



Night of Miracles

Elizabeth Berg

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A delightful novel about surprising friendships, community, and the way small acts of kindness can change a life, from the bestselling author of *The Story of Arthur Truluv*

Lucille Howard is getting on in years, but she stays busy. Thanks to the inspiration of her dearly departed friend Arthur Truluv, she has begun to teach baking classes, sharing the secrets to her delicious classic Southern yellow cake, the perfect pinwheel cookies, and other sweet essentials. Her classes have become so popular that she's hired Iris, a new resident of Mason, Missouri, as an assistant. Iris doesn't know how to bake but she needs to keep her mind off a big decision she sorely regrets.

When a new family moves in next door and tragedy strikes, Lucille begins to look out for Lincoln, their son. Lincoln's parents aren't the only ones in town facing hard choices and uncertain futures. In these difficult times, the residents of Mason come together and find the true power of community--just when they need it the most.

"Elizabeth Berg's characters jump right off the page and into your heart" said Fannie Flagg about *The Story of Arthur Truluv*. The same could be said about *Night of Miracles*, a heartwarming novel that reminds us that the people we come to love are often the ones we don't expect.

Night of Miracles Details

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Author : Elizabeth Berg

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From Reader Review Night of Miracles for online ebook

?Karen says

4.5

Books that are very sweet or saccharine are usually a big turn off. But when there is *literally* sugary sweetness, as in cookies and cakes, and lots of them, count me in. And with this author, I am 100% in, knowing it's going to be a moving experience, as it was.

Lucille, alone in life but never lonely with all her good friends, has opened her house to baking classes, so there is much to drool over while she describes her goodies. Ancillary characters either work in or go to the local restaurant for breakfast -- some will order an Overnight FrenchToast which makes its own syrup. Yes, lots of sweetness.

As in Arthur Truluv, the characters that Berg has created are people you would want to know. My favorites were Iris, a recent divorcee from Boston, trying out small town Missouri for the first time, and Tiny, a thoughtful, kind taxi driver and friend to all. Oh, and little Link, Lucille's precocious neighbor boy whose mother has cancer.

I enjoyed this tremendously, through lots of tears (happy tears and sad too), and recommend to anyone, especially if you liked Arthur Truluv. If Ms. Berg writes more of these small town tomes, count me in.

Many thanks to NetGalley and the publisher Random House. R.H. sent me a link to this site devoted to the book's devotees, including some recipes! <https://randomhouse.app.box.com/s/9s4...>

Jennifer ~ TarHeelReader says

4 stars! I'm so grateful Elizabeth Berg re-visited this quiet, uplifting story! ?? ?? ?? ??

Woo! I listened to Elizabeth Berg narrate The Story of Arthur Truluv on one of my favorite audio renditions of a story, ever. She captures the poignancy to her characters, and I could not wait to read this follow-up to Arthur's story.

While I think you can read Night of Miracles on its own, you will miss out on how Lucille, Maddy, and Nola came together thanks to Arthur, and Arthur's character is too special not to meet in his own novel.

Night of Miracles is Lucille's story this time around. She's living in a quaint small town in Missouri, and she's teaching baking classes to stay busy.

A new family moves in next door, and Lucille ends up caring for the young son, Lincoln, when a tragedy occurs. More tragedy and strife unfortunately happens, and the town of Mason becomes a character in itself as the community members join hands and lift each other up.

Night of Miracles is an easy, breezy, heartwarming tale of friendship and unexpected family. It is a treasure of a read, and I'm grateful that Berg took the time to write this follow-up perspective on Lucille along with

some magical elements sprinkled in.

Thanks to Random House for the ARC. All opinions are my own.

My reviews can also be found on my blog: www.jennifertarheelreader.com

Cheri says

!! NOW AVAILABLE !!

*"There's a full moon up and rising,
And there's a whisper of a breeze.
Blowing through the tangled silver,
Hanging from the cypress trees.
There's a river made of moonlight,
Flowing clear across the lake.
And there's a million stars just waitin',
To fall for any wish we make.*

*"Why don't we get caught in this moment?
Be victims of sweet circumstance?
Tonight I feel like all creation,
Is asking us to dance. "*

-- *Asking Us to Dance*, Kathy Mattea, Songwriters: Hugh Prestwood

Night of Miracles is Elizabeth Berg's sequel to her 2017 ***The Story of Arthur Truluv***. If you haven't read her 2017 story, you might miss out on the significance of some of this story, but this can still be enjoyed on its own merits.

