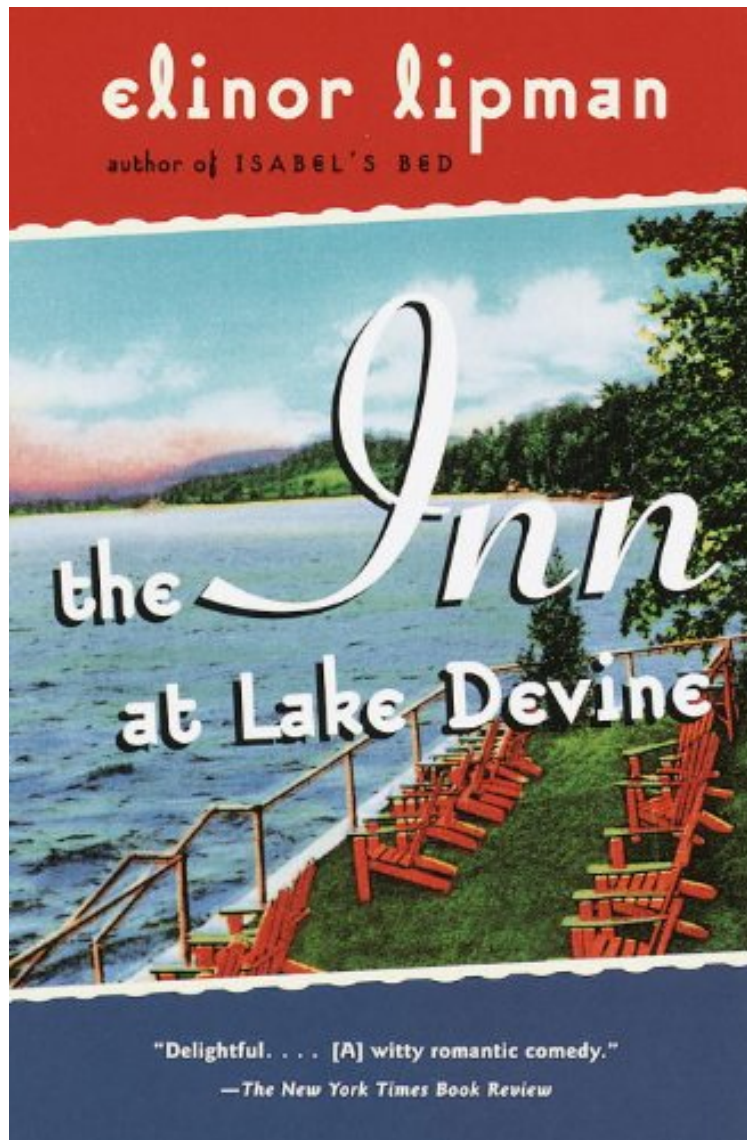


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The Inn at Lake Devine (Vintage Contemporaries)

Von Elinor Lipman

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Von Elinor Lipman : The Inn at Lake Devine (Vintage Contemporaries) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Inn at Lake Devine (Vintage Contemporaries):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Very entertaining summer readingVon mcrace@bellsouth.netI had 2 hours to spend at Davis-Kidd waiting on a printing order and decided to just read something entertaining instead of looking at every book on the fiction shelf.This was the first novel I had read by Lipman but was hooked by the title. Yes, sometimes I do judge a book by it's cover.The story

had just enough seriousness to it to give the characters depth...like Natalie...I thought the development of her encounter with prejudice and how she handled it through the years was an excellent portrait. What other smarter than the average kid growing up in the 60's did not want to "get back" at someone for being haughty, prejudiced, or snooty?? Let's teach them a lesson, right? We all want to believe that there is some good in everyone...even if there is not. And, of course, if there is not then we must try to change them! Natalie was idealistic but it was really sincere. The rest of the story follows what happens to the people that Natalie meets as they pass through summertimes into young adults. Oh, also it gives a portrayal of the grownups as they get older and some of their pre-conceived notions and generations of traditions are torn down. As I said, I read it in 2 hours and found myself laughing out loud in a very quiet bookstore setting. I'm going to buy copies for my friends.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A strong, original start degenerates into superficial cliché

Von Ein Kunde I am an enthusiastic Elinor Lipman fan, and while I read this book in one day, I agree with the other readers who say it fell off after the little girl grows up. I put it down feeling very disappointed. Albeit in her light, breezy, amusing style, unlike her other novels, Lipman raised serious issues in this book -- and then blew off and gave facile, Hollywood-type answers to every one of them. She'd be much better off sticking to romantic comedy and leaving Jewish identity alone. The opening section -- the little girls outrage at a No Jews Welcome policy at a Vermont inn -- raises a topic we pretend is passe in America: Jews not being or feeling entirely equal (if you think Jews are entirely equal, then ask yourself why so few gentiles pick Brandeis as their first choice school, given its academic excellence -- answer, too many Jews there. We're equal only if we fit into to the majority as individuals, not if we exist as a distinct group). Lipman's story raises the issues of Jewish reactions to anti-Semitism and the sad burden of the Holocaust. And then she flash forwards to the present, and the solution to it all is -- presto, bingo, intermarriage! Marry the son of the antisemite and live happily ever after. I felt like I was in a sixties time warp. Lipman has all of the Jewish women in this book marry WASPS or Catholics and adopt a WASP or Catholic identity (sure, they teach their husbands to say schlep -- surely there is more to being Jewish, to having pride in yourself than that). Maybe Lipman's solution sounded good to Jews in the 60's, but in the 90's the trend is swinging back to curiosity about our jettisoned identity and a sense of values that includes religion and community, not just Love Story. Nor does Lipman's Hollywood version of intermarriage recognize that Jews and gentiles share deeper differences than food preferences, and that it is highly unlikely that a Vermont super Wasp would choose a Borscht belt girl. I feel very disappointed in Lipman. She is out of it.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Refreshing blend of humor and intellect in novel

