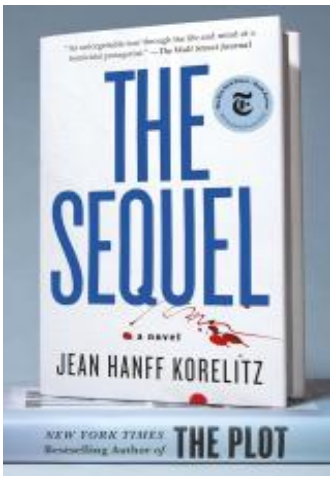
The Sequel

by Jean Hanff Korelitz



About the Book

After the ?insanely readable? (Stephen King) and ?perfectly told? (Malcolm Gladwell) *New York Times* bestseller THE PLOT comes Jean Hanff Korelitz?s equally captivating new novel: THE SEQUEL.

Anna Williams-Bonner has taken care of business. That is to say, she?s taken care of her husband, bestselling novelist Jacob Finch Bonner, and laid to rest those anonymous accusations of plagiarism that so tormented him. Now she is living the contented life of a literary widow, enjoying her husband?s royalty checks in perpetuity. But for the second time in her life, a work of fiction intercedes, and this time it?s her own debut novel, *The Afterword*. After all, how hard can it really be to write a universally lauded bestseller?

But when Anna publishes her book and indulges in her own literary acclaim, she begins to receive excerpts of a novel she never expected to see again, a novel that should no longer exist. That it does means something has gone very wrong, and someone out there knows far too much: about her late brother, her late husband, and just possibly...Anna herself. What does this person want, and what are they prepared to do? She has come too far, and worked too hard, to lose what she values most: the sole and uncontested right to her own story. And she is, by any standard, a master storyteller.

With her signature wit and sardonic humor, Jean Hanff Korelitz gives readers an antihero to root for while illuminating and satirizing the world of publishing in this deliciously fun and suspenseful read.

Discussion Guide

1. Did you read THE PLOT before reading THE SEQUEL? If your answer is different from that of your reading buddies, compare your reading experiences.

2. The chapter titles in THE SEQUEL are themselves titles of other writers? sequels to their novels. Did you spot that,

and if so, at what point?

3. Discuss Anna as the antihero. Did you enjoy reading the story told from her perspective? Would you want to be friends with her?

4. Anna?s recollection of Evan contrasts sharply with his recollection of her. Where do you think the truth lies? Is Anna a reliable narrator?

5. Do you view Anna as the villain of the story, or is the villain her husband, her brother or her blackmailer?

6. Would Anna?s book have hit the bestseller list if she hadn?t been married to a famous author? Or if Jake hadn?t died at the height of his literary fame? Given what you learn about how Evan?s manuscript was handled, do you think he had a chance of being published?

7. What moments surprised you the most? Any favorite scenes?

8. Discuss the ending. What do you think is next for Anna? Do you think she will ever suffer the consequences of her actions?

Author Bio

Jean Hanff Korelitz is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the novels THE LATECOMER; THE PLOT and its follow-up, THE SEQUEL; YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN (which aired on HBO in October 2020 as "The Undoing," starring Nicole Kidman, Hugh Grant and Donald Sutherland); ADMISSION (adapted as a film in 2013 starring Tina Fey) *;* THE DEVIL AND WEBSTER; THE WHITE ROSE; THE SABBATHDAY RIVER; and A JURY OF HER PEERS, as well as INTERFERENCE POWDER, a novel for children. Her company BOOKTHEWRITER hosts Pop-Up Book Groups in which small groups of readers discuss new books with their authors. She lives in New York City with her husband, Irish poet Paul Muldoon.

The Sequel
by Jean Hanff Korelitz

Publication Date: September 30, 2025
Genres: Fiction, Psychological Suspense, Psychological Thriller, Suspense, Thriller
Paperback: 304 pages
Publisher: Celadon Books
ISBN-10: 1250408369
ISBN-13: 9781250408365