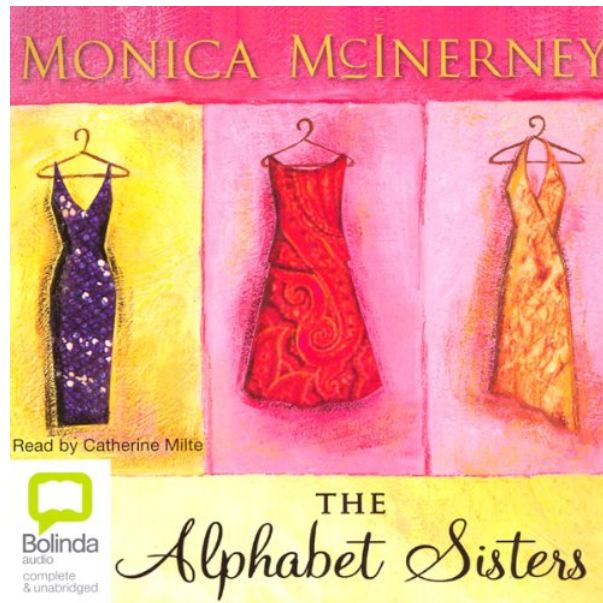
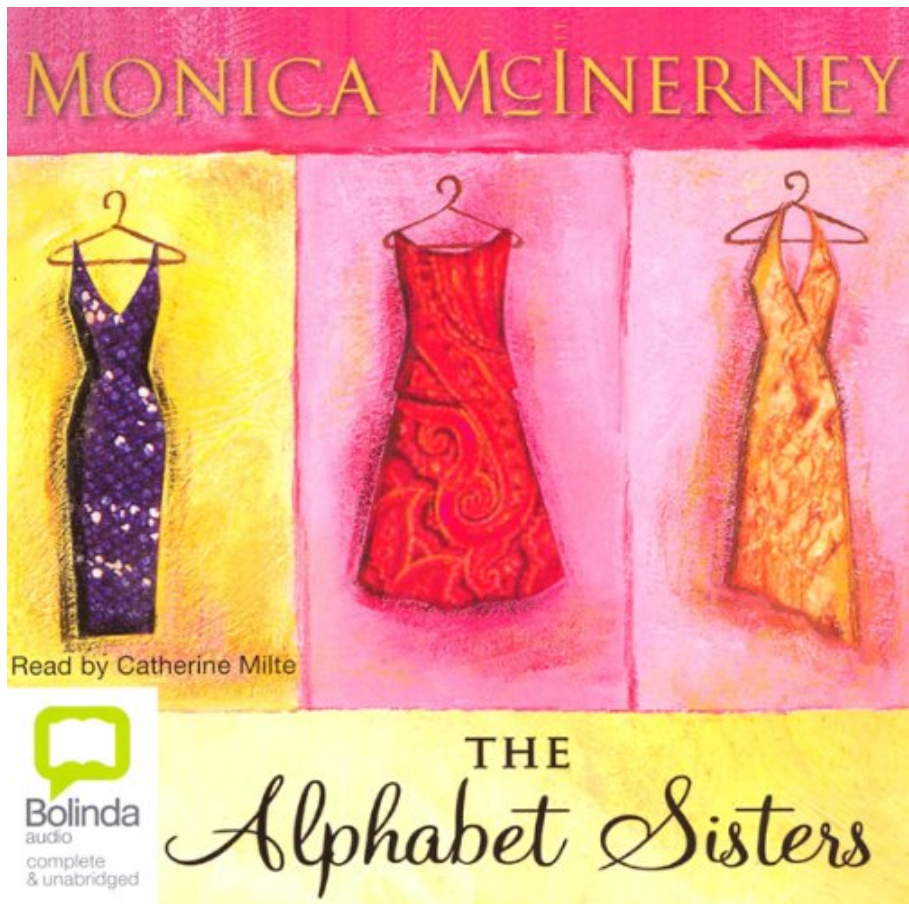