Von Ein Kunde The Inn at Lake Devine is the first novel I have read by Lipman. I purchased and started the novel yesterday, and have almost finished it already. The novel begins with a 12 year old Natalie who is quite curious and indignant about Mrs. Ingrid Berry, who demonstrates "genteel Anti-Semitism" in the 1960s New England. After a week's vacation at Lake Devine with a camp friend, Natalie assumed her curiosity and fixation had ended. However, the novel picks up ten years later. I thought it was a brilliant concept which was not explained on the back of the book. Natalie is a growing and evolving character, like the other key actors in the story. It can be difficult to understand Natalie's condoning attitude toward the Berry family regarding Mrs. Berry's prejudice, but I was charmed by Kris and Nelson, amused by Gretel. Using the 1964 Civil Rights Act was a nice touch. Lipman's writing not only strikes the right tone between (sometimes mock)seriousness and humor, and the plot was interesting enough for me to plow through the majority of the book in two days. I am very picky about fiction novels, and became aware of the novel through a search on .com - since I enjoyed Elizabeth Berg's writing, this novel was recommended to me. I am absolutely NOT disappointed.

Kurzbeschreibung It was not complicated, and, as my mother pointed out, not even personal: They had a hotel; they didn't want Jews; we were Jews...It's the early 1960s and Natalie Marx is stunned when her mother inquires about vacation accommodations in Vermont and receives a response that says, "The Inn at Lake Devine is a family-owned resort, which has been in continuous operation since 1922. Our guests who feel most comfortable here, and return year after year, are Gentiles." So begins Natalie's fixation with the Inn and the family who owns it. And when Natalie finagles an invitation to join a friend on vacation there, she sets herself upon a path that will inextricably link her adult life into this peculiar family and their once-restricted hotel. The Inn at Lake Devine will enchant readers with the beguiling voice, elegant charm, and deft storytelling that have been hallmarks of Elinor Lipman's previous novels and have made her beloved by her fans. Her characters sparkle on the page and delight us with their wit and grace--even when anti-Semitism rears its head in Vermont and the tables are turned in the Catskills. Elinor Lipman is the undisputed master of the art of screwball comedy. From the Hardcover edition.

.de In the early 1960s, a Massachusetts family suffers a polite awakening. Inquiring about summer openings at a Vermont inn, the Marxes receive a killing civil response, which ends, "Our guests who feel most comfortable here, and return year after year, are Gentiles." Apparently the Marxes are not quite as ideally average as they thought, at least on the basis of their surname. So begins The Inn at Lake Devine, Elinor Lipman's disarming and very funny exploration of the power of pride and place. Natalie, the youngest Marx daughter, will literally spend years responding to this rebuff. At first she taunts the

innkeeper, Ingrid Berry, by phone and mail, stressing by exaggeration that a system which welcomes WASP wife-murderers but not famed convert Elizabeth Taylor is both unfair and inane. In 1964, our Anne Frank adept even goes so far as to send off a copy of the newly minted Civil Rights Act: "Who knew if I'd ever exchange another letter with a documented anti-Semite?" she asks. "Just in case no one ever insulted me again--in this land of religious freedom and ironclad civil rights--I employed the big gun I was saving for future transgressors: 'P.S.,' I typed and underlined: 'In spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart.'" The next summer Natalie manages to engineer an invite to Lake Devine, coming in on the coattails of Robin Fife, a good-natured, none-too-swift fellow camper whose family are regulars: "We all wanted to cross the threshold as guests and not visitors, and maybe I, in my early-teen disguise, was best suited to be a spy in the house of Devine. It was our duty to show that we--with the blood of Moses, Queen Esther, Leonard Bernstein, and Sid Caesar coursing through our veins--were the equal of any clientele." But by the end of her stay, Natalie is fed up with the Fifes' relentless good will and Mrs. Berry's covert ill will. All in all, she is relieved to return to firm social ground, and doesn't devote much thought to her "Gentile ambitions" for the next 10 years. A letter about a Camp Minnehaha reunion, however, brings Robin back into the picture, and Natalie is again invited to Lake Devine--this time for her campmate's marriage to the eldest Berry son. But enough plot summary. The Inn at Lake Devine is full of sweet and sharp surprises that would be churlish to reveal. Lipman offers up sparkling scenes of serious social mischief, explorations of identity, delicious food (though a deadly mushroom lasagna momentarily clouds the picture), and a wedding party or two. All this and a pair of the menschiest WASP brothers in literary history--not to mention phrases such as shnook, shmendrick, and shmegege--make The Inn at Lake Devine the perfect, provocative comedy.

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