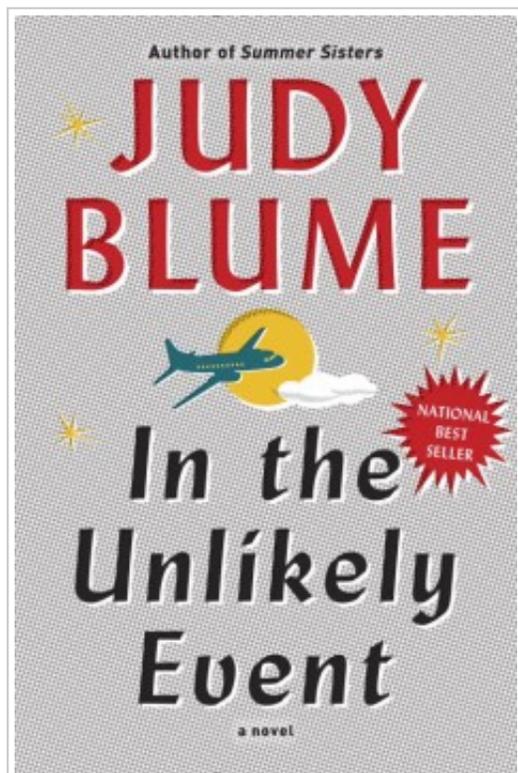


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In the Unlikely Event

by Judy Blume

Price: \$27.95(Hardcover)

Published: June 02, 2015

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher:

In her highly anticipated new novel, *Judy Blume*, the New York Times # 1 best-selling author of *Summer Sisters* and of young adult classics such as *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*, creates a richly textured and moving story of three generations of families, friends and strangers, whose lives are profoundly changed by unexpected events.

In 1987, Miri Ammerman returns to her hometown of Elizabeth, New Jersey, to attend a commemoration of the worst year of her life. Thirty-five years earlier, when Miri was fifteen, and in love for the first time, a succession of airplanes fell from the sky, leaving a community reeling. Against this backdrop of actual events that Blume experienced in the early 1950s, when airline travel was new and exciting and everyone dreamed of going somewhere, she paints a vivid portrait of...

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What We Say

Judy Blume is beloved, a trailblazer, etc. etc. You know the drill. Her preferred description is "storyteller," which is what every great writer should aspire to be called. And that she is, as demonstrated in her latest novel. You could call it a novel for adults, but the little secret is that "young adult" novels aren't just for kids and "grown-up" books are just about perfect for any teen with a head on their shoulder. Is there a difference in Blume's work ostensibly geared towards kids versus that for adults? Not really. Her overriding goal is to tell a story, honestly. It's that honesty that has made Blume such a touchstone and it's on full display here. Blume plumbs her childhood for a sneakily engrossing novel that draws upon the real-life incidents that haunted Elizabeth, New Jersey: during a 58 day span, three passenger planes crashed, one after the other. It was unnerving, frightening and frankly surreal. What was going on? (It turned out to be a horrible coincidence, with no real link between the three crashes.) Blume uses that bizarre backdrop to draw us into a tale of the town's community. It begins and ends with Miri, a teenager experiencing her first love when the crashes occur. "First love" is condescending, something Blume never does. Miri believes her love will be her first, her last and her everything and honestly, we do too. Blume takes her seriously, which makes the excitement and heartbreak all the more believable. The 1950s era is captured indelibly, but it's the characters you'll remember, not the decor. It begins with Miri and her quietly single mother and grandmother and awesome Uncle Henry and expands out and out to the not-so-perfect family of her best friend (who is deeply unnerved by the crashes) to other romances and other lives. The voices multiply and brief bookends let us know how it all turned out. But those intense weeks are the heart of this book, one that will satisfy her fans and -- even decades into her career -- win Blume some new ones. -- Michael Giltz

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What Others Say

"An ambitious book that combines adult experience with the sweet familiarity of Blume's writing for and about younger people. . . . The novel rivals Tolstoy or Ferrante in its number of characters, families, and stories, and it feels not just believable but like a regular preteen-style Judy Blume page-turner, emotionally resonant and down-to-earth at once. . . . It's also the experience of being in Blume's authoritative hands, reading a dramatic story about daily life told in a funny, orderly, honest style. Blume is always kind to her readers; the suffering her characters experience feels real but never cruel, never melodramatic. . . . [Her books are] deftly crafted, and she's done the hard work for us. . . . Reading *In the Unlikely Event* is like reconnecting with a long-lost friend." —Sarah Larson, *The New Yorker*

"*In the Unlikely Event* gives us everything that Blume is known (and beloved) for—the fierce, fraught nature of young relationships, the comfort and confines of cultural identity, the messiness and joys of the body—and takes it to a new level. This novel is her most ambitious to date, and she lives up to its reach with her characteristic...

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