

The Bookseller: A Novel

By Cynthia Swanson



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A provocative and hauntingly powerful debut novel reminiscent of *Sliding Doors*, *The Bookseller* follows a woman in the 1960s who must reconcile her reality with the tantalizing alternate world of her dreams.

Nothing is as permanent as it appears . . .

Denver, 1962: Kitty Miller has come to terms with her unconventional single life. She loves the bookshop she runs with her best friend, Frieda, and enjoys complete control over her day-to-day existence. She can come and go as she pleases, answering to no one. There was a man once, a doctor named Kevin, but it didn't quite work out the way Kitty had hoped.

Then the dreams begin.

Denver, 1963: Katharyn Andersson is married to Lars, the love of her life. They have beautiful children, an elegant home, and good friends. It's everything Kitty Miller once believed she wanted—but it only exists when she sleeps.

Convinced that these dreams are simply due to her overactive imagination, Kitty enjoys her nighttime forays into this alternate world. But with each visit, the more irresistibly real Katharyn's life becomes. Can she choose which life she wants? If so, what is the cost of staying Kitty, or becoming Katharyn?

As the lines between her worlds begin to blur, Kitty must figure out what is real and what is imagined. And how do we know where that boundary lies in our own lives?



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Editorial Review

Review

"Cynthia Swanson's novel will make you think about the paths you could have taken—but even more so, what you can learn from them to make your reality richer." (*Redbook* Magazine)

"What if? These words tantalize and haunt us. In *The Bookseller*, writing with a sharp-tinged empathic pen, Cynthia Swanson takes us on a startling journey where a woman is thrust into the alternative world that might have been, had she made different choices." (Randy Susan Meyers, author of *Accidents of Marriage*)

"Cynthia Swanson's *The Bookseller* is both a delightful and haunting exploration of identity, love and loss. With great style and compassion, the author asks the age-old question: 'What if my life were different?' The answers in this affecting debut novel are truly surprising." (Joanna Hershon, author of *A Dual Inheritance*)

"I inhaled *The Bookseller*. I loved both of Kitty's worlds, and refused to put the book down until I saw how the tension between the two worlds resolved. A deeply satisfying read." (Ann Napolitano, author of *A Good Hard Look*)

"Swanson masterfully crafts both Kitty's and Katharyn's worlds, leaving open the question of which of them is real until the final pages. Swanson's evocative novel freshly considers the timeless question, 'What if?' " (*Publishers Weekly*)

"The novel delivers on its fantasy scenario like a modern-day fairy tale.... proves highly satisfying." (*USA Today*)

"Dexterously traversing past and present, fact and fiction, Swanson's clever first novel ingeniously explores the inventive ways the human spirit copes with trauma." (*Booklist*)

"This is a stunner of a debut novel, astonishingly tight and fast paced. The 1960s tone is elegant and even, and Kitty/Katharyn's journey is intriguing.... This will especially resonate with fans of the movie *Sliding Doors* and the authors Anna Quindlen and Anita Shreve." (*Library Journal* (starred review))

"Swanson's debut novel is slightly mysterious and thoroughly engrossing, one of those books that will stay with the reader long after it is complete." (*Romantic Times*)

"This is the story of a woman coming to terms with who she is; both woman and novel are beautiful." (Shelf Awareness)

"... An accomplished first novel. It is interesting, intriguing, and ultimately satisfying." (New York Journal of Books)

From the Back Cover

1962: It may be the Swinging Sixties in New York, but in Denver—as in many other American cities—it's different: being a single gal over thirty is almost bohemian. Still, thirty-eight-year-old Kitty Miller has come to terms with her unconventional life. She *was* involved, once, but things didn't work out. Now she dedicates herself to the bookstore she runs, returning home each evening to her cozy apartment.

Then the dreams begin.

1963: Katharyn Andersson is married to Lars, the love of her life. They live in a picture-perfect home in a suburban area of Denver, the ideal place to raise their children. Katharyn's world is exactly what Kitty once believed she wanted . . . but it exists only when she sleeps.

At first, Kitty enjoys her nighttime forays into this alternate world. But with each visit, Katharyn's alluring life grows more real. As the lines between the two worlds begin to blur, Kitty faces an uncertain future. What price must she pay to stay? What is the cost of letting go?

About the Author

Cynthia Swanson is a writer and designer. She has published short fiction in 13th Moon, Kalliope, Sojourner, and other periodicals; her story in 13th Moon was a Pushcart Prize nominee. The Bookseller, her first novel, was an Indie Next pick and is being translated into eleven languages.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ann Lemieux:

Here thing why that The Bookseller: A Novel are different and trusted to be yours. First of all looking at a book is good however it depends in the content of it which is the content is as scrumptious as food or not. The Bookseller: A Novel giving you information deeper as different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no reserve that similar with The Bookseller: A Novel. It gives you thrill reading journey, its open up your personal eyes about the thing this happened in the world which is possibly can be happened around you. You can bring everywhere like in park your car, café, or even in your technique home by train. If you are having difficulties in bringing the printed book maybe the form of The Bookseller: A Novel in e-book can be your substitute.

Peggy Witzel:

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Mildred Perkins:

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Linda Matthews:

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