

Free Reading Fireworks Every Night: A Novel by Beth Raymer

Fireworks Every Night: A Novel

By: Beth Raymer

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A young woman trapped in a deeply dysfunctional family in the seedy wilds of 1990s South Florida has to make a choice: save her family, or save herself. In this riveting (The Atlanta Journal-Constitution) novel from the acclaimed author of Lay the Favorite, a hopelessly funny, rueful account of [a] hair-raising childhood . . . a true heroine for tough times. People (Book of the Week) A Jennette McCurdy Book Club Pick An Oprah Daily Best Book of the Year Florida, we got it all. Motor sports, ribs, beer. You can drive on the sand right on up to the ocean. Fireworks every night. That's how twelve-year-old C.C.'s father, who named her after his beloved Canadian Club whiskey, describes the appeal of their new home. The man is a born grifter, a used-car salesman who burned down his dealership in southern Ohio for enough insurance money to set up a life for himself, his wife, and his two young daughters in a place he picked largely at random, because the living seemed easy. C.C.'s mother is thirty-five going on seventeen, a housewife who just wants to drive a Mustang and hang out at the mall. C.C.'s sister goes from being a sweet, cheerful pre-teen to having a full-on drug addiction and listening only to heavy metal, after enduring forms of abuse within her family. In the midst of this chaos, C.C. is trying to stay afloat and make it out to achieve some semblance of a stable life in America while coming up against the structural and cultural challenges of growing up in poverty. This tumultuous coming-of-age novel features an unforgettable protagonist, a character who narrates her life story with dark comedy and compassion for her family, even as she is failed by them. Those failures and her self-taught methods for succeeding anyway are the backbone of this surprisingly poignant story about hard bargains, family loyalties, and the grit of a woman determined to create a better life for herself than the one she was born into.

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