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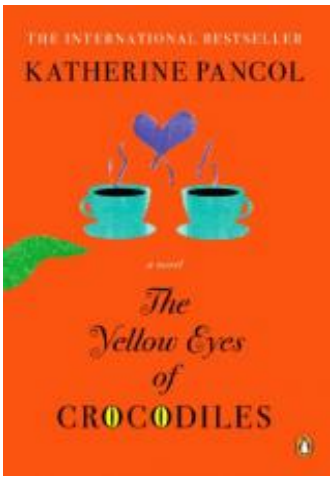
The Yellow Eyes of Crocodiles

by Katherine Pancol



About the Book

When her chronically unemployed husband runs off to start a crocodile farm in Kenya with his mistress, Joséphine Cortès is left in an unhappy state of affairs.The mother of two?confident, beautiful teenage Hortense and shy, babyish Zoé?is forced to maintain a stable family life while making ends meet on her meager salary as a medieval history scholar. Meanwhile, Joséphine?s charismatic sister Iris seems to have it all?a wealthy husband, gorgeous looks, and a très chic Paris address?but she dreams of bringing meaning back into her life. When Iris charms a famous publisher into offering her a lucrative deal for a twelfth-century romance, she offers her sister a deal of her own: Joséphine will write the novel and pocket all the proceeds, but the book will be published under Iris?s name. All is well?that is, until the book becomes the literary sensation of the season.

Discussion Guide

1. Why do you think Joséphine reacts the way she does when Antoine leaves her? What are her coping strategies?

2. In the wake of her parents? divorce and their new lifestyles, Hortense is not particularly nice to her mother. Do you think Hortense?s behavior ultimately helps or hurts Joséphine?

3. Iris and Joséphine are near opposites. What do these sisters secretly think of each other and what do they --- or could they --- learn from each other?

4. Love and money are intertwined throughout this book. From what you?ve seen of these characters, how can money buoy or damage a relationship?

5. How does Antoine?s experience in Africa change him? Do you think this change is a positive one, and why or why not?

6. History repeats itself in Iris and Joséphine?s family. What patterns do you notice running among the generations?

7. While this novel is clearly set in France, its themes are not unique to its setting. In what ways is the story culturally specific and in what ways is it universal?

8. Over time, all of the marriages in this book have soured. How might any or all of them be salvaged, or were they doomed from the beginning?

9. As the rift in their marriage widens, Iris and Philippe begin to suspect each other of dishonesty. Were you surprised by what the two learned about their suspicions?

10. How has Joséphine?s life been transformed by the experience of becoming an author? What do you imagine comes next for her?

Author Bio

Katherine Pancol is one of France?s best-known contemporary authors, with millions of copies of her books in print in 31 languages. She lives in Paris, France.

Photo credit: Sylvie Lacrenon

Critical Praise

"Lucky you! You're about to succumb to France's most irresistible writer! Atthe end of this delicious, tender, funny, heartwarming novel, you'll feel as if Iris and Joséphine are part of your family."
?Tatiana de Rosnay, *New York Times* bestselling author of SARAH'S KEY

?Thought Parisian women are perfect? Think again. A delicious treat about separation, sisterhood, and turning tables.?
?Inès de la Fressange, *New YorkTimes* bestselling author of PARISIAN CHIC

?There is a gorgeous and invigorating zip and sparkle tothe writing. You read it with a big smile.?
?Elizabeth Buchan, *New YorkTimes* bestselling author of REVENGE OFTHE MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN

?No wonder Katherine Pancol?s books are all bestsellers, reading her feels like coming home. Her characters become like friends and family members, and you long to know how they get on.The Yellow Eyes of Crocodiles has allthe quirks, tensions, and belly laughs that family, friendship, and sisterhood can entail. It is touching, entertaining, and vibrant.?
?Cécile David Weill, author of THE SUITORS

?This multilayered well-paced tale will delight you with its entertaining cast of characters and madcap adventures from Paris tothe wilds of Africa.?
?Katharine Davis**,** author of CAPTURING PARIS

"Pancol deftly managesthe constellation of characters in a cleareyed, warmly funny tale."
?*Kirkus*

?Pancol?s runaway French bestseller is a satisfying Cinderella story. . . . delicious.?
?*Publishers Weekly*

"Riveting . . . Delicious morsels involving every family member compel attention in a title that will appeal to fans of Marian Keyes and Olivia Goldsmith."
?*Booklist*

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