



The Great Indoors

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A novel about a single woman who owns an antique shop in the suburbs of London, and how she deals with changing relationships with her family and the men in her life.

The Great Indoors Details

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Author : Sabine Durrant

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From Reader Review The Great Indoors for online ebook

Debbie McWilliam says

I enjoyed this book, a new author for me and I liked Martha the main character. Not any real storyline or substance to it, just an easy read but it left more questions unanswered than answered...I re-read the last few lines a few times and still don't understand what it meant - maybe I'm being thick?! Anyway onwards!

Pagh8264 says

If you are looking for an action filled book, this is not it. I enjoyed the dynamics of the 3 sisters. While I was never blessed with a sister, I think it is an accurate description with all of their warts and beauty marks. Their relationship with their handsome father Seems accurate too. Birth order and age at their parents divorce seems to influence their relationship with him and life in general. Two lines jumped out at me- both are near the end. "Isn't it the fear of something breaking rather than the breakage itself that ties you?" and " You carry people around with you in your character; all the people you have been close to have made you a little bit of what you are." I think the book is Martha's journey to these ideas. Still not sure if I liked the ending, but I have to give it 3 stars on those 2 lines.

Birgitt Krumboeck says

I almost stopped reading this book in Part I. Martha's life was just awfully depressing! Part 2 was better, but I still miss the Sabine Durrant of books like Lie with Me, Remember Me This Way, and Under Your Skin. I am looking forward to reading Having It and Eating It!

Also, I am not entirely sure whether Martha ends up with Fred the Magician. I hope she does, though! I wasn't sure about the pronouns on the last page... the way he looked at her? Is that the wife or Martha?!

Melanie says

This story brought me right into Martha's antique shop and beckoned me into her family and all it's idiosyncrasies. Great story telling. Ver enjoyable and relatable read!!

Michele Bolay says

I'm surprised at the low overall rating. Maybe Martha is a difficult heroine for some people? Granted, I'm an Anglophile who loves repressed characters. ;-) Anyway, I liked it enough to explore Durrant's other work.

Nicole says

Surprisingly upbeat and readable jaunt about a woman (Martha) who enjoys her life as the owner of a small antiques store in the London area whose regimented and predictable life becomes somewhat disjointed when her stepfather passes away. Suddenly she has reluctantly inherited an elderly tabby cat, is reunited with the man she rejected two years ago (and had admittedly regretted it ever since), dealing with the bickering of her two siblings over the management of her stepfather's estate, and finds herself oddly attracted to a slovenly neighbor with two kids. It had the potential to be little more than beachside reading but Durant managed to elevate it to an enjoyable escape to the suddenly not-routine life of a young English woman who finds where she has found herself in life may not be where she wants to be when it is all said and done. Quite charming and enjoyable.

Shay Noble says

Durrant's main character, Martha, feels like the odd one out in her family and like she doesn't really fit in anywhere. She's 38, single and childless and spends her days working in her Antiques shop. She likes things to be 'just right' but as she begins to delve into her past and uncovers some old school friends and ex-boyfriends her social life begins to blossom and her world is changed. I really enjoyed 'The Great Indoors,' it was a great read.

Julia says

Martha has the perfectly put-together antiques shop and flat above her shop. She lives at a distance from others, not wanting to get involved in the mess of life. As the middle child, she is used to being the one who gets forgotten. Martha's trouble is that she likes to be unencumbered, so when a messy family becomes important to her, she realizes that running away has become her pattern. While she is getting in touch with her feelings, Martha learns that being connected to others makes her feel grounded and more alive. A very cozy novel for an Anglophile!

Plum-crazy says

A very enjoyable story. Although Martha is the focus of the story, I liked the way the lives of her sisters were brought in, showing the relationship highs/lows of family life. Not sure I was keen on the end...I would have liked something a bit more conclusive.

Stacy K B says

The best way for me to write about this book is to take from the book cover:
A novel about what happens when mess life and love intrude on a young woman's perfectly ordered existence.

The back cover:

Martha Bone doesn't have children; she has furniture. She doesn't have a husband; she has her shop — Martha Bone Antiques, in a fashionable London suburb. Her married sisters can meddle all they want, but that is just the way she likes it. Though Martha loves her niece and nephews, children don't really fit into her world. Their grubby fingers and muddy shoes don't go well with her cream-colored sofa and sea-grass rug.

When Martha's stepfather passes away, a small misunderstanding sets into motion a surprising chain of events. First she allows a cat to stay in her flat. Then the cat brings a man, and then the man brings his children. A garbage bag full of old letters takes up residence under her kitchen table along with the cat, and entices her to dig into a past of lost loves. And then, for the first time, things in Martha's life get messy.

I guess I never understood the definition of Chick-Lit before. This has been catagorized as Chick-Lit, so now I am really clueless... =) This story intrigued me with the story line of living one way and then without your control, life turns upside down... but is upside down always bad?

Sabine Durrant's second novel. I might have to pick up the first, as the reviews are saying it is better, "Having it and Eatting it"

Jane Withers says

This is not by any means my usual type of book .. if I had to describe it I'd say it's at the top end of chick lit (which I loathe) and it's just verging on observational amusing stories about a typical extended family ! The fact I can actually visualise the Sunday lunch with them all there and the many children and the family row that occurs is just spot on !!!! This was a very gentle and amusing (to me) read ... I rarely give a five unless there is copious amounts of detectives and serial killers doing beastly things .

Alison says

I thoroughly enjoyed this. Great characters and wonderful details. I was sorry to say goodbye.

Kathleen says

The London setting of this quiet, slice-of-life story is beautifully painted with a few understated brush strokes, much like the apartment of the protagonist is elegantly furnished with a careful eye for serene balance - yet something doesn't quite work. It isn't until the very end of this small glimpse into Martha's life that everything did come together, at least for me as a reader, leaving me with some hope that her passivity was tempered with new wisdom and a breath of fresh air, like opening the door after a dreary spell of English weather. Though I found Martha's life frustrating at times, I nevertheless enjoyed The Great Indoors and put it down with a sense of satisfaction for the patience, wit and elegance of the prose.

Erin says

The book started out quite slow but I got into it more as the book went along. I didn't like the end however, I was quite disappointed with that.

Ruth says

I liked this beautifully descriptive book and its quirky characters. Truly a lovely read!
