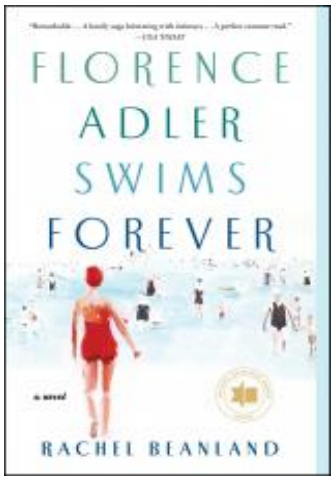
Florence Adler Swims Forever

by Rachel Beanland



About the Book

Over the course of one summer that begins with a shocking tragedy, three generations of the Adler family grapple with heartbreak, romance and the weight of family secrets in this stunning debut novel that?s perfect for fans of MANHATTAN BEACH and THE DOLLHOUSE.

Atlantic City, 1934. Every summer, Esther and Joseph Adler rent their house out to vacationers escaping to ?America?s Playground? and move into the small apartment above their bakery. Despite the cramped quarters, this is the apartment where they raised their two daughters, Fannie and Florence, and it always feels like home.

Now Florence has returned from college, determined to spend the summer training to swim the English Channel, and Fannie, pregnant again after recently losing a baby, is on bed rest for the duration of her pregnancy. After Joseph insists they take in a mysterious young woman whom he recently helped emigrate from Nazi Germany, the apartment is bursting at the seams.

Esther only wants to keep her daughters close and safe, but some matters are beyond her control: there?s Fannie?s risky pregnancy --- not to mention her always-scheming husband, Isaac --- and the fact that the handsome heir of a hotel notorious for its anti-Semitic policies seems to be in love with Florence.

When tragedy strikes, Esther makes the shocking decision to hide the truth --- at least until Fannie?s baby is born --- and pulls the family into an elaborate web of secret-keeping and lies, bringing long-buried tensions to the surface that reveal how quickly the act of protecting those we love can turn into betrayal.

Based on a true story and told in the vein of J. Courtney Sullivan?s SAINTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS and Anita Diamant?s THE BOSTON GIRL, Beanland?s family saga is a breathtaking portrait of just how far we will go to in order to protect our loved ones and an uplifting portrayal of how the human spirit can endure --- and even thrive --- after

tragedy.

Discussion Guide

The discussion guide will be available in August. In the meantime, be sure to check out our fiction discussion questions, which may help you in your group's discussion of the book.

Author Bio

Rachel Beanland is the author of THE HALF LIFE, THE HOUSE IS ON FIRE and FLORENCE ADLER SWIMS FOREVER, which won the National Jewish Book Award for Debut Fiction. She is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and earned her MFA in creative writing from Virginia Commonwealth University. She lives with her family in Richmond, Virginia.

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