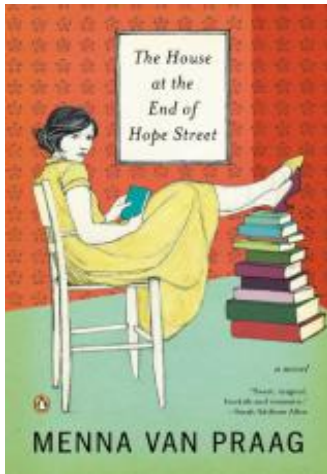


The House at the End of Hope Street

by Menna van Praag



About the Book

A magical debut about an enchanted house that offers refuge to women in their time of need...

Distraught that her academic career has stalled, Alba is walking through her hometown of Cambridge, England, when she finds herself in front of a house she's never seen before, 11 Hope Street. A beautiful older woman named Peggy greets her and invites her to stay, on the house's usual conditions: she has ninety-nine nights to turn her life around. With nothing left to lose, Alba takes a chance and moves in.

She soon discovers that this is no ordinary house. Past residents have included Virginia Woolf and Dorothy Parker, who, after receiving the assistance they needed, hung around to help newcomers?literally, in talking portraits on the wall. As she escapes into this new world, Alba begins a journey that will heal her wounds?and maybe even save her life.

Filled with a colorful and unforgettable cast of literary figures, THE HOUSE AT THE END OF HOPE STREET is a charming, whimsical novel of hope and feminine wisdom that is sure to appeal to fans of Jasper Fforde and especially Sarah Addison Allen.

Discussion Guide

1. If you were to ever find yourself at the house at the end of Hope Street, who are some of the women that you would like to meet there? What might materialize in your room: a wardrobe, books, a piano, or something else?
2. Besides the women mentioned in the novel, who are some others that you feel must once have visited the house?

3. Would you --- like Peggy --- give up hopes of having a family of your own in order to be the caretaker of such a magical place?
4. Which of character could you relate to most --- Alba, Greer or Carmen?
5. Are Alba's psychic abilities a blessing or a curse?
6. Does Carmen stay with Tiago because she was accustomed to the abuse? Is Tiago's death justified self-defense?
7. If you were one of Alba's siblings, would you have complied with your father's request to punish your mother for her affair?
8. Does society still hold a double standard regarding infidelity, frowning more upon women who cheat than men?
9. Do you feel sorry for Blake or despise him for the way he treats Greer? Do you think that most womanizers are driven by something painful in their past?
10. Did you suspect that Dr. Skinner was a woman before Alba confessed it to her father? Why was Alba unable to see Zoë's adoration for so long?
11. Elizabeth and Albert were brought together by E. M. Forster's *A ROOM WITH A VIEW*, and Peggy and Harry were brought together, in part, by a love of movies. How important are shared tastes and interests in a romantic relationship?
12. Why does the house decide to change its all-women rule and allow Edward and Tilly to move in?

Author Bio

Menna van Praag is an author, journalist and Oxford graduate. She is also the author of the autobiographical fable *MEN, MONEY AND CHOCOLATE*. She lives in Cambridge, England, with her husband and young son.

Critical Praise

"Beguiling and bright, van Praag's novel delights with deft writing and charming characters."

—Kirkus

"Van Praag's writing is bright and hopeful, while rich characters combined with an enchanting blend of the real and the mystical make this tribute to individuality a delightful and engaging read. Fans of Jasper Fforde, Gloria Naylor, or Sarah Addison Allen will especially appreciate this story as a celebration of feminine strength and accomplished women through the ages."

—Booklist, starred review

?Van Praag?s fairytale first novel features a house that can change one?s life. . . . Fans of Alice Hoffman and Sarah Addison Allen should like.?

?*Library Journal*

?Absolutely delightful?Fans of Sarah Addison Allen will thoroughly enjoy this story from start to finish. Well-drawn fictional characters, sprinkled with famous female characters from the past, combine to tell a tale of life, love, and discovering your deepest desires.?

?*RT Book Reviews*, top pick, 4.5 stars

"Sweet, magical, bookish and romantic."

?Sarah Addison Allen, bestselling author of *THE PEACH KEEPER*

?This fresh, whimsical book is as full of heart as the house at its heart is full of fascinating women. We should all have such friends and such a refuge!?

?Marisa de los Santos, bestselling author of *FALLING TOGETHER* and *LOVE WALKED IN*

?Menna van Praag has created a magical book about an enchanted house and the notable women who inhabit it, both living and dead. Richly atmospheric, literary, and textured, *THE HOUSE AT THE END OF HOPE STREET* casts an enthralling spell, giving both characters and readers not only what they most want, but what they ultimately need.?

?Brunonia Barry, bestselling author of *THE LACE READER* and *THE MAP OF TRUE PLACES*

?An enchanting novel?Fans of Sarah Addison Allen will be delighted to discover the house at the end of Hope Street, a magical place where 99 days is just long enough to change a life.?

?Erica Bauermeister, bestselling author of *THE SCHOOL OF ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS* and *THE LOST ART OF MIXING*

?I entered *THE HOUSE AT THE END OF HOPE STREET* and was enchanted --- literally under the spell --- of Menna van Praag's tender, playful, beautiful writing. It fulfills my book lover's dream of an English literary landscape, in the most surprising and magical way.?

?Luanne Rice, bestselling author of *LITTLE NIGHT*

?This exceptional novel enchanted me from the first beautiful page. If only I could stay a spell myself at the house at the end of Hope Street.?

?Melissa Senate, bestselling author of *THE LOVE GODDESS*? *COOKING SCHOOL*

?*THE HOUSE AT THE END OF HOPE STREET* is a sunrise of a novel, so fresh and lovely, whimsical and original that it will enchant and surprise even the most jaded of readers.?

?Barbara O?Neal, author of *THE GARDEN OF HAPPY ENDINGS*

?The story offers a wonderful mix of all-too-real problems in a fantastical setting. And who couldn't use a Hope Street at some point in her life??

?Juliette Fay, author of DEEP DOWN TRUE and THE SHORTEST WAY HOME

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