him came out . . . [like] . . . the fallen candy from a piñata.” You may not like either of these women all the time, but you’ll likely recognize them, and find it hard to turn away. --Sara Nelson

From [Booklist](#)

Best friends since high school, Lorrie Ann and Mia couldn’t be more different. Lorrie Ann comes from a happy and close-knit religious family; Mia desperately tries to take care of her alcoholic mother and troubled younger brothers. Lorrie Ann is a typical “good girl”; Mia ends up getting an abortion at 15. But Lorrie Ann’s fortunes change after her father dies in a car accident. Shortly after their high-school graduation, she gets pregnant and marries her boyfriend; her baby is born injured due to malpractice during the birth; her husband joins the army and dies in Iraq. Eventually, she ends up in a messy and unhealthy relationship and turns to drugs to quiet her demons. Meanwhile, Mia has escaped to Yale but can’t quite forget her friend, whom she compares to a goddess. As time and distance separate the women, narrator Mia recounts every time the women tried (and mostly failed) to reconnect. This literary novel will leave readers questioning the myths and realities of complicated relationships. --Rebecca Vnuk

Review

Nominated for the International Dylan Thomas Prize

Nominated for the Flaherty-Dunnán First Novel Prize

“A ravishing, stay-up-all-night reading kind of novel—a sad, funny, almost impossibly good debut.”

—*MORE*

“I’m still thinking and dreaming about this book and the heartbreakingly real women I met in its pages.”

—Emily Gould, author of *Friendship*

“A slim book that leaves a deep impression. . . . Depicts friendship with affection and brutality, rendering all its love and heartbreak in painstaking strokes.” —*Los Angeles Times*

“Just when you believe the ubiquitous ‘literature is dead’ declarations are true, there comes a novel like *The Girls from Corona del Mar*.” —*The Boston Herald*

“A knockout. . . . Worldly, rambunctious, feminist, morally interrogative.” —*Elle*

“Will nail you right in the heart.” —Ben Fountain, author of *Billy Lynn’s Long Halftime Walk*

“A gratifyingly honest dispatch from the battle lines of young womanhood.” —*Entertainment Weekly*

“One of those rare books that breaks down the wall between reality and fiction; the entire time I read this book I ached as if it were my own best friend whose life was unraveling before me. . . . Ruffi Thorpe is a brilliant writer.” —Vanessa Diffenbaugh, bestselling author of *The Language of Flowers*

“Female friendship gets its literary due. . . . [A] beautifully unfiltered study of two lives in parallel, and the confluence and reversal that gives shape to each.” —*Vogue.com*

“[A] funny, sad, delightful debut.” —Anton DiSclafani, author of *The Yonahlossee Riding Camp for Girls*

“Elegant yet intense Take the time to get to know *The Girls from Corona del Mar* and contemplate the beautiful and thorny—even agonizing—sides of friendship.” —*BookPage*

“Ruffi Thorpe’s open-hearted, open-eyed debut tells the engrossing story of a long friendship between two complex women. . . . Generous, soulful, and tough.” —Maggie Shipstead, bestselling author of *Seating Arrangements* and *Astonish Me*

“Powerful” —*The Huffington Post*

“Full of heart. As Thorpe chronicles a complicated friendship across decades, continents and reversals in fortune, she brings to life two unforgettable characters.” —J. Courtney Sullivan, bestselling author of *Maine* and *The Engagements*

“Enchanting.” —*Glamour*

“I could say this is a remarkable debut by a gifted new voice in fiction; or that it’s a beautiful, nuanced portrait of a difficult friendship; or that it has something entirely new to say about how we approach and occupy motherhood. But really, what’s most impressive is its incredible vitality, its searing intensity.” —Ann

Packer, bestselling author of *The Dive from Clausen's Pier*

“Rich and introspective, *The Girls from Corona del Mar* is a friendship story with the literary refinement such ‘best friends stories’ deserve.” —PopMatters.com

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Maria Huffman:

The book *The Girls from Corona del Mar* (Vintage Contemporaries) can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Why then must we leave a very important thing like a book *The Girls from Corona del Mar* (Vintage Contemporaries)? Some of you have a different opinion about e-book. But one aim that book can give many details for us. It is absolutely correct. Right now, try to closer with your book. Knowledge or details that you take for that, you could give for each other; you could share all of these. Book *The Girls from Corona del Mar* (Vintage Contemporaries) has simple shape however you know: it has great and large function for you. You can search the enormous world by start and read a publication. So it is very wonderful.

Sidney Robertson:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be up-date about what going on or details even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era which is always change and advance. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know what kind you should start with. This *The Girls from Corona del Mar* (Vintage Contemporaries) is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Grace Harrell:

Nowadays reading books become more than want or need but also become a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. The advantages you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with training books but if you want really feel happy read one using theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. Often the *The Girls from Corona del Mar* (Vintage Contemporaries) is kind of publication which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

Larry Huff:

As we know that book is very important thing to add our understanding for everything. By a book we can know everything we really wish for. A book is a pair of written, printed, illustrated or even blank sheet. Every year seemed to be exactly added. This e-book *The Girls from Corona del Mar* (Vintage Contemporaries) was filled in relation to science. Spend your spare time to add your knowledge about your

scientific research competence. Some people has different feel when they reading some sort of book. If you know how big benefit from a book, you can experience enjoy to read a guide. In the modern era like currently, many ways to get book you wanted.

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