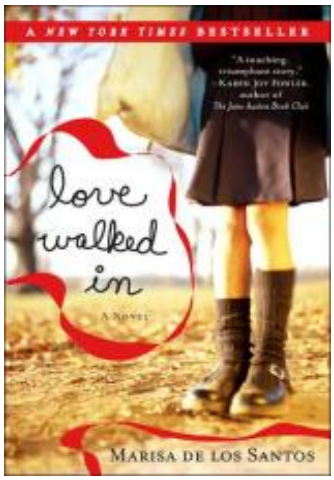
# Love Walked In

by Marisa de los Santos




## About the Book

When Martin Grace enters the hip Philadelphia coffee shop Cornelia Brown manages, her life changes forever. Charming and debonair, the spitting image of Cary Grant, Martin sweeps Cornelia off her feet, but, as it turns out, Martin Grace is more the harbinger of change than change itself.

Meanwhile, on the other side of town, eleven-year-old Clare Hobbs must learn to fend for herself after her increasingly unstable mother has a breakdown and disappears. Taking inspiration from famous orphans (Anne Shirley, Sara Crewe, Mary Lennox, and even Harry Potter) Clare musters the courage to seek out her estranged father. When the two of them show up at Cornelia?s café, Cornelia and Clare form a bond as unlikely as it is deep. Together, they face difficult choices and discover that knowing what you love and why is as real as life gets.

## Discussion Guide

**1.** Discuss Clare?s attraction to fictional orphans. Why is she so fascinated by them, even before her mother leaves? Why can she relate to them? In what ways is she abandoned even before she is actually abandoned?

**2.** Cornelia claims that she doesn?t fantasize about living in an old Hollywood movie but it becomes clear that she does. In what ways does she try to keep her own desires for the perfect Hollywood romance at bay? Why does she think she?ll never have it? Does she harbor false or unrealistic expectations about love? In what ways, in the end, is Cornelia?s story ?old Hollywood??

**3.** Why do you think Cornelia is so immediately drawn to Martin Grace? What does he represent to her? In what ways does he live up to her expectations? In what ways does he fail?

**4.** Discuss Martin?s reaction to Clare?s situation. Why do you think he never told Cornelia about Clare? Once Clare

reappears in his life, what do you make of his actions and reactions to both Clare and to the missing Viviana? Do you think he handles it well? Try to imagine his perspective. Discuss.

**5.**In what ways are Cornelia and Clare alike? Why does Cornelia immediately feel the need to comfort Clare? How do they fill empty places in each other?s lives? Also, why does Clare take to Teo so quickly when she can?t do the same for her father? What about Cornelia and Teo together comforts Clare?

**6.** Clare realizes quickly that her father does not love her. Do you think that she?s correct in her assessment? Do you think, in general, she is fair to Martin? Is Cornelia? When Martin told Cornelia he loved her, did you believe him? Why or why not? Do you think it?s possible that he could love Cornelia but not his own daughter?

**7.** Why does Cornelia insist on taking Clare to her own house for Christmas? Do you think that was a mistake? In what other ways does Cornelia try to accommodate Clare? Why do you think she does these things? In what ways does returning to the house help Cornelia to better understand Clare? Why is this so important later on?

**8.** On p. 184, Clare thinks about love: ?What she came to was that even if someone wasn?t perfect or even especially good, you couldn?t dismiss the love they felt. Love was always love; it had a rightness all its own, even if the person feeling the love was full of wrongness.? Do you think Martin is a bad person? Do you think he deserves Cornelia?s love? Clare?s? Why or why not?

**9.** What do you make of Clare?s reaction to Martin?s death? Discuss the conversation she has with Teo on p. 204. Why does Clare think she?s evil? Do you think she is? Why do you think she can have such open conversations with Teo? What about him makes him so trustworthy to her? Why are his opinions so important? What void does he fill in her life?

**10.** Throughout the novel, Linny is a very stabilizing force. What about her soothes Cornelia? Why are both Clare and Cornelia so relieved when Linny arrives just after Viviana? What role does Linny?s character play in the novel? In what ways is she the opposite of Cornelia? Why is that something both Clare and Cornelia need so badly.

**11.** Were you surprised by Viviana?s return? Did you believe that she would return? Do you think Cornelia?s plans for herself and Clare were realistic?

**12.** What does Mrs. Goldberg represent to Cornelia? How do her memories of Mrs. Goldberg help her through difficult situations? How do her stories about Mrs. Goldberg help Clare? What does Mrs. Goldberg?s house represent to Cornelia? To Clare? Why does Clare want so badly to stay there?

**13.** In the end, do you think Cornelia makes the right decision to leave Clare with Viviana? How is leaving them at Mrs. Goldberg?s different than them returning to their own home? Why does it seem safer to all of them? Do you think Clare will really forgive Cornelia for leaving her?

**14.** Why is Cornelia surprised to discover that she is in love with Teo? Were you surprised? Why or why not? In what ways is he exactly what she was looking for? In what ways is he not? What do you make of his relationship with Ollie? Do you think he and Cornelia have a chance? Why or why not?

## Author Bio

Marisa de los Santos is the *New York Times* bestselling author of nine novels, including LOVE WALKED IN and I'LL BE YOUR BLUE SKY. Marisa holds a PhD in literature and creative writing and teaches in the low-residency creative writing program at Wilkes University. She lives in Wilmington, Delaware, with her husband, David Teague.

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