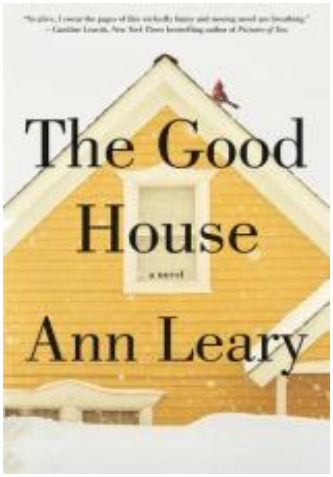
The Good House

by Ann Leary



About the Book

The Good House tells the story of Hildy Good, who lives in a small town on Boston?s North Shore. Hildy is a successful real-estate broker, good neighbor, mother, and grandmother. She?s also a raging alcoholic. Hildy?s family held an intervention for her about a year before this story takes place??if they invite you over for dinner, and it?s not a major holiday,? she advises ?run for your life??and now she feels lonely and unjustly persecuted. She has also fooled herself into thinking that moderation is the key to her drinking problem.

As if battling her demons wasn?t enough to keep her busy, Hildy soon finds herself embroiled in theunderbelly of her New England town, a craggy little place that harbors secrets. There?s a scandal, some mysticism, babies, old houses, drinking, and desire?and a love story between two craggy sixtysomethings that?s as real and sexy as you get. An exceptional novel that is at turns hilarious and sobering, **The Good House** asks the question: What will it take to keep Hildy Good from drinking? For good.

Discussion Guide

1. Hildy Good is a complex and layered character --- some might say an ?unreliable narrator.? Is there a point at which you questions Hildy?s dependability? Is there a point at which she redeemed herself?

2. Hildy likes to entertain others with her ?psychic powers? and yet she also informs people that she really doesn?t have any special intuition, that she ?just knows a few tricks.? Does this duality show up in other parts of her personality?

3. The New England setting is very much part of THE GOOD HOUSE. And yet the author doesn?t spend a lot of time on the description of the area. What makes this book so quintessentially New England?

4. What do you think of Hildy?s assertion that she can tell everything about a person just by walking through his or her house?

5. Wendover, Massachusetts, is being taken over by hedge-fund managers who ?want it old, but want it new.? Do you think there will ever be a point at which they are accepted by the ?townies??

6. Why do you think Hildy and newcomer Rebecca McAllister become such fast friends?

7. What do you think of the author?s portrayal of alcoholism and its effects on the drinker and those around them?

8. What happens to Hildy?s attitudes about others when she drinks?

9. Frank Getchell seems an unlikely romantic figure. Why do you think he has carried a torch for Hildy all these years?

10. Hildy claims to be unsentimental about relationships and things. Do you believe this is true about her personality?

Author Bio

Ann Leary is the *New York Times* bestselling author of a memoir and four novels, including THE GOOD HOUSE. Her work has been translated into 18 languages, and she has written for *The New York Times*, *Ploughshares*, NPR, *Redbook* and *Real Simple*, among other publications. Her essay, ?Rallying to Keep the Game Alive,? was adapted for Prime Video?s television series, "Modern Love." Her novel, THE GOOD HOUSE, was adapted as a motion picture starring Sigourney Weaver and Kevin Kline. She lives with her husband in New York.

Critical Praise

?Leary writes with humor and insight, revealing both the pure pleasure of drinking and the lies and justifications of alcoholism...a layered and complex portrait of a woman struggling with addiction, in a town where no secret stays secret for long.?

? J. Courtney Sullivan, *New York Times Book Review*

?Fresh, sharp, and masterfully told. Hildy?s tale is as intoxicating as it is sobering.?

? *People*

?Ann Leary?s THE GOOD HOUSE creates a one-of-a-kind character in Hildy Good. By the end you?ll be flipping pages, trying desperately to piece together what happened as much as the narrator is doing herself.?

? Jodi Picoult, *New York Times* bestselling author of HOUSE RULES and SING YOU HOME

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