

Certain Girls: A Novel

By Jennifer Weiner



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Readers fell in love with Cannie Shapiro, the smart, sharp-tongued, bighearted heroine of *Good in Bed* who found her happy ending after her mother came out of the closet, her father fell out of her life, and her ex-boyfriend started chronicling their ex-sex life in the pages of a national magazine.

Now Cannie's back. After her debut novel -- a fictionalized (and highly sexualized) version of her life -- became an overnight bestseller, she dropped out of the public eye and turned to writing science fiction under a pseudonym. She's happily married to the tall, charming diet doctor Peter Krushelevansky and has settled into a life that she finds wonderfully predictable -- knitting in the front row of her daughter Joy's drama rehearsals, volunteering at the library, and taking over-forty yoga classes with her best friend Samantha.

As preparations for Joy's bat mitzvah begin, everything seems right in Cannie's world. Then Joy discovers the novel Cannie wrote years before and suddenly finds herself faced with what she thinks is the truth about her own conception -- the story her mother hid from her all her life. When Peter surprises his wife by saying he wants to have a baby, the family is forced to reconsider its history, its future, and what it means to be truly happy.

Radiantly funny and disarmingly tender, with Weiner's whip-smart dialogue and sharp observations of modern life, *Certain Girls* is an unforgettable story about love, loss, and the enduring bonds of family.



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Certain Girls: A Novel By Jennifer Weiner Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Following the story collection *The Guy Not Taken*, Weiner turns in a hilarious sequel to her 2001 bestselling first novel, *Good in Bed*, revisiting the memorable and feisty Candace Cannie Shapiro. Flashing forward 13 years, the novel follows Cannie as she navigates the adolescent rebellion of her about-to-be bat mitzvahed daughter, Joy, and juggles her writing career; her relationship with her physician husband, Peter Krushelevansky; her ongoing weight struggles; and the occasional impasse with Joy's biological father, Bruce Guberman. Joy, whose premature birth resulted in her wearing hearing aids, has her own amusing take on her mother's overinvolvement in her life as the novel, with some contrivance, alternates perspectives. As her bat mitzvah approaches, Joy tries to make contact with her long absent maternal grandfather and seeks more time with Bruce. In addition, unbeknownst to Joy, Peter has expressed a desire to have a baby with Cannie, which means looking for a surrogate mother. Throughout, Weiner offers her signature snappy observations: (good looks function as a get-out-of-everything-free card) and spot-on insights into human nature, with a few twists thrown in for good measure. She expends some energy getting readers up to speed on *Good*, but readers already involved with Cannie will enjoy this, despite Joy's equally strong voice. (*Apr.*) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Review

"Hilarious. Weiner offer her signature snappy observations and spot-on insights into human nature." -- *Publishers Weekly*

"Heartfelt and funny...A touching examination of both the comic and tragic moments that mark the mother-daughter relationship." -- *Kirkus Reviews*

"Clear your calendar and prepare to read: Cannie Shapiro is back! Weiner is a talented writer who consistently delivers the goods. Readers will laugh and cry..." -- Library Journal (starred review)

"Weiner displays her signature wry voice and sap-free knack for capturing heartfelt moments; an unexpected plot twist gives her story emotional heft. Fans should find *Girls* a worthy successor." -- *People*

"Filled with family tumult (lesbian mother, rebellious teenage daughter, nutjob sister), career uncertainty, heart wrenching plot twists, and plenty of Weiner's classic sass, *Certain Girls* is like literary cotton candy -- it's light, fun and sweet, yet sticks with you long after it's gone. Label it a beach season must." -- *Gotham*

"Weiner's follow-up to *Good in Bed* is, in a word, fantastic. You'll laugh, you'll cringe, you'll cry as you follow Cannie and her now nearly teenage daughter, Joy. Told through alternating first-person narratives, Weiner's tale gives mothers and daughters alike a treat to devour." -- *Romantic Times*

"Weiner is a talented and accomplished novelist, with real stylistic flair, excellent and sometimes laugh-out loud wit, and good insight into her characters...Cannie has retained her wit and her sharp takes on the world she lives in, but she has evolved. Weiner's voice is smart and edgy, and her male characters are sharply drawn. She writes about issues, such as the dynamics of family life, that are of interest to all humans." -- *Philadelphia Inquirer*

"In this smart-mouthed sequel to *Good in Bed* (a chick-lit classic), heroine Cannie is older but thinner, and in a terrible tussle with her soon-to-be-bat mitzvahed daughter." -- *Good Housekeeping*

"Jennifer Weiner's new book, *Certain Girls*, is a sequel to her huge best-seller, Good in Bed. For those of us who loved Cannie Shapiro, it's a chance to see her years later, married, a mother and coping with a new set of challenges." -- *Cape Cod Times*

"A daughter's journey through teen angst to realizations about family, acceptance, love, and the nature of truth." -- *Elle* magazine's "Elle's Letters" Readers' Prize April Winner

About the Author

Jennifer Weiner is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of fourteen books, including *Good in Bed*, *The Littlest Bigfoot*, and her memoir *Hungry Heart: Adventures in Life, Love, and Writing*. A graduate of Princeton University and contributor to the *New York Times* Opinion section, Jennifer lives with her family in Philadelphia. Visit her online at JenniferWeiner.com.

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