



The Girls' Guide to Hunting and Fishing

By Melissa Bank

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With a steadily growing cadre of readers who delight in her smartly comic and insightful writing, Melissa Bank is an event waiting to happen. *The Girls' Guide to Hunting and Fishing* explores the life lessons of Jane, the contemporary American Everywoman who combines the charm of Bridget Jones, the vulnerability, of Ally McBeal, and the wit of Lorrie Moore. As she works her way from defiant teenager to reluctant career girl, growing older and getting smarter, Jane maneuvers her way through love, sex, relationships, and the occasional perils of the workplace. She reluctantly succumbs to the questionable advice offered in a pop-psych book entitled *How to Meet and Marry Mr. Right*.

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The Girls' Guide to Hunting and Fishing By Melissa Bank Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #272369 in Books
- Brand: Viking Adult
- Published on: 1999-06-01
- Released on: 1999-06-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.82" h x 1.02" w x 5.80" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 288 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Jane Rosenal, the narrator of *The Girls' Guide to Hunting and Fishing*, is wise beyond her years. Not that that's saying much--since none of her elders, with the exception of her father, is particularly wise. At the age of 14, Jane watches her brother and his new girlfriend, searching for clues for how to fall in love, but by the end of the summer she's trying to figure out how not to *fail* in love. At twice that age, Jane quickly internalizes *How to Meet and Marry Mr. Right*, even though that retro manual is ruining her chances at happiness. In the intervening years, Melissa Bank's heroine struggles at love and work. The former often seems indistinguishable from the latter, and her experiences in book publishing inspire little in the way of affection. As Jane announces in "The Worst Thing a Suburban Girl Could Imagine": "I'd been a rising star at H----- until Mimi Howlett, the new executive editor, decided I was just the lights of an airplane."

Bank's first collection has a beautiful, true arc, and all the sophistication and control her heroine could ever desire. In "The Floating House," Jane and her boyfriend, Jamie, visit his ex-girlfriend in St. Croix, and right from the start she can't stop mimicking her beautiful competitor, in a notably idiotic fashion. "I'm like one of those animals that imitates its predators to survive," she realizes--one of several thousand of Bank's ruefully funny phrases. But even as Jane clowns around, desperately trying to keep up appearances, she is so hyperaware it hurts. Again and again, the author explores the dichotomy between life as it happens and the rehearsed anecdote, the preferred outcome. In *The Girls' Guide to Hunting and Fishing*, even suburban quiet has "nothing to do with peace." Bank's much-anticipated debut merits all its buzz and, more to the point, transcends it. --*Kerry Fried*

From Publishers Weekly

This is one of those rare occasions when a highly touted book fulfills the excitement and the major money (in this case, \$275,000) surrounding its acquisition. Reading her debut collection of seven tightly interlinked stories featuring (with one exception) heroine Jane Rosenal, one marvels at Bank's assured control of her material, her witty, distinctive voice and her ability to find comedy, pathos and drama in ordinary lives without resorting to the twin crutches of dysfunctional families and sexual abuse that seem to prop up much current fiction. Jane is notable above all for her smart, irreverent sense of humor, evidenced in a typical teenager's mocking attitude when we first meet her at age 14, and irrepressibly sardonic and self-deprecating as she gets older, enters and leaves relationships and progressively doubts her ability to inspire or recognize romantic love. From girlhood, Jane is bewildered by the nuances of adult behavior, which seems like a secret code evident to everyone but her: "I should know this already" is her recurrent lament. She looks for insights everywhere: in her fickle brother's succession of girlfriends, in her parents' affectionate (but, as it turns out, secretive) marital bond, in the attractions between other couples. From her childhood in a Philadelphia suburb and the Jersey shore to her adult life in Manhattan (with visits to St. Croix and upstate New York), she is always testing the limits of her understanding and tending to doubt her perceptions. Though Jane is quick with a quip, she's sensitive and vulnerable, and when she finds herself falling for a handsome editor 28 years her senior, she knows she is out of her depth. Eventually, we follow Jane through several failed love affairs; career crises in publishing (a chapter about a viperish female editor is a gem) and advertising; the wrenching deaths of loved ones; and increasing fears that she'll never learn to play the mating game. By the time readers reach the final, title story, they'll be so firmly attached to self-doubting Jane that they'll track her misguided seduction of Mr. Right with drawn breath. "Beautiful and funny and sad and true" (to quote Jane), this book is also phenomenally good. Agent, Molly Friedrich at Aaron Priest. First serial to Cosmopolitan and Zoetrope; BOMC and QPB alternates; Penguin audio; author tour; foreign rights sold in the U.K., Germany, Italy, France, Sweden, Holland, Norway and Denmark. (June) FYI: Bank is writing the screenplay

of this book for Francis Ford Coppola and Zoetrope studios.
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From Library Journal

After Bridget Jones, expect lots on being single. This one by a Nelson Algren Award winner features reluctant career girl Jane, who's reading the wrong selfhelp guide to getting married.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Graciela Tubbs:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled The Girls' Guide to Hunting and Fishing. Try to stumble through book The Girls' Guide to Hunting and Fishing as your friend. It means that it can being your friend when you sense alone and beside regarding course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you personally. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , we should make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

William Fuller:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book might be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the guide untitled The Girls' Guide to Hunting and Fishing can be very good book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

Michael Canton:

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