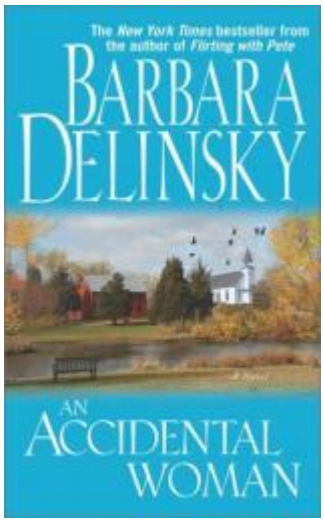
An Accidental Woman

by Barbara Delinsky



About the Book

What would you do if your best friend - someone you trusted and loved - were suddenly arrested and charged with a crime that occurred before you ever knew him or her? What if that person just shut right down and couldn't talk? What if you had a dark past of your own and could therefore identify with this friend?

Such is the situation that Poppy Blake finds herself in as **An Accidental Woman** begins. The setting is Lake Henry, New Hampshire, and the season is late winter, just as the maple sap is about to be harvested and boiled down into syrup. Poppy has lived in this little lake town all her life. Twelve years earlier, she was involved in a snowmobile accident and has been in a wheelchair ever since. But she is active and vibrant, truly the pulse of Lake Henry, as she mans the telephone lines running in and out of the town. Poppy desperately wants to help this suddenly mysterious friend of hers, Heather Malone. In doing so, though, she is forced to confront her own issues with the past - and to take a new look at her plans for the future.

An Accidental Woman has a cast that includes Poppy's mother Maida, her sisters, Lily and Rose, Heather's significant other, the sugarmaker Micah Smith, and the man who most challenges Poppy's conscience, Griffin Hughes. These people are all key as the town pulls together both to solve the Heather puzzle and to survive an ice storm that threatens Micah's sugar crop.

Discussion Guide

1. What was the nature of Poppy's relationship with her mother? How does it affect her?

2. What is the basis of Poppy's ties to Lake Henry?

3. Are ther characteristics of a small town good or bad?

4. Was Griffin proactive or reactive?

5. What is the role of the past and guilt in our lives?

6. Was Heather right to keep silent around Missy and Star?

7. What was the nature of Heather's guilt?

8. What kind of relationship will Heather and Thea have in the future?

Author Bio

Barbara Delinsky is a *New York Times* bestselling author with more than 30 million copies of her books in print. She has been published in 28 languages worldwide. A lifelong New Englander, Delinsky earned a B.A. in psychology at Tufts University and an M.A. in sociology at Boston College. Delinsky enjoys knitting, photography and cats. She lives in Needham, Massachusetts.

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Publication Date: January 20, 2011
Genres: Fiction, Mystery
Mass Market Paperback: 544 pages
Publisher: Pocket
ISBN-10: 0743411269
ISBN-13: 9780743411264