THE ALPHABET SISTERS BY MONICA MCINERNEY



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From Publishers Weekly

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Anna, Bett and Carrie Quinlan were childhood singing stars, The Alphabet Sisters. As adults they haven't spoken for years, ever since Bett's fiance left her for another sister. Now Lola, their larger-than-life grandmother, summons them home for her 80th birthday extravaganza and a surprise announcement - she wants them to revive their singing careers and stage a musical she has written. Rehearsals get underway, and family secrets begin to be shared and revealed. But just as the rifts begin to close, the Alphabet Sisters face a test they never imagined. An unforgettable story of three generations of women from the bestselling author of "A Taste for It", "Upside Down Inside Out" and "Spin the Bottle". 'Tender and well-observed...there is also plenty of McInerney's trademark wit, but have the hankies ready for this, probably her best novel yet' - Irish Independent. 'A gentle and life-affirming story. We come away feeling better about the world and, maybe, just a little more tender towards those close to us' - Sydney Morning Herald. 'You'll be laughing out loud one minute and crying the next' - "Cosmopolitan Magazine". 'Luckily for us, Monica McInerney has made producing a classy, well-written story with convincing characters as easy as A B C' - "Ireland on Sunday". 'Big-hearted family saga set in Australia, Ireland and London' - "Daily Express. 'Anyone who has sisters will lap this one up'- "Irish Examiner". 'If you love Maeve Binchy this book will most certainly appeal to you. This story has everything, romance, humour, travel and adventure, making it the perfect choice for holiday reading' - "Woman's Way", Ireland. 'Book of the Week' 'A sweeping family saga, overflowing with emotion, warmth and humour' - "Sunderland Echo".

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- Running time: 811 minutes

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Struggles of Sisterhood

By sunshadow41

Monica McInerney was recommended to me as an author by my sister. I immediately purchased 'A Taste for It' and 'The Alphabet Sisters' for my Kindle. After reading 'A Taste for It' I admit to being underwhelmed by the writing style and predictable storyline therefore 'The Alphabet Sisters' has been left unread for over a year, gathering electronic dust in a corner of my Kindle. Until now.

Blessed with a sunny winter's day I picked up my Kindle and sat on a bench seat in my garden to get acquainted with the Quinlan sisters. Three sisters forced to reunite at their flamboyant grandmother's 80th Birthday party after a three year feud. Three very different sisters.

I immediately fell into their tales as we got to know the individual sisters and caught a glimpse of their lives during the three years they had been apart. I found the female characters quite likeable as individuals but their best personality traits highlighted the worst in their sisters. The author certainly presented a feeling of awkwardness as the sisters each came face to face after such a long time. The reason for their falling out is known from the beginning of the book but the actual details don't emerge until much later. My favourite character was Lola. Having grown up myself without grandparents I was drawn to this larger than life character with her outlandish style and obvious love for the sisters. In fact I enjoyed her story so much that 'Lola's Secret' is now on my 'To Read' list.

Whilst I enjoyed spending time with the female characters I felt the male characters were all a little two dimensional. I didn't feel an affinity towards any of them or their respective relationships with the sisters.

I loved the setting and felt that Ms McInerney did a wonderful job of highlighting the contrasts between London, Sydney and Clare in South Australia. The motel came to life in my mind as I took part in the

character's journey.

It was a nice, easy read about the bond and struggle of sisterhood and ultimate family forgiveness. There was a fair amount of predictability to this book but also chapters that had me reaching for the tissues. The perfect book for a quiet afternoon reading under the winter sun.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Not bad, but well...

By Bluestalking

Not great, either. I suppose for this sort of Book Club driven book it's fine. Lots to discuss about families, how they drift apart over issues they shouldn't let come between them, etc. Oh, and pepper it with marital break-ups, a longtime family lie and a good terminal illness, too.

Ack, sorry. I'm just so tired of the formulaic nature of books written for the express purpose of being dissected in fiction book groups. Not just that, but editors let little bits of awful slip through, even in okay books, which this one was.

The premise of three sisters reuniting for their grandmother's 80th birthday, okay. That's fine. Again, make it not so easy, add tension, and you have a story. But the blah prose. The aforementioned bits that should have been edited out, the fact it should have been at least 50 pages shorter.

Sorry. I was just underwhelmed. Not enough complexity, and not any singing prose (and I don't mean that as a pun, in this case). If I have to spend so much time reading a book (this was a must read, for a book group) I get mighty cranky when it's a waste of my time. There's only so much, you know.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

memorable family tale

By readaholic

Three sisters who haven't spoken for years are summoned back home by their grandmother, who forces them to unite by putting on a play she's written.

I loved the family in this story, the very different sisters and eccentric grandmother. Ms. McInerney saved the characters from stereotype quite nicely by allowing them their flaws...the grandmother is a bit of a compulsive liar, the eldest sister a society climber, the youngest too certain of her own charm. The only flaw was the ending...when the main storyline ends and the sisters have resolved their conflicts and there's still 40 pages yet to go, you just know something bad's about to happen. And while the author hints at this throughout the book, the ending felt a bit unnecessary. I would've liked it better if it ended when the plot had been resolved, rather than where it actually does. Still, well worth a read if you like quirky families, lovely romances and memorable characters.

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