Lucille, Arthur's former neighbor, now lives in his Mason, Missouri home, a home which he left to young Maddy, and she, in turn, allows Lucille to live there rent free. One kindness begets another kindness.

Lucille is a wonderful character, quirky, whimsical; she enjoys the everyday touches of magic inherent in this life, rainbows, leprechauns, and the stars. She retains an almost childlike wonder at the grace of everyday life, the wonders of the world all around us. At the magnificent age of 88, she teaches a baking class in her kitchen to women who gather to learn the joys of baking, but perhaps sometimes just for the chance to be surrounded by other adult women. Lucille enjoys teaching these women, and enjoys the local diner's devotion to her cakes, where her baked creations are sold to those dining at Polly's Henhouse.

Inside the Henhouse passersby and locals stop to eat, some more often than others. One of the very shy, male regulars, Tiny, loves the cooking there, but is also more than a little sweet on an equally shy waitresses, Monica.

Forgiveness, aging, life & death, the disdain for those whose weight is over a social-media set limit, the balancing act of love in all its many forms – these are all topics that are lightly touched on in this novel, but this is not by any means a heavy or dark story, it is also compassionately humorous, with the strongest message being one of ***kindness*** and, yes, love.

Pub Date: 13 NOV 2018

Many thanks for the ARC provided by Random House Publishing Group – Random House

Diane S ? says

I loved Arthur Trulov, and now that he is gone, the story focuses on Lucille who was also a key character in the first book. This one didn't have the same emotional pull or connection, I think because there were other characters with problems, it diluted the storyline. Made it quite depressing at times. Lucille's, unusual dream visitor was an interesting addition, but also took the story in still another direction. Don't get me wrong, I did like all the characters, wished them all well, the story was okay, but after Arthur I was hoping for more.

Lucille's baking still sounds delicious and had me craving sweets. So there's that.

ARC from Netgalley.

Liz says

4.5 stars, rounded up

I was a huge fan of The Story of Arthur Truluv. This one took longer to draw me in. I think part of the problem was the large cast of characters and how each chapter switches from one to another. It just takes awhile to get them all straight in your head.

This is a lovely, sweet story, about the people who live in a small town and how intertwined their lives are. In style, it reminded me a bit of Elizabeth Strout's Anything is Possible. While it took me longer to get into the story, once I did I was hooked. I came to care about each and every one of them. I laughed, I cried. This book brings out all the emotions. Read this when you need something to remind you of what's right with the world.

My thanks to netgalley and Random House for an advance copy of this book.

Holly says

Night of Miracles is a charming story about the inhabitants of a small town. While it is billed as a sequel to The Story of Arthur Truluv, it is a completely standalone book. But reading them in order will give you a little bit more enjoyment when reading the second one, because of the additional backstory knowledge of a couple of characters.

There are a lot more characters in Night of Miracles compared to The Story of Arthur Truluv which centered on three people. In fact, the beginning of Night of Miracles requires some patience on the reader's part — the

first 5 chapters, although they are short, revolve around different characters (Lucille, Iris, Abby/Jason, Tiny/Iris, and Monica) with a few tertiary character names as well. So don't be surprised if you are a bit confused and have trouble keeping the characters straight — it will become clearer as you read more.

The book is about how these individuals become interconnected as their stories unfold. Are these people extraordinary? Not really. But they are good-natured and kind — people you would like to get to know. They are coping with everyday issues and problems while dealing with others in a compassionate way. Their different circumstances include illness, a small business, losing weight, starting over after a divorce, dating, unrequited love and so on. By the time their story ends, each one will get their own small miracle.

The different characters come to realize different truths through their experiences with each other and the situations in their lives. There are bits of wisdom sprinkled through the pages on various topics including love, life, and kindness.

That is the gift of love, not only that you have somebody but that you are changed by somebody.

One good thing about someone really liking something you have is that you appreciate it yourself all over again.

But you can't custom-order people's kindnesses. People do what they can, they give what they have.

There are some amusing moments as well as clever writing.

He takes the recommended small bites! which means that he cuts the sprouts in quarters. Looks like he's going to have to add a microscope to his table setting.

They didn't even eat together anymore, not breakfast, not lunch, not dinner. Oftentimes, they ate separate things, and Iris thought this was worse than separate beds. They were more than over. They were rotted.

Ms. Berg is a skilled writer who gives the reader worthy ideas to ponder:

Lately, she draws comfort from watching the second hand go smoothly around and around. Isn't it funny that she, so enamored of the past, is now consoled by seeing time move relentlessly forward?

Funny how important those birds have become to her. But people need something to depend on. They need something to love.

And everybody's job was to love life while you had it and never to take anything for granted. It was hard to remember to do that, but it was worth it to try.

Although I enjoyed Night of Miracles, I didn't love it as much as The Story of Arthur Truluv. Maybe the abundance of characters has something to do with it. The character of Arthur Truluv is unrivaled in Night of Miracles — he is truly unique. Overall I think The Story of Arthur Truluv set a very high bar which would be extremely difficult to surpass.

Thank you to Random House and NetGalley for an advanced reader copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Esil says

The Night of Miracles is charming — sentimental but charming. It's a sequel of sorts to The Story of Arthur Truluv, which I had also liked for similar reasons.

Early in The Night of Miracles, one of the characters talks about going to bed with a Maeve Binchy novel, and she explains what she likes about Binchy's novels. The Night of Miracles has the same feel. People involved in everyday struggles, coming together and helping each other. Nothing deep, but a bit of a balm for the soul given the current state of the world.

Thanks to Netgalley and the publisher for an opportunity to read an advance copy.

Kendall says

Wow Elizabeth Berg you truly blew me out of the water with your talent. I truly will always remember this novel and it will be leaving such a special place in my heart. Those final words at the end left me in tears and awe of your talent.

I have not read The Story of Arthur Truluv but have heard nothing BUT spectacular things about it. After finishing this novel... I will definitely be getting the audio for the first novel to get the background of previous characters. This can be read as a standalone...but I can see why so many readers urge you to read the previous story first due to continued characters from the first book will be in this novel.

I cannot say enough good things about this novel and it exceeded my expectations completely. I felt like this is a shooting star with talent by Elizabeth Berg!

4.5 stars for Night of Miracles. This one is not to be missed my friends <3 <3.

Thank you to Random House and Netgalley for granting my wish. The arc was provided in exchange for my honest thoughts.

Publication date: 11/13/18

Published to GR: 10/21/18

Angela M says

3.5 stars

One of the things I liked about The Story of Arthur Truluv is that it was a feel good story that was good for the soul. I can say the same of this sequel of sorts, but I do have to admit that I enjoyed the first book more. This one could probably be read as a stand-alone, but I would recommend reading Arthur Truluv first because you get a better feel for how Arthur brought together Maddy and her daughter Nola and Lucille. A number of new characters are introduced, each facing front and center some of the ringers that life sometimes throws - sickness, loneliness, relationship issues. Most of the time it felt like there were too many characters and it was hard get to know them and their stories as much as I would have liked. Mason, Missouri is a lovely, little place where neighbors help each other. So of course, as the story unfolds the

characters connect in a way that brings out the best of them as they give to each other in spite of their own troubles, illustrating the power of friendship. It's a quick read, sweet and sentimental, predictable, except for the bit of magical realism, but I enjoyed it more than I thought I would at first. A welcomed feel good story in light of what is happening in the world, not a bad way to spend a part of my weekend taking a break from the news.

I received an advanced copy of this book from Random House through NetGalley.

JanB says

4.5 stars

It has been a while since I was so charmed and taken by a story. I loved *The Story of Arthur Truluv* and now we have *Night of Miracles*, which is the delightful sequel. It would work as a standalone but do yourself a favor and read *Arthur Truluv* first. I read/listened to this in one day.

Elizabeth Berg is one of my favorite authors. I've been following her since back in the day when my children were young and she wrote a column for *Parents Magazine*. She is one of the few authors who has a way of eloquently putting into words what we feel in our hearts.

The story centers around the small town of Mason, Missouri. Lucille is back and Maddy and her daughter make a cameo appearance. Several new characters are introduced, people I'd love to have as my friends and neighbors. They have their struggles and heartaches just like any of us but they deal with them with grace, humor, wisdom, and love. By the end, each will get their own small (and not so small) miracle.

From Elizabeth's web page, in answer to the question about her inspiration for this series says:
"I found myself becoming increasingly depressed about the way the world seems to be going. I wanted to write myself out of my own funk, to remind myself of the beauty in the world, and in small things."

This is a series that will restore your faith in human goodness. It is sweet and funny; sad yet also uplifting. Who doesn't need more of that in our lives?

*Many thanks to Netgalley and Random House for a digital copy in exchange for an honest review.

* This is also excellent on audio. E Berg was wonderful as the narrator.

Judy says

A sweet and charming read. This is one that takes you back to a simpler time in a small town where neighbors know each other and take care of one another. It makes me wish I lived in Mason, Missouri with these characters as my neighbors. The book touched my heart and made me fall in love with the characters.

I have not read *The Story of Arthur Truluv* and I understand that many of the characters in this book were introduced in this previous work. I will make a point to read it soon, but I don't think that not reading it detracted from the story. I was a little lost in the first part of the story when each chapter introduced another

character and I wasn't seeing any overlap. But of course later this resolved.

Thanks to Elizabeth Berg and Random House through Netgalley for an advance copy of this book. I truly enjoyed it.

***TUDOR^QUEEN* says**

Thank you to the publisher Random House who provided an advance reader copy via NetGalley.

This is the sequel to the wonderful book "The Story of Arthur Truluv". I suppose you could read this book as a standalone, but it would be a far more enriching experience to have read the prior book. To summarize the story of the original book, Arthur Truluv is an elderly widower who visits his wife's grave each day, eating lunch there. Unbeknownst to him, a troubled teenager named Maddy finds refuge in this cemetery, and has been watching him over some time. They eventually speak one day. Arthur is a gentle, heartwarming, loving and giving old man. They become friends, which transforms Maddy's life for the better. Arthur also has an elderly neighbor Lucille who loves to bake. She's a feisty retired teacher who never married or had children. She's reeling following the sudden death of her fiancé Frank. They had known each other in high school and had reconnected after many decades. Arthur invites both Maddy and Lucille to live with him in his house, and they make a very unique and loving family. Arthur passes away at the end of the book, but he leaves the house to Maddy (who had gotten pregnant by an ex-boyfriend and now has a daughter).

As this book begins, Lucille now lives in Arthur's house by herself, renting it from Maddy. She utilizes her extraordinary baking talents by holding baking classes at the house. The business is doing so well that she's looking for an assistant. There is a side story involving the local diner and a waitress named Monica. She's been sporting a crush for "Tiny", a very large man with a big heart who runs a trucking/cab service. Another character named Iris Winters is a divorcee with lots of regrets, who struggles with the heartache of her inability to have children. She lives on one of the other floors in Tiny's house and becomes a valued friend. Rounding out the characters in this tight knit small town of Mason, Missouri is the family of three next door to Lucille- parents Jason and Abby and their young son Lincoln. Abby is fighting an aggressive cancer, and Lucille helps out watching (and feeding) Lincoln for a couple of hours when needed.

Maddy surprises Lucille by appearing on the doorstep with her 5 year-old daughter Nola (named after Arthur's beloved wife), sporting an engagement ring. She is now engaged to her college professor. Lucille hasn't been feeling exactly spry as of late, and she's been having encounters with what appears to be a male angel. But, Lucille has too much to do between her baking and watching Lincoln, and is not ready to die just yet!

This is a gentle and easy read with likable characters in a small town setting. At the start of the book I was having trouble getting a handle on the new characters, but once Lucille burst into the picture I was settled in for a cozy ride. I enjoyed the first book just a little more than this one. Arthur Truluv was a character you couldn't help but love, but Lucille Howard doesn't fall too much farther behind. Enjoy!

Selena says

I received a free e-copy of Night of Miracles by Elizabeth Berg from NetGalley for my honest review.

This is the first book I have ever read by Elizabeth Berg. Absolutely fantastic!! A wonderful heart felt and warming story that makes your heart smile. The characters are beautifully thought out and written and you find yourself loving them as if they are real. A story of love, struggles, forgiveness and life. I do plan on going back and reading The Story of Arthur Truluv because I loved this so much.

Debra says

4.5 stars

Absolutely Charming!

I highly recommend reading "The Story of Arthur Truluv" before reading this book. It is the book where many of these characters are introduced and their stories continue from that book. Could this book work as a stand-alone? Possibly, but I don't think one can truly appreciate this book without reading its predecessor first.

"That is the gift of love, not only that you have somebody but that you are changed by somebody."

Lucille Howard is a spit fire of a women. She is known for her honesty and telling it like it is. She may come off as gruff, but she has a heart of gold and a giving nature. Her late friend, Arthur Truluv, inspired her to begin teaching baking classes (he did this in The Story of Arthur Truluv) and she now has a successful baking class business. She is up there in years and due to the popularity of her classes, she has hired, Iris, a divorced woman who is coming to terms with the choices she has made in her life.

If running a baking business is not enough, Lucille has become a babysitter for her next-door neighbors when tragedy strikes their household. When not baking and babysitting, she enjoys visits from Maddy and Nola, her adopted family (again, you will know Maddy from The Story of Arthur Truluv).

"What she knows now is that no one is ever through with love. No one ever should be."

Iris is new to town and is happy to have made friends with her neighbor Tiny, a large man with a heart of gold and crush on a local waitress. Will he ever make his move? Will Tiny and Iris's friendship cause people to think they are a couple? Will Iris ever make peace with her divorce? Will Lucille ever know the effect her friendship has had on others? How has friendship with one man, Arthur Truluv, changed the lives of both Lucille and Maddy?

"Never underestimate the joy of being the one who is cared for..."

I found this book to be absolutely charming and gave it high marks for the feel good, enjoyment factor. Will this book win literary rewards? I don't know but it has won my heart! It was lovely to visit these characters again and see what was occurring in their lives. I enjoyed the new characters induced in this book and their stories. All of them fit together nicely and effortlessly. I found this book to be well written, perfectly paced, well thought out and like a breath of fresh air. If you are a softie like me, you may want to read with tissues

nearby. This book is heavy on the feels - I laughed, I cried, and I was so happy that I was given the chance to enter these characters lives once again. The beauty of this book is in the writing and the relationships that the characters have with each other. The characters live in a small town and live normal ordinary lives yet in the hands of Elizabeth Berg, their stories are extraordinary!

This book is full of beautiful passages and I found myself hightailing large sections of this book. I love Elizabeth Berg's writing.

"Let it never be said that Nola was not given good-night kisses. Let it never be said that she didn't practically drown in them."

If you enjoyed The Story of Arthur Truluv then I am quite certain that you will enjoy this book as well. I could go on and on about this book, but I will stop and simply say that I highly recommend this book.

Thank you to Random House Publishing and NetGalley who provided me with a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. All the thoughts and opinions expressed in this review are my own.

Read more of my reviews at www.openbookpost.com

Marialyce says

4 charming stars

My reviews can be seen here: <http://yayareadslotsofbooks.wordpress...>

For those of us who so liked Elizabeth Berg's Arthur Truluv, this new book is such a bewitching and enthralling follow up. Some of our old favorites are back in this sequel where I was able to sit back, relax and fall once again into love with these wonderful characters, wishing I could be a member of their community, not to mention a participant in some of Lucille's baking classes.

Lucille Howard is back with all her prickly self. She is teaching classes making scrumptious desserts while making people around her become filled with love and admiration for her, not only for her baking skills but also for the person she is. Armed with aprons and a plethora of scrumptious recipes, Lucille charms her students into moments of happiness, joy, and delicious cakes and cookies. Unfortunately though, Louise is old and she is anxious to once again be with her beloved Frank but she knows there is still work to be done before that happens.

Into her life comes Iris who eventually becomes an assistant to Lucille. Iris needs this job and she is also in need of a friend. There is also a new family that has moved into the house next door who face some difficult issues. This new couple's son, Lincoln, forms a bit of a bond with Lucille, as he faces a difficult future where his young life will be possibly changed.

Told with much style and grace, this story is peaceful. It is one where friendship and love is treasured, where value is placed on people, and where a community looks out for one another. It's a place where we all would love to dwell. It is a book which warms your heart and makes you believe in miracles.

Thank you to Elizabeth Berg, Random House, and NetGalley for providing me with a copy of this delightful

novel.

Some recipes from Lucille!

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