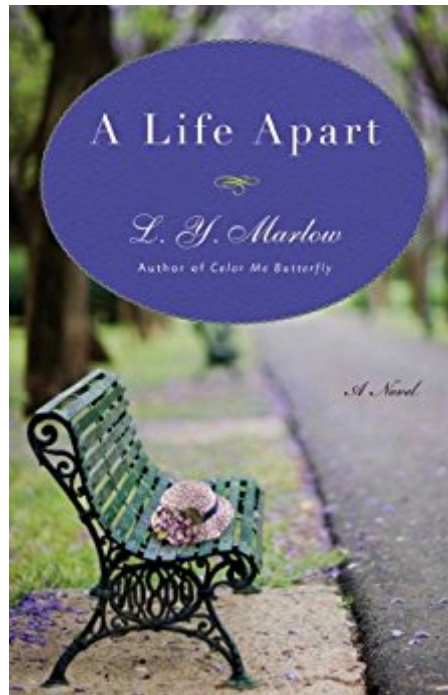




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A Life Apart: A Novel



Synopsis

From the author of *Color Me Butterfly*, a poignant novel about a decades-long love affair and the complicated and unbreakable ties between two families that live worlds apart. Morris Sullivan joins the navy in 1940 with a love of ships and high hopes. Though he leaves behind his new wife, Agnes, and their baby daughter, he is thrilled to be pursuing his lifelong dream—but things change when he is shipped off to Pearl Harbor when the war begins. When he narrowly survives the 1941 attack thanks to the courage of a black sailor he doesn't know, Morris is determined to seek out the man's family and express his gratitude and respect. On leave, he tracks down the man's sister in his own hometown of Boston and finds an immediate and undeniable connection with the nurturing yet fiercely independent Beatrice, who has left the stifling South of her upbringing for the more liberal, integrated north. Though both try to deny their growing bond, their connection and understanding is everything missing from Morris's hasty marriage to his high school sweetheart and from Beatrice's plodding life as she grieves the brother she has lost. At once a family epic and a historical drama that brings the streets and neighborhoods of Boston vividly to life from World War II through the civil rights era to the present day, *A Life Apart* takes readers along for the emotional journey as Morris and Beatrice's relationship is tested by time, family loyalties, unending guilt, racial tensions, death, and the profound effects of war. From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

I chose this book for no other reason than I had read "Color Me Butterfly" (which I enjoyed) also by L.Y. Marlow. For me the book started slow and was rather cliché; however, at the point "Bea" decided to return home the story became intriguing for me. The main characters were people we know, but the way they handled their personal demons was heartbreaking yet encouraging. We had racism, lying, alcoholism, adultery, mental illness, resentment, and an assault on a child. We also had love, friendship, and ultimately forgiveness. I love that L.Y. guided me through this family story which caused me to feel so many emotions...I cried, I was surprised, and I was crying and happy at the same time when Agnes told Sam she misspelled her name. I do believe Morris was a selfish cowardly man, and I do believe Bea was crazy to keep taking him back; however, that is the beauty of this story and many other stories. It is very hard to explain or rationalize behaviors that are grounded in love. This book was great!!!! L.Y great job!!!!

"What a truly remarkable and powerful story you have taken the time to share unselfishly with others who will truly admire the depth of compassion which is clearly illustrated in this story. I fell in love with the characters, the hardships, the ups and downs, the happiness, sad and sorrowful events which occurred. A tragic love story that expanded over the years and the heartache it caused, but in the end, the everlasting peace that once forgiveness is allowed to enter the heart, problems are solved, pain and anguish is removed and the results are blessed peace, which will set you free to move on. The incident with Sam, I saw it coming and was saddened by the end results, however you captured it so beautifully - "true to life" as we see evidence of this tragedy play out too many times on a regular basis. The scene when Emma spilled the beans at the table was so appropriate and perfectly captured by your creativity. The relationship between Agnes and Beatrice, I am happy the way it played out (however, that would have been real hard to do). With that being said, I would love to see this one as a movie. Overall, a wonderful, on the edge of the seat, can't wait to get back to it read for me and I greatly appreciate the hard work that I know you put into this book."

Color me Butterfly was a great book but LY knocked it out of the park on this one, just like color me butterfly I could not stop reading it. What she does for domestic violence victims is awesome work but to take the time to write an outstanding novel like this is amazing. Keep up the good work LY and if you can, write another book. It was so good I already gave to another friend to read. God Bless You for what you do. Debbie

Excellent book that perfectly blends the past & future. It also gives insight into race relations in regards to interracial couples in America. The history of this country is often troubling. This book illustrates some of those troubled times brilliantly. This is by far the best book I've read in 2015. Well done L.Y. Marlow!

"A life Apart" is the second book by L.Y Marlow that I have really enjoyed reading...the first being Color Me Butterfly. I was looking for the familiar content that was in the first book but was pleasantly surprised by the twists and turns and the historic elements in this book. This is a great book club book. An easy read which keeps our interest. You will love the characters and root for their success!

Really great book. I was hooked after the first page. There were lot's of unexpected turns and a really great ending.

This book "grabbed" my attention but soon lost it. Though I enjoyed the historical elements of the book, I found it much too long and repetitive. I did enjoy some of the twists and turns but didn't find any of the characters particularly likeable, especially Morris - who every time he opened his mouth was apologizing about the same doggone thing. It was well written and had only a few minor errors. I do believe it would evoke a great discussion for a book club because of the subject matter - interracial relationships, adultery, rape, etc., but that several members won't finish it because it's long and somewhat convoluted.

An awesome read of love, life and forgiveness. The book draws you in and keeps you. Think about it, don't we all know someone who has always had another love but they can't be with them.....?

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