



The Sandpiper

Susan Lovell

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The Sandpiper is about the three Cameron women. Kate the perfect older sister. Jamie the screw-up. Their widowed mother Ellie. It's about Nina Judd, their guardian angel, the novel's heartbeat.

Kate had the chance to know their father Dr. James. But Jamie was born too late. Sisters by birth. Sisters in loyalty sanctified by a blood oath. Two bright, pretty women full of promise. Then something happens the summer Jamie turns 18 that ruins everything.

And maybe Kate's not so perfect after all, Jamie not so hopeless. Embraced by *The Sandpiper*, Nina's white-shingled cottage above the endless blue of Lake Michigan, the sisters struggle toward forgiveness, toward healing.

That love is all there is Is all we know of love.

-Emily Dickinson

The Sandpiper Details

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Author : Susan Lovell

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From Reader Review The Sandpiper for online ebook

Tammy Downing says

I received this book for free from GoodReads Giveaways. The story of a mom, her daughters and the lovely woman they are friends with. Each woman has their own demons to deal with and their friend helps them all find peace before she dies. A great book.

Brenda says

What a great read. I couldn't put the book down, drawn into the lives of the characters that Susan Lovell so very carefully crafted. She has a lot of old poetry quoted in the book and I loved it. The characters are all entwined around a small cottage on the edge of Lake Michigan, the cottage is called "The Sandpiper." One of the women in the book has a long and involved struggle with alcoholism which affects everyone around her. She's a fighter for sure. I've grown up with alcoholism in my family, and it really does hang a pall over the entire family when it crops up and is active. The rest of the time the family walks around on eggshells. I liked the book, didn't put it down until I was finished. The ending wrapped everything up and it was good although the ending felt a little rushed to wrap things up to me. I didn't mind it just seemed to speed up and finish at a pace the author didn't use while writing the rest of the book. I think this would be a perfect book for any ladies book club, there are a lot of issues included in the book to sink a person's teeth into for a lively discussion. I don't belong to a club so am not sharign with that type of books but have told the author I always review the books I win and then I send them to my Mom who volunteers at the Linden Library which is very small and has a very small budget when it comes to buying books. New authors seem to always love to support a small library and they get their books read that way. I hope the people at the library enjoy the book as much as I did.

Here is the outline as written here on Good Reads::

The Sandpiper is about the three Cameron women. Kate the perfect older sister. Jamie the screw-up. Their widowed mother Ellie. It's about Nina Judd, their guardian angel, the novel's heartbeat.

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And maybe Kate's not so perfect after all, Jamie not so hopeless. Embraced by The Sandpiper, Nina's white-shingled cottage above the endless blue of Lake Michigan, the sisters struggle toward forgiveness, toward healing.

That love is all there is Is all we know of love.

-Emily Dickinson(less)

Ali says

This book is about the beach, the "big lake", what makes a family, addiction, hope, and so much more. Susan

Lovell is an excellent writer. She is skilled in her descriptions, with sentences like, "The damp air like an exotic mist caressed her face." Anyone can write a story but not just anyone can bring you into a story and make you live and breath the characters, cheer for them, want them to succeed. Lovell does just that. Each character in this novel is a hero in her own right, each suffering from some sort of hurt or loss. But hope keeps them going and they learn to rely on each other in all all their imperfection and brokenness. To top it all off there's a little mystery in there for good measure!

Ellen Satterlee says

Couldn't put this book down! The end came tooo soon for me. Susan has a gift to draw in the reader and get you engaged in the lives of the characters. I pray there is a sequel so we can stay involved in the intimate circle of this family and their challenging lives on the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan.

Nancee says

The Sandpiper is for mature readers. Some profanity is involved, and a few incidents of violence occur, although not described in depth. This did not change my high opinion of this book. I would classify this novel as Edgy Christian fiction as there are Christian components throughout.

Susan Lovell is a "new-to-me" author. What originally compelled me to purchase The Sandpiper is the fact that the story is based in West Michigan, my home. I will not miss any of Susan Lovell's future books! Her writing style is deeply authentic and steeped in reality. I related to the characters as if I had known them personally, and could easily perceive their experiences. The locale is described as only a resident or frequent visitor to the area would know it, and is an important force throughout the tapestry of these deeply interwoven lives.

The women portrayed in The Sandpiper are complex and credible. Personal experiences tear them apart, but the strength of their bonds empowers them to overcome even significant obstacles, reuniting them through love and acceptance. The relationships between women represented are powerful and heartwarming. Harsh realities are described with dignity and compassion. I highly recommend this book for its honesty, difficult topics broached and the strength of this author's creativity! This book will remain in my library, and will undoubtedly be read again.

Heather says

I won this book from a Goodreads first-reads giveaway. I just loved this book and was sad when it ended. I wanted more!

The Sandpiper told the story about 4 women, Ellie Cameron and her 2 daughters, and their "aunt" Nina. "Aunt" Nina is the central part to the story and who the story revolves around, even though it is told through the point-of-view of the 2 daughters, Kate and Jamie. The story opens with how Aunt Nina came into these ladies lives. Ellie Campbell was a young mother of 3 year old Kate when her husband goes off to Vietnam. At the time she is pregnant with Jamie and they stay at a rented cottage, called the Sandpiper on Lake Michigan, owned by Helena Judd, or Nina as she prefers to be called. When Ellie gets the news that her

husband was killed, she goes into a dark depression and Nina Judd helps her to raise her 2 daughters. Jamie, the youngest who never got to know her father grows up to be a troubled young woman who has problems with drugs and alcohol. Kate, the oldest, who has it seemingly put together, may not be as perfect as everyone seems to think. As these women come together to help an ailing Aunt Nina, they uncover secrets amongst themselves that they struggle to find forgiveness and healing.

This book touched me in so many ways. I really enjoyed it.

Kathleen Kelly says

The Sandpiper is the name of a home on Lake Michigan, where the lives of four women, Nina who owns the property befriends Ellie when Ellie's husband goes off to a war. She is pregnant with Jamie when her and Kate move in with Nina. Nina is a down to earth woman who becomes the women's adopted 'aunt'. Nina finds out she has cancer and the women all come back to the Sandpiper to help Nina through this devastating time.

Kate has always looked out for Jamie, who never got to meet her father at all, but Jamie's addictions to drugs and alcohol tear them apart. Kate does not trust Jamie and Jamie is dealing with daddy issues, if you will.

Kate remembers their father but Jamie of course was not even born yet when he died in the war.

Kate and her husband battle infertility issues, Jamie battles her addiction, Ellie battles her inability to talk about her husband and of course at the center of the story is Nina who faces the biggest battle of all.

Together these women make up a dysfunctional family, but in the end things do work out as they do in most families.

I loved how I got totally immersed into the lives of these awesome women and the author wrote with such a depth of feeling as to each of these women were going through. This is not a chic lit novel and it is not all touchy feely, but it shows the emotions and inner turmoil of modern everyday women. This could be your family or mine. I highly recommend this entertaining bittersweet read.

Nancy Brady says

An alcoholic, a perfectionist, a single mother, and an aunt all feature prominently in this read. Two sisters deal with issues stemming from their past which intrude into their present, and getting over them takes the love of each other, their mother, and their aunt.

This is women's literature that makes the reader smile, weep, and root for the characters of Jamie, Kate, Ellie, and Nina. Choices and events plague them all, but together they can do just about anything.

Glenda says

I struggled through this book and would have quit it, but it was a Bookclub pick. The book had too many typos and needed better editing. There were too many redundant lines and terms. The print in the book edition was so tiny it was hard to enjoy reading it.

Leah says

I really enjoyed this book. I won the sequel, Behold A Rainbow, and the author suggested I read this first. I'm so glad I did! I really enjoyed getting to know the characters, especially Aunt Nina. I definitely recommend!

Lisa Cobb Sabatini says

I won The Sandpiper by Susan Brace Lovell from Goodreads and I feel truly blessed to have been given the opportunity to read this wonderful book. The Sandpiper of the title is a cottage on the shore of Lake Michigan where Helena "Nina" Judd lives - and loves unconditionally. The prologue introduces the reader to Nina, Ellie, and Katie, and then the first chapter, set thirty years later, introduces the final major character, the alcoholic Jamie. These women, a mother, her two daughters, and their adopted aunt, face their own personal struggles that sometimes create tension between them. This is a book about weaknesses and strengths. This is a story about women who succumb to temptations and rise to challenges, who bury pain and reach out for comfort, who misunderstand each other and yet understand each other too well. This is a book about the tie that binds our human hearts.

The story flows easily, alternating, after the prologue, between each of the sisters' point of view, binding together the fabrics of characters lives like the fabrics of Aunt Nina's favorite quilt. Yet, just as the pieces seem to be coming together, the author skillfully tugging at reader's heart and holding out hope, the story takes off again from that point with even more turmoil and heart-wrenching scenes.

This book took me deep into the soul of a recovering addict, helping me to better understand AA's mantra, Let go and Let God. Yet, the story is not just about addiction. It is a story about the threads of love that run through our lives and the things that tangle those threads into knots. Read for yourself to see if any, or all, of these women learn to let go.

Dana says

I really liked this book. It was well-written and engaging. It also seemed really insightful regarding the disease of alcoholism.

Charlotte Lynn says

This is the story of four women. Ellie is a widow from Vietnam with two daughters, Kate and Jamie. Kate was young when her father was killed in war but Jamie was not yet born therefore never knew her dad. At age eighteen, Jamie's life is changed forever and she starts drinking and doing drugs. Jamie decides to get her life together and move back home, also helping her Aunt Nina in her last days. Kate is now happily married and living a "perfect" life or so Jamie perceives. As the family deals with their lives they realize that each of them are not what the others think. Aunt Nina, not really a blood relative, is the woman that gave

these girls a place to live when their rock, their father and husband, was killed in Vietnam. She quickly became the woman that truly held this family together.

I found this book to start with a deliberate slowness that let me really connect and get to know each character. After forming a bond with all the main characters and their stories, the story moves along at a perfect pace keeping me reading and having to know what was going to happen. The details of emotion and thoughts let me feel like I was in *The Sandpiper*, like a fly on the wall, living my life side by side with Ellie, Kate, Jamie, and Aunt Nina.

The topics in this book are not easy topics. Addiction and fighting sobriety, infertility and the desperate hope for a child, and the loss in the time of war are topics Susan Brace Lovell covers with carefulness, but honesty that many authors fail to accomplish. The way the different characters cope and react to each turn of events is true to life.

This is a book that anyone looking for an engaging and perfectly written novel will love and be unable to put down. I highly recommend *The Sandpiper*.

Orbs n Rings says

A slow-paced family drama of friendship, love and forgiveness.

The Sandpiper is a novel about four women whose destiny is knitted together over three decades. Kate seems like the perfect older sister to Jaime, who in turn struggles with her alcoholism. Ellie their widowed mother is the enabler in the relationship, while Aunt Nina, aka Helena Judd, is the long time friend and protector, the glue in their relationships.

The setting is Lake Michigan and this novel begins with a prologue from June of 1968, before the birth of Kate, before Ellie became a widow, when Ellie first meets Nina. *The Sandpiper's* chapters go back and forth between Jamie and Kate throughout the whole novel. After the prologue, the year is 1998 and Jamie is checking out of a rehab facility and on her way back home. Kate is battling her own demons in regards to her infertility as well as her feelings toward her sister's addiction. Kate has always played the motherly role to Jamie since their father passed away and now a new secret is tearing them apart. Will they ever get back that bond they had as children?

This story is very slowly paced, which left me with the feeling the characters are leading a stress free life. How could they possibly have all these issues!? I tend to like books with a quicker pace, so at times I really had to struggle staying focused while reading this story. I also felt the short chapters (thank goodness) really helped push me along. Personally I don't feel this in any way takes away from this author's plot or writing style. I know this is my own issue and the reason I am late on posting this book review.

If you are looking for a nice slow read in the Woman's fiction category, I would recommend *The Sandpiper*. This book draws you along a path of real life situations, where the reader experiences cancer, addiction, death, secrets and most importantly forgiveness